

Lesser shirk

Translated by Abu Abdirrahmaan Nasser ibn Najam

Taken from the works of Shaykh Muhammad ibn Saalih al 'Uthaymeen (رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ)

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

With regards to whether Allaah forgives lesser shirk that a person dies upon, the Shaykh Muhammad ibn Saalih al 'Uthaymeen (رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ)¹ comments:

Benefit no 6:

That lesser shirk does not take (a person) out of the Religion.

So from the people of knowledge are those who say:

(The person who dies upon lesser shirk) falls under the mashiyyah of Allaah.

If Allaah wishes, He will punish him and if He wishes, He will forgive him.

And from the people of knowledge are those who say:

(The person who dies upon lesser shirk) does not fall under the mashiyyah and it is a must that he be punished.

And Shaykh ul Islaam ibn Taymeeyah inclined towards this (second opinion), due to the generality of His statement, He the Most High:

Indeed Allaah does not forgive that shirk be committed with Him.

[Soorah an Nisaa (the 4th chapter) aayah 116]

So he said:

And Allaah does not forgive shirk, even it be lesser (shirk).

And through this, we come to know the tremendous evil of shirk. ibn Mas'ood (رضي الله عنه)² said:

“That I swear by Allaah untruthfully is more beloved to me than that I swear by other than Him truthfully.”³

¹ (رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ) (rahimahullaah) May Allaah the Most High have mercy on him

² (رضي الله عنه) (rad iyallaahu `anhu) May Allaah the Most High be pleased with him

³ Reported by 'Abdur Razzaaq (8/469) and at Tabaraanee in al Kabeer

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This is because swearing by other than Allaah is from (the actions) of shirk and swearing by other than Allaah untruthfully is from the major sins. And the evil of shirk is more serious than the evil of sin.

(Al qawl ul mufeed (2/26) of Shaykh Muhammad ibn Saalih al 'Uthaymeen (رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ))