

SHIRK ACCORDING TO THE QURAN

1. **ONE'S OWN EGO AND DESIRE AS AN IDOL (25:43)**
2. **INTERCESSORS AS IDOLS (10:18)**
3. **WORSHIP OF SAINTS AND PROPHETS AS IDOLATRY (3:79-80, 39:3, 7:194, 16:20-21, 17:56-57, 18:102)**
4. **TAKING JINNS AS IDOLS (6:100); SATAN AS IDOL (4:117)**
5. **PROPERTY, GOODS AND ASSETS AS IDOLS (18:34-44)**
6. **HOLDING SOURCES (BOOKS) OTHER THAN WHAT IS REVEALED (QURAN) AS IDOLS (6:19, 68:36-38)**
7. **RELIGIOUS LEADERS, SCHOLARS AND REVERED PERSONALITIES AS IDOLS (9:31)**
8. **HYPOCRISY AS HIDDEN IDOL (2:165, 4:142, 9:67, 63:4)**

Shirk, the act of setting up partners with Allah, can come in many different guises as per the Quran. It is incumbent upon every primordial soul who took the covenant not just Muslims to **A) Recognize** and **B) Repel** idolatry as much and as far away for one's own eternity rests on it. Look at **#1, #5, #6, #7 and #8** we all are involved and indulge in Shirk in some or other form without showing any sign or symptom due to the inherently hidden and subtle nature of Shirk, and hence Quran clearly warns rather prophesized (**And most of them will not believe in God except while setting-up partners, Surah Yusuf: 106**) at the time when there was no Islamic saints or their shrines, no Islamic scholars or their Quran overriding epic tomes, and Islamic clergy or their blind followers.

Therefore, and in complete harmony with the Quran, the Noble Prophet^{SAS} also clearly fore-warned:

"The thing that I fear most for my nation is associating others with Allah. I do not say that they will worship the sun or the moon or idols, but deeds done for the sake of anyone other than Allah, and hidden desires."¹

"Between a slave and Shirk or disbelief is abandoning the Salat."²

"I am not afraid that you will associate anything with Allah in worship after (my demise), but I apprehend that you will vie with one another for the life of the world."³

But sadly some Muslims are overtly obsessed with **#3** only, which is clearly **conditional**, meaning if someone visit shrine with the intention to pay respect and send blessings, within the ambit and permissible by Quran (9:84) and NOT to seek any benefit directly from or through the saint, does not come under the warning radar. No doubt or denying or defending the majority who throng the shrines cross this fine line (due to many factors, illiteracy primarily) but is it correct to paint everyone with same broad brush or worst yet blow them up into bits? Are we not vying one another for material wealth? Have we not missed Salat before and isn't there a greater possibility with our job's situation of missing more Salat in future? Don't we cherish desires and are we not fulfilling them? As if our heads aren't already buried deep in the sand, the bone-chilling prophecy is pronounced:

"Shirk in this Ummah is more subtle than the creeping of black ants on black rocks in the darkness of night"⁴

Who amongst us possess the vision piercing the pitch dark night spotting black ant on a black rock? Our priorities are clearly misplaced and we're leading a dangerously deluded life outside the boundaries drawn by the Quran.

Frighteningly, for the retribution the Quran does not make any distinction between various forms of "Shirk"⁵ contrary to the human tendency of "categorization" to feel better and safer from this unforgiveable sin!

¹ Ibn Majah

² Tirmidhi

³ Bukhari and Muslim

⁴ Bukhari preface, <http://muhammadanism.com/Hadith/Bukhari/pxlix.htm>

⁵ Despair not, Quran never leaves us in the dark after all it's the only guiding torch with the inextinguishable light (Nur) but beneficial provided it remains in our hands and minds and not outsourced to the clergy.