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Fatwa no. 9412

Q: I am a student at a secondary school. Since I was young, I have been seeing my family in Sudan flocking to the shrines of shaykhs to rub them, seeking their blessings, and make vows by them. I have kept myself away from these scenes, but I cannot express it as I feel that they would see me as a Kafir (disbeliever) and perhaps try to poison me. Whatever the case, they would certainly do something disagreeable. They claim that these people perform Karamahs (extraordinary events performed by a pious people) as they are Awliya` (pious people), and that most of them claim to have seen Allah. I used to envy this, until I came to know people from Ansar Al-Sunnah Al-Muhamadiyyah; they showed me that these people's claims are delusions and Shirk. They also taught me that these people are followers of Bid`ah (rejected innovations in religion) and that all Bid`ah leads to the Fire. I also came across some books of theirs on Tawhid (Monotheism), written by Shaykh Muhammad ibn `Abdul-Wahhab. However, I cannot afford to get them due to my straitened circumstances, so I just borrow them and return them after a short while.

I hope that you, as a father and a Da`i (caller) to the truth, will explain to me in a personal letter, your opinion of this group and send me some books, if possible, to enlighten me. And Allah is the Knower of intentions!

A: Making vows by the shrines of shaykhs is Shirk, because making vows is an act of `Ibadah (worship), and so dedicating a vow to other than Allah is major Shirk. The same applies to supplicating to and seeking help from them, as these acts are intended to seek the blessings of these shaykhs. There is an authentic

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Hadith, narrated on the authority of [Abu Waqid Al-Laythy](#), that supports this. It is mentioned by Shaykh Muhammad ibn `Abdul-Wahhab (may Allah show mercy to him) in "Kitab Al-Tawhid" in the chapter: "Those who seek blessings from trees, stones, or similar, and rub shrines seeking blessings from their occupants."

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

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