



**Fatwa no. (4357):**

**Q: I had inquired about the ruling on offering Salah (Prayer) behind an Imam who commits Shirk (associating others with Allah in worship) while claiming to be a Muslim, such as those who sacrifice animals for Awliya' (pious people), invoke them,**

**( Part No : 1, Page No: 757)**

**make vows for them, circumambulate around their graves, set out to visit them and so on. We were frequently asked about this issue in some Islamic countries, and it was repeated from the supporters of Sunnah in Sudan when we went there earlier this year. You recommended that we send you this question in writing, so that it can be shown to the Ifta' Committee and the answer given in detail. Again, I am reminding Your Honor, and waiting for your written reply in detail. May Allah reward you with the best.**

**A:** If a person makes vows or sacrifices animals for other than Allah; invokes other than Allah for something beyond normal means, such as healing the sick or asking for progeny; invokes an one not present to relieve a distress, or the dead to repel harm; circumambulates graves; journeys to visit them; or seeks the help of idols and such things, they are considered major Mushriks (those who associate others with Allah in worship). Their Salah is invalid, and thus such a person cannot be taken as an Imam (the one who leads congregational Prayer).

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

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