

Ishrak Billah/Shirk الإِشْرَاقُ بِاللَّهِ

As we learnt that Allah سبحانه وتعالى has given us the guidance to go back to Jannah, there is another major hukm (rule) called staying away from associating partners with Allah سبحانه وتعالى. And that is called in Arabic Ishrak Billah or Shirk. Allah SWT wants us to have pure faith in Him, whether it's related to our daily works or in His Ibadah (worship). Allah SWT talks about Shirk or Ishrak Billah in many places of Al-Quran. He سبحانه وتعالى

Mentioned in Surah Luqman ayah 13 narrating the story of Luqman "*when Luqman said to his son while he was advising his son, oh my dear son; do not associate partner with Allah, indeed shirk/associating partner with Allah is a major wrong action*".

It is important to purify our heart regarding our faith in Allah SWT. Otherwise our Ibadah such as Salah Sawm Zakah and Hajj are not going to be accepted by Allah سبحانه وتعالى. So when we pray our Salah we have to make sure it's being offered only to please Allah SWT. Our Sawm (fasting) in Ramadhan must be only to gain Allah's pleasure. Our Zakah must be paid out to the needy and poor without any other intention apart from pleasing Allah SWT. Our Hajj and Umrah must be performed only to gain His pleasure, we need to understand it's something which is an act required by Islam from every rich person to fulfill.

No showing off is allowed in His Ibadah (worship). Showing off is also considered as Shirk in Islam. So if we do any Ibadah of Allah SWT, and if in our hearts something is coming; e.g my parents will say I'm good, or they will say I'm practicing Muslim, then this is also going to be categorized as Shirk. Because you're initially making the intention of making some people happy with you. Every time we pray, or do any kind of Ibadah, we must fix our intention first. We need to ask our hearts; who am I doing it for? If we ask this question first to ourselves, it'll make us do it only for Allah. Allah SWT says in Surah Al-An'am ayah 82 "*Those who believe in Allah, and do not attach any Dhulm (Shirk) to their faith, for them there's safety (in hereafter) and they are (truly) guided*". This ayah tells us we have to keep our actions pure with pure intentions. Whenever we do any Ibadah, it has to be only for Allah, be it reciting the holy Quran, helping someone, or any compulsory Ibadah.

Associating partners with Allah SWT is such a big sin that Allah SWT doesn't forgive it. Allah SWT says in Surah An-Nisa ayah number 48 **"Indeed, Allah does not forgive associating others with Him (in worship) but forgives anything else of whoever He wills. And whoever associates others with Allah has indeed committed a grave sin".**

We have to be always careful, when we do any ibadah. We need to double check our intentions every time we involve ourselves into any act of worship.

One important act of worship is "Dua", it is the essence of worship. "Dua" in general means asking Allah's help, when we ask Allah, it makes Allah SWT happy. People sometimes do Shirk when they ask for help from someone other than Allah SWT. We may ask people's help, but that has to be in a limit. For example, when we need clothes, we can ask our parents to buy for us. But we need to understand our parents are able to buy through Allah's provided stuff. Our mind has to have this thought confirmed that it's Allah SWT who gives me everything. In this world, we are in need of materials. And those materials are called "Asbaab" in Arabic. When we need something, we have to get hold of materials. Such as; when we are hungry we make food. To make food, we go to buy the ingredients, then we prepare food. Think about the process of making food, you'll easily understand a few "Asbaab" there; e.g. going to shop, needing money to buy, walking or driving to the shop, you had to hold the shopping bags etc. After all these materials based preparation of food, you may think this is how we live and pass our lives. But no, all these materials are present there, because Allah SWT made the world like this for us to test our Eeman/Faith in Him. So the test goes on us two ways, making two kinds of people; number 1- we put ourselves into too many materials, and forget the One who made those materials for us. Number 2- we use the materials remembering the creator of all the materials. People who are in the second group are going to be successful in both Dunya and Aakhirah. And the first group of people are very likely to commit the sin of Ishraak Billah or Shirk in their lives. And Shirk leads to jahannam. Allah SWT says in Surah Al-Maaidah ayah 72 **"Whoever associates others with Allah, surely Allah has forbidden Paradise for him. His (the one who committed Shirk) home will be the Fire. And the wrongdoers will have no helpers".**

It's very essential that we believe Allah SWT is the source of all power all the time. He is Al-Khaliq the creator (creator of every single being) of all seen and unseen things. He is Al-Qadir the all powerful, the power and ability of Allah never ends or decreases. He is Al-Malik the king of all kings, to Allah everything belongs, to Him everything returns. He is Al-Azeez the almighty, nothing has the capability to challenge Allah's power. He is the way He is

with all his beautiful names and attributes. (Kids should learn 99 names of Allah with their meanings).