

Ruling on collective Dhikr as done by Soofee orders

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Question: Please give us your Fatwa concerning a group of people who sit in circles in Masjids (mosques) in which they observe remembrance of Allaah (Exalted be He) and His Messenger. Sometimes in their Dhikr (Remembrance of Allaah), they say things that are contrary to Tawheed (Oneness of Allaah). An example of what they say is: "Help us, O Messenger of Allaah!" They repeat these words while their leader says: "O, you (the Prophet) are the key of Allaah's treasures. O you are the Ka`bah of Allaah's appearance. O you are the throne of Allaah's levelling and O you are the chair of Allaah's descent! Suffice us, O Messenger of Allaah. O Allaah's beloved! You are the intended one. It is you, O Messenger of Allaah," and other similar words of Shirk (associating others with Allaah in His Divinity or worship).

Answer: First of all, collective Dhikr (Remembrance of Allaah) like what is done in the Soofee orders is an act of Bid`ah (innovation in religion). It was stated that the Messenger of Allaah (peace be upon him) said: **Anyone who does something in this matter of ours (the religion) that is not from it, it will be rejected.** Secondly, invoking others beside Allaah (Exalted be He) and seeking their help to relieve distress or grief are acts of major Shirk, which is forbidden because invoking and seeking help are acts of worship that must be dedicated to Allaah Alone. Therefore, dedicating one's worship to other than Allaah (Exalted be He) is an act of major Shirk which makes one a disbeliever. 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) also says: [And the mosques are for Allaah (Alone): so invoke not anyone along with Allaah.] He (Exalted be He) says as well: [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.] And other Ayahs (Qur'aanic verses) indicating the obligation of dedicating worship to Allaah Alone. It was stated in the Hadeeth that the Prophet

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(عليه السلام)¹ said: **If you ask, ask of Allaah Alone; and if you seek help, seek it from Allaah Alone...**
He (عليه السلام) also said: **Du'aa' (supplication) is itself worship.**

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

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