

SHIRK

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What is Shirk?

Shirk literally means partnership or association.

In Islam it refers to the act of assigning partners to Allah (swt) in whatever form it may take.

The sin of shirk denies the very purpose of man, which is to worship Allah (swt) exclusively, without associating partners with Allah's (swt) names, attributes, function or commands (i.e. Tawheed).

“And I (Allah) created not the jinns and humans except they should worship Me (Alone).” [Qur'an 51:56]

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“Surely Allah will not forgive the association of partners (shirk) with Him, but He forgives less than that to whomever He wishes” [Qur'an 4:48]

The topic of shirk and who is the mushrik (the one who commits shirk), must be known by all Muslims, otherwise they could commit this sin without to know and thereby negate their Islam, as the ayah below states.

“And most of them believe not in Allah except that they attribute partners unto Him [i.e. they are Mushrikun - polytheists].” [Qur'an 12:106]

Shirk is the opposite of tawheed, so the crime of shirk will occur on the three main branches of tawheed.

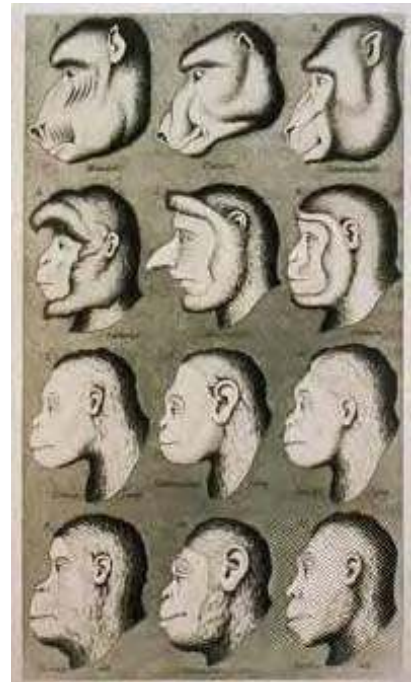
Shirk in Allah's (swt) Lordship (Rububiyah)

This is to believe others can share in Allah (swt) Lordship and the specific actions associated with these functions such as creating, providing, giving life, taking life, and commanding his creation.

The most blatant form of this shirk can be seen amongst those religions which are engrossed in idolatry such as Hinduism and Buddhism, who attribute Allah (swt) lordship to their many demi-gods.

The more subtle form of this shirk is to deny Allah (swt) has any role to play in the life affairs of mankind after he created the universe, and we see this clearly with the prevalence of manmade law governing the life of people around the world. Yet Allah (swt) said “for him (swt) is the creating and the commanding” [Qur'an 7:54]

Another form of this shirk is to totally deny the existence of god and replace him with erroneous theories such as evolution and the big bang theory, which lead to people following the false religions of Darwinism and Marxism.



Shirk in Allah's (swt) Names (Asma) and Attributes (Sifat)

This is to believe that Allah (swt) can be similar to his creation or to believe the creation can be like Allah (swt). Thereby negating those names and attributes, which exclusively belong to Allah (swt).

“There is nothing comparable to him (swt)” [Qur'an 42:11]

Shirk by humanizing God can be seen by the many idols that the idolaters worship. For Hindus and Buddhist their idols look like Asian men, whilst for Christians their god is a blue eyed blond person and they have many painted pictures depicting God as a naked old European man with a long white beard (Aozubillah).

Shirk by deifying the Creation can be seen amongst some Shias who believed the cousin of the Prophet (saw), Ali (ra) was God. Even the nation of Islam a kufr group in America believes god came down in the form of a black man called Master Farad Muhammad.



The Messenger Muhammad (saw) said, “Seeking Knowledge is obligatory upon every Muslim” On the commentary of this hadith {prophetic saying} the great companion Abdullah Ibn Abbas (ra) said, “Knowledge (ilm) here is what is known by necessity, in order for a Muslim to accomplish his deen {divine way of life}”

Known By Necessity

THE GREATEST OPPRESSION

"Verily we sent to every nation a Messenger proclaiming worship Allah and avoid the Taghout (false gods)" [Qur'an 16:36]

Shirk in Ibadah - Worshipping Allah Exclusively (Ululhiyah)

This is where acts of worship are directed to other than Allah (swt) and reward is sought from the creation rather than the creator. It has two main aspects:

Major Shirk (Al Akbar) this represents the most obvious form of idolatry from which Allah (swt) sent his messengers to call the masses of mankind away from.

