The third question from Fatwa No. 9913:

Q: Some people vow to give charity or offer a sacrifice to attain what they want; hope of recovery, others of restoring a lost right, and so on. Some devote their vows to Allah sincerely or for the sake of Allah's Love,

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they offer the vow to other people. Please, advise me in this matter and clarify the correct way of offering a vow. May Allah admit you to the best of life and Hereafter.

A: First: Vowing is not a legally permitted act for a Muslim, for it is reported that the Prophet (peace be upon him) said: (A vow is not a means of bringing good but a means to extract from the miserly people.) But if a person makes a vow, he shall fulfill it, as the Prophet (peace be upon him) says: ("Whoever vows that he will be obedient to Allah, should remain obedient to Him; and whoever makes a vow that he will disobey Allah, should not disobey Him.") Narrated by Al-Bukhari and Muslim.

Second: Vowing to anyone other than Allah is Shirk-Akbar (major form of associating others in worship with Allah), for it is an act of worship; worshipping anyone other than Allah is Shirk (associating others in worship with Allah).

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

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