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The first question of Fatwa No. 9016

Q 1: Please clarify to us the difference between a believer and a Mushrik (one who associates others in worship with Allah) keeping into account that there are some people who observe performing Salah (prayer), Sawm (Fasting), Hajj and all good deeds, but they make Tawassul (supplicating to Allah through a means) by prophets and righteous people. Is this permissible or not?

A: If a Muslim practices an act of Kufr (disbelief), such as invoking the dead to cure the sick, to enlarge the provision or to give offspring, he will be out of the pale of Islam. All his deeds of Salah, Sawm and the like will be vain if he dies on this status. But if he makes a misdeed that is not in the degree of Kufr, like robbery or dealing in Riba, his affair will be left to Allah, if He wills, He may forgive him and if He wills, He may punish him.

Accordingly, you should know that the question is somewhat vague. So, if making Tawassul is sought by what we have mentioned, then you have known its ruling. And if Tawassul is sought by the honor of prophets and righteous people without invoking or appealing to them, then it is an act of Bid'ah (rejected innovation in religion) and a means leading to Shirk.

May Allah grant us success! May peace and blessings be upon our Prophet Muhammad, his family, and Companions!

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