"Verily we sent to every nation a messenger proclaiming worship Allah (swt) and avoid the taghout (false gods)" [Qur'an 16:36]

Whoever commits this form of shirk leaves the fold of Islam.

• Shirk of Supplication

This is to call or invoke anyone besides Allah (swt), regardless of whether they are pious people of present or past. The wrath of Allah (swt) is upon those who invoke like this.

"If anyone invokes besides Allah, any other god, he has no authority thereafter, his reckoning will only be with Allah" [Qur'an 21:117]

• Shirk of Obedience

This is obedience to the rabbis, priests, the scholars and rulers in disobeying what Allah (swt) has ordered.

"They took their Rabbi's and their Monks to be lords and legislators besides Allah" [Qur'an 9:31]

• Shirk of Love

This is to love others the way Allah (swt) should be loved or even more!

"Yet there are men who take (for worship) others besides Allah, as equal. They love them as they should love Allah, but those of faith (iman) are overflowing with their love for Allah" [Qur'an 2:165]

• Shirk of Intention, wish and goal

This is to perform an action for other than the sake of Allah (swt).

"Those who desire the life of the present and its glitter, to them we shall pay (the price of) their deeds therein, without diminution. They are those for whom there is nothing in the Hereafter but the Fire: vain are the designs they frame therein, and of no effect and the deeds that they do!" [Qur'an 11:15-16]



Minor Shirk (Al Asghar) This is the type of Shirk that does not take the performer out of the fold of Islam and if that person were to meet Allah (swt) with such an action, then he is beneath the Will of Allah (swt), whether He (swt) wishes to forgive or to punish that person. However, such a person will not reside in the Hellfire forever as a result of that action; but must be purified from such an action through torment in the Hellfire for a period.

Shirk Asghar has numerous forms and types. Here are a few.

• Showing off

The messenger Muhammad (saw) said, 'The thing I fear most for my Ummah is the hidden shirk. The Sahabah then asked him: What is the hidden shirk? He (saw) said: Ar-Riya (showing off).' [Ahmed]

• **Leading prayer or making dua for money**
Worship is solely for Allah (swt) sake and cannot be charged for.

• **Performing Jihad for the sake of making money**
The messenger Muhammad (saw) said, "doomed is the one who worships the dirham, dinar (money)"

• **The one who makes oath by other than Allah**
For example to say:

'I swear by my mother' or 'I swear by my child' etc.

• **Wearing rings and amulets as protection**
Allah (swt) is the only one that should be feared, and refuge from harm should solely be sought with Allah (swt).



The differences between Shirk Akbar and Shirk Asghar

- 1 The fundamental differences between shirk akbar and asghar is that the first takes one outside the fold of Islam, whereas the second does not.
- 2 The one who commits shirk akbar will be in hellfire forever, whereas the one who commits shirk asghar will be punished in Hell-fire, but if Allah wishes he may take him out or even leave him there forever.
- 3 Shirk akbar abolishes all good deeds whereas shirk asghar does not.
- 4 If a person commits shirk akbar his life and wealth become halal for Muslims to take.
- 5 Those who commit shirk akbar violate their marriage contract(s) and their children will no longer be attributed to them. This is not the case for a person who commits shirk asghar.

How is Shirk the greatest sin?

Shirk is the greatest sin a person can commit for the following reasons:

- 1 Allah informs us he will never forgive those who commit shirk (akbar) **"Verily, Allah forgives not that partners should be set up with him in worship, but He forgives except that (anything else) to whom He pleases, and whoever sets up partners with Allah in worship, he has indeed invented a tremendous sin."** [Qur'an 4:48]
- 2 Paradise (Jannah) is forbidden upon the one who commits shirk (akbar) **"Verily, whosoever sets up partners in worship with Allah, then Allah has forbidden Paradise for him, and the Fire will be his abode"** [Qur'an 5:72]
- 3 Shirk (akbar) abolishes all the good deeds, **"If you join others in worship with Allah, (then) surely (all) your deeds will be in vain, and you will certainly be among the losers."** [Qur'an 39:65]

"Surely Allah will not forgive the association of partners (shirk) with Him, but He forgives less than that to whomever He wishes" [Qur'an 4:48]

Known By Necessity:
Shirk

