

Difference between major and minor shirk

Shaykh 'Abdul-'Azeez Aal ash-Shaykh (May Allaah preserve him)

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of Allaah, the Most Merciful, the Bestower of Mercy

Question: “May Allaah be good to you. He says: What is the opinion of Your Eminence in the issue of the difference between the major and the minor shirk as far as the forgiveness is concerned?”

Shaykh 'Abdul-'Azeez Aal ash-Shaykh (May Allaah preserve him): “The scholars have two opinions. One opinion is saying that the statement of Allaah the Majestic and Most High:

[Verily, Allaah forgives not that partners should be set up with him in worship]¹

...means that Allaah does not forgive any kind of shirk. But as for the major one then he is made to stay forever in the Hellfire and the minor its companion is punished according to its proportion and then exits from it. And from them (the scholars) are those who made the minor shirk from the type of major sins. And in any case the description of shirk is ugly and repugnant. We ask Allaah for wellbeing.”

السؤال: احسن الله اليكم يقول: ما هو رأي سماحتكم في مسألة الفرق بين الشرك الأصغر، والشرك الأكبر من حيث المغفرة؟

الجواب: العلماء لهم رأيان: قولٌ يقول: إن قول الله جل وعلا: (إن الله لا يغفر أن يشرك به)، جنس الشرك لا يغفره الله، لكن الأكبر يخلد في النار، والأصغر يعذب صاحبه على قدره، ثم يخرج منها؛ ومنهم، من جعل الشرك الأصغر من جنس الكبائر، وعلى كل حال وصف الشرك قبيح، وشنيع، نسأل الله العافية.

¹ Soorah an-Nisaa' [4:48]