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### Swearing by other than Allah

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Fatwa No. 436

**Q:** I had a discussion with a Muslim brother concerning the impermissibility of swearing by other than Allah.

In this discussion I told him that based on what I have studied, swearing by other than Allah is Al-Shirk-ul-Asghar (minor form of associating others in worship with Allah). Sheikh Muhammad ibn `Abdul-Wahhab mentions in his book: Al-Shirk-ul-Asghar is to swear by other than Allah, such as a person's saying: I have none except Allah and you, and I put my trust in Allah and you ...etc. However, he said: It is permissible to swear by the Qur'an because it is one of Allah's Attributes. There are numerous opinions of some of those who practice Ijtihad (juristic effort to infer expert legal rulings) which support his view. We would like the Committee to issue a Fatwa regarding this matter, for we know that they depend on the Sahih Hadith (a Hadith that has been transmitted by people known for their uprightness and exactitude; free from eccentricity and blemish), may Allah reward you!

**A:** Swearing by any other than Allah and saying: "What Allah and I will", "none can help me except Allah and you" and so on, to venerate the creatures they swear by the same way they glorify Allah, is an act of Al-Shirk-ul-Akbar (major form of associating others in worship with Allah). The person should be informed of the ruling, if they do not know. However, if they, and whoever is already aware of the ruling insist on their opinion, they are committing an act Al-Shirk-ul-Akbar. Similarly, when one says, "What Allah wills and what you will" and "Had it not been for Allah and you"

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if the person believes that whoever they swear by is a partner with Allah and that nothing takes place except by His and this person's will. On the other hand, a person who swears by other than Allah verbally and does not glorify whatever they swear by in their hearts or they say, "What Allah wills and what you will" and "Had it not been for Allah and you", should be informed of the ruling. If they insist on their opinion, then they are committing Al-Shirk-ul-Asghar (minor form of associating others in worship with Allah). This does not mean that a Muslim becomes lenient towards this, for Al-Shirk Al-Asghar is a major sin after Al-Shirk Al-Akbar. [Ibn Mas`ud](#) (may Allah be pleased with him) said, ﴿ To

swear by Allah falsely is dearer to me than swearing by other than Him in truth. ) Making false oaths is one of the major sins, however Ibn Mas`ud (may Allah be pleased with him) regarded Al-Shirk Al-Asghar as far greater because this swearing entails glorifying the thing by which the person swears. The word "and" in the phrase, "what Allah and I will" implies equality between "Allah" and the pronoun "I". Allah (may He be Glorified and Exalted) stated: ﴿ There is nothing like Him; and He is the All-Hearer, the All-Seer. ﴾ Swearing by the Qur'an is not a form of Shirk as the Qur'an is the Word of Allah (may He be Glorified and Exalted) and His Word is one of His Attributes.

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A permissible oath is to swear by Allah, His Names, or His Attributes. The Prophet (peace be upon him) said, ﴿ Whoever has to take an oath should swear by Allah or remain silent. ﴾ (i.e. He should not swear by other than Allah.) ) Related by Al-Bukhari on the authority of `Umar.

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

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