

Invoking the Messenger or other people when standing up or sitting down

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Question: There is a Muslim who testifies that there is no god but Allaah and that Muhammad is the Messenger of Allaah but when standing up or sitting down, he says: 'O Messenger of Allaah', 'O Abu Al-Qasem', or 'O Shaykh `Abdul-Qadr', and such words of seeking help from people other than Allaah. What is the ruling on doing so?

Answer: The person who invokes Allaah's Messenger (عليه السلام)¹ or other people such as `Abdul-Qadir Al-Jelanee or Ahmad Al-Tijanee when standing up or sitting down, and whoever beseeches them for help whether to bring good or ward off harm is committing an act of Al-Shirk-ul-Akbar (major form of associating others in worship with Allaah). These acts were common during Jaahiliyyah (pre-Islamic time of ignorance). Then, Allaah sent His Messengers (عليهم السلام)² to get rid of Shirk (associating others with Allaah in His Divinity or worship), save people from it, and guide them to Tawheed (Oneness of Allaah, Exalted be He) and to make them offer `Ibaadah (worship) and Du'aa' (supplication) to Him Alone. Assistance with issues beyond man's ordinary capacity should be sought from none but Allaah (Exalted be He). Because seeking help is an act of `Ibaadah and whoever offers it to anyone other than Him (Exalted be He) is considered a Mushrik (one who associates others with Allaah in worship). Allaah guides His servants to this and teaches them to say: **[You (Alone) we worship, and You (Alone) we ask for help (for each and everything).]** Allaah also says: **[And the mosques are for Allaah (Alone): so invoke not anyone along with Allaah.]** Allaah shows them that He Alone wards off harm or delivers it. He confers blessings and good upon His servants. None can prevent what He grants, nor give what He prevents. None can stop what He decrees and He is Able to do all things. Allaah (Exalted be He) says: **["And invoke not besides Allaah, any such that will neither profit you nor harm you, but if (in case) you did so, you shall certainly be one of the Zaalimoon (polytheists and wrong-doers)."** And if Allaah touches you with harm, there is none who can remove it but He, and if He intends any good for you, there is none who can repel His Favour which He causes it to reach whomsoever of His slaves He wills. And He is the Oft-Forgiving, the Most Merciful.] Allaah (Exalted be He) says: **[Such is Allaah, your Lord; His is the kingdom. And those, whom you invoke or call upon instead of Him, own not even a Qitmeer (the thin membrane over the date-stone). If you invoke (or call upon) them, they hear not**

¹ (عليه السلام) ('alaihi-salaam) Peace be upon him

² (عليهم السلام) (عليهم السلام) Upon them peace

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your call; and if (in case) they were to hear, they could not grant it (your request) to you. And on the Day of Resurrection, they will disown your worshipping them. And none can inform you (O Muhammad (صلى الله عليه وسلم)³) like Him Who is the All-Knower (of everything).]

Allaah also says: [And who is more astray than one who calls on (invokes) besides Allaah, such as will not answer him till the Day of Resurrection, and who are (even) unaware of their calls (invocations) to them? And when mankind are gathered (on the Day of Resurrection), they (false deities) will become their enemies and will deny their worshipping.] And also says: [And whoever invokes (or worships), besides Allaah, any other ilaah (god), of whom he has no proof; then his reckoning is only with his Lord. Surely! Al-Kaafiroon (the disbelievers in Allaah and in the Oneness of Allaah, polytheists, pagans, idolaters) will not be successful.] Allaah describes the invocation of anyone or anything other than Him as Kufr (disbelief) and Shirk, as mentioned in these Ayahs (Qur'aanic verses); He mentioned that no one is more astray than a person who makes Du'aa' to anyone other than Him (Glorified be He). It is reported that the Prophet (عليه السلام) said to Ibn `Abbas 'may Allah be pleased with them both': **If you ask, ask Allaah Alone; and if you seek help, seek it from Allaah Alone ...** He (عليه السلام) also said: **Du'aa' is the sincere `Ibaadah.**

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³ (صلى الله عليه وسلم) (sallallaahu 'alayhi wa sallam) May the peace and blessings of Allaah the Most High be upon him