

## In the name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful

### WHAT IS A MAJOR SIN?

Praise be to Allah, the Lord of the worlds, and blessings and safe-keeping be granted to our beloved Prophet Muhammad, the Chief of the Messengers of Allah and the Guide of Allah's Fear, and peace and blessings be granted to his family and his Companions.

The subject-matter of this book concerns the major sins and prohibited acts.

### THE MAJOR SINS:

The major sins are those acts which have been forbidden by Allah in the Qur'an and by His Messenger (SAW)<sup>(1)</sup> in the **Sunna** (practise of the Prophet), and which have been made clear by the actions of the first righteous generation of Muslims, the Companions of the Prophet (SAW). Allah Most High says in His Glorious Book:

If you avoid the major (part) of what you have been forbidden (to do), We will cancel out for you your (other) evil deeds and will admit you (to Paradise) with a noble entry. (**al-Nisa** 4: 31)

Thus, by this verse, Allah Most High has guaranteed the Garden of Paradise to those who avoid the major sins. And Allah Most High also says:

Those who avoid the greatest of sins and indecencies, and forgive when they are angry... (**al-Shura** 42: 37)

Those who avoid the greatest sins and indecencies, except for oversights, (will find that) surely your Lord is ample in forgiveness. (**Al-Najm** 53:32)

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(1) (SAW): To whom may Allah's blessings and safe-keeping be granted.

## THE FIRST MAJOR SIN

### ASSOCIATING ANYTHING WITH ALLAH

The greatest of all major sins is **Shirk** - that is to say, associating anyone or anything with Allah Most High, and it is of two kinds.

The first is to believe that Allah has an equal or to worship something or someone other than Him, such as a stone, a tree, a star, the sun, the moon, or a prophet, a saint, or an angel. This is the greatest **Shirk**, about which Allah Most High says:

Indeed, Allah does not forgive associating anything with Him, and He forgives whatever is other than that to whomever He wills. (**al-Nisa** 4: 48 and 116)

Indeed, associating (anything with Allah) is a great wrong. (**Luqman** 31:13)

Indeed, the one who associates anything with Allah, Allah will forbid him the Garden, and his abode is the Fire. (**al-Maidah** 5: 75 [in some translations]).

Such verses are quite numerous in the Qur'an.<sup>(1)</sup>

Whoever ascribes partners to Allah (**Shirk**) and dies a polytheist (**Mushrik**) is definitely an inhabitant of the Fire, just as anyone who believes in Allah and dies a believer is an inhabitant of the Garden, even though he may be punished in the Fire first.

Allah's Messenger (SAW) asked his Companions: "Shall I not inform you about the three greatest sins?" They said: "Yes, Messenger of Allah." He then continued: "Associating other objects of worship with Allah, disobedience to parents.." Thereupon he sat up from the reclining position and then continued: "And lying under oath (deliberate perjury) and bearing

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(1) The number of verses containing the word «shirk» and its derivatives is approximately 165, and there are many other verses of similar meaning.

## الكبيرة الثانية

### قتل النفس

قال تعالى : ﴿وَمَنْ يَقْتُلْ مُؤْمِنًا مُتَعَمِّدًا فَجَزَاؤُهُ جَهَنَّمُ خَالِدًا فِيهَا وَغَضِبَ اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَلَعَنَهُ وَأَعَدَّ لَهُ عَذَابًا عَظِيمًا﴾<sup>(١)</sup>. وقال تعالى : ﴿وَالَّذِينَ لَا يَدْعُونَ مَعَ اللَّهِ إِلَهًا آخَرَ وَلَا يَقْتُلُونَ النَّفْسَ الَّتِي حَرَّمَ اللَّهُ إِلَّا بِالْحَقِّ وَلَا يَزْنُونَ . وَمَنْ يَفْعَلْ ذَلِكَ يَلْقَ أَثَامًا يُضَاعَفْ لَهُ الْعَذَابُ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ وَيَخْلُدْ فِيهِ مُهَانًا . إِلَّا مَنْ تَابَ وَآمَنَ وَعَمِلَ عَمَلًا صَالِحًا﴾<sup>(٢)</sup>. وقال تعالى : ﴿مِنْ أَجْلِ ذَلِكَ كَتَبْنَا عَلَى بَنِي إِسْرَائِيلَ أَنَّهُ مَنْ قَتَلَ نَفْسًا بِغَيْرِ نَفْسٍ أَوْ فَسَادٍ فِي الْأَرْضِ فَكَأَنَّمَا قَتَلَ النَّاسَ جَمِيعًا ، وَمَنْ أَحْيَاهَا فَكَأَنَّمَا أَحْيَا النَّاسَ جَمِيعًا﴾<sup>(٣)</sup> وقال تعالى : ﴿وَإِذَا الْمَوْءُودَةُ سُئِلَتْ بِأَيِّ ذَنْبٍ قُتِلَتْ﴾<sup>(٤)</sup>.

وقال النبي ﷺ : «اجْتَنِبُوا السَّبْعَ الْمُؤْبَقَاتِ»<sup>(٥)</sup>. فذكر قتل النفس التي حرم الله إلا