

## STRENGTHEN OUR AQIDAH AND AVOID SHIRK

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الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ نَحْمَدُهُ وَنَسْتَعِينُهُ وَنَسْتَغْفِرُهُ. وَنَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنْ شُرُورِ أَنْفُسِنَا  
وَمِنْ سَيِّئَاتِ أَعْمَالِنَا. مَنْ يَهْدِهِ اللَّهُ فَلَا مُضِلَّ لَهُ وَمَنْ يُضِلِّ فَلَا  
هَادِيَ لَهُ.

وَأَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ سَيِّدَنَا  
مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ. اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِهِ  
وَأَصْحَابِهِ أَجْمَعِينَ.

أَمَّا بَعْدُ،

فِيَا عِبَادَ اللَّهِ، اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَأَوْصِيكُمْ وَإِيَّايَ بِتَقْوَى اللَّهِ، فَقَدْ فَازَ  
الْمُتَّقُونَ.

Let us increase our righteousness to Allah the Almighty by doing all that He prescribes and leaving all that He prohibits. May we be blessed by Him in this life and the hereafter.

### Dear brothers and sisters

We must strive to protect and defend our faith (*aqidah*) from things that can damage it such as shirk. Shirk means associating partners with Allah the Almighty by believing that there are beings or anything more

powerful and able to provide benefits and harms other than Allah the Almighty. Shirk is a grievous sin in the eyes of the Almighty. Allah the Almighty says in chapter 4 (surah al-Nisa) verse 48:

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ

إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يَغْفِرُ أَنْ يُشْرَكَ بِهِ وَيَغْفِرُ مَا دُونَ ذَلِكَ لِمَنْ يَشَاءُ

**Which means:** “Surely, Allah does not forgive that a partner is ascribed to Him, and He forgives anything short of that for whomsoever He wills. Whoever ascribes a partner to Allah commits a terrible sin.”

Acts of worship other than Allah such as worshipping idols and statues are great sins. We should stay away from practices that can lead to shirk. Among them are believe in superstitious practices like blasphemy, use of talismans and amulets, wearing charm needles (*susuk*) and others that are against Islamic practices.

The Prophet (pbuh) said in a hadith narrated by Imam al-Hakim which means:

*“Indeed, the charms, amulets and sorcery are shirk.”*

**Dear brothers and sisters,**

There are two kinds of shirk, namely *shirk jali* (clear) and *shirk khafi* (hidden). An example of *shirk jali* is believing in the predictions of fortune tellers, black magic and others. We need to realize that the second shirk which is *shirk khafi*, is very much a great concern of the Prophet (pbuh) for his followers. The Prophet (pbuh) said in a hadith narrated by Imam Ahmad:

إِنَّ أَخْوَفَ مَا أَخَافُ عَلَيْكُمْ الشِّرْكَ الْأَصْغَرَ قَالُوا وَمَا  
الشِّرْكَ الْأَصْغَرُ يَا رَسُولَ اللَّهِ قَالَ الرِّيَاءُ

**Which means:** “Indeed, what I fear most from happening to you is hidden Shirk. The Companions asked. "What is the hidden Shirk, O Messenger of Allah?" He replied, "riak (showing off).”

Remember that shirk in any form causes our good deeds not to be accepted by Allah the Almighty and its consequence is hell.

Allah the Almighty says in chapter 5 (surah al- Maidah) verse 72:

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ

إِنَّهُ، مَنْ يُشْرِكْ بِاللَّهِ فَقَدْ حَرَّمَ اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ الْجَنَّةَ وَمَأْوَاهُ النَّارُ وَمَا

لِلظَّالِمِينَ مِنْ أَنْصَارٍ ﴿٧٢﴾

**Which means:** “Surely whoever associates (other things) with Allah, then Allah has forbidden to him Heaven and his abode is the Fire.”

بَارَكَ اللَّهُ لِي وَلَكُمْ فِي الْقُرْآنِ الْعَظِيمِ، وَنَفَعَنِي وَإِيَّاكُمْ بِمَا فِيهِ مِنَ الْآيَاتِ  
وَالذِّكْرِ الْحَكِيمِ، وَتَقَبَّلَ مِنِّي وَمِنْكُمْ تِلَاوَتَهَا هُوَ السَّمِيعُ الْعَلِيمُ ، أَقُولُ

قَوْلِي هَذَا وَأَسْتَغْفِرُ اللَّهَ الْعَظِيمَ لِي وَلَكُمْ، وَلِسَائِرِ الْمُسْلِمِينَ وَالْمُسْلِمَاتِ،  
وَالْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ، فَاسْتَغْفِرُوهُ فَيَا فَوْزَ الْمُسْتَغْفِرِينَ وَيَا نَجَاةَ التَّائِبِينَ.