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Making Vows

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Second question of Fatwa no. (2251) :

Q2: I'd like to ask about making vows for other than Allah the Exalted. Some claim that vows can be made only for Allah, while for any other being they are considered Kufr (disbelief) and Shirk (associating others in worship with Allah) because it is a form of worship. Another group claims that making vows for people is a righteous deed which brings reward to those who do so. What is the correct opinion regarding this?

A2: Making vows is an act of worship which is an exclusive right of Allah. It is impermissible to dedicate any share of it to other than Him. If a person makes vows for anyone else, they have dedicated a form of worship, which is an exclusive right of Allah, to other than Him. Those who dedicate any form of worship, whether vows, sacrificing animals, or anything else, to other than Allah are considered Mushriks and fall under the category which Allah informed us of in His statement: ﴿ Verily, whosoever sets up partners (in worship) with Allah, then Allah has forbidden Paradise to him, and the Fire will be his abode. And for the Zalimun (polytheists and wrong-doers) there are no helpers. ﴾(Surah Al-Ma'idah, 5: 72).

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If any Muslim who is Mukallaf (legally competent person) believes it is permissible to make vows and sacrifice animals for the deceased, this belief is considered Al-Shirk-ul-Akbar (major form of associating others in worship with Allah) which takes one out of the fold of Islam. They are granted three days to repent; and if not, they are to be executed.

It is permissible for their sons to accept money which they give out of kindness. It is also permissible for them to take of their parents' wealth what is reasonable without their knowledge, if they are poor or unable to sustain themselves. `Aisha narrated that Hind bint `Utbah , the wife of Abu Sufyan , complained to the Prophet (peace be upon him) that Abu Sufyan did not give her enough to take care of her needs and her children's, so he said to her, ﴿ Take from his property what is reasonable and will suffice you and your children. ﴾

Thus, it is made clear that the correct opinion is that of the first group which believes that no vows should be made for other than Allah. If made for other than Allah, it is considered Kufr and Shirk. 🗨️

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

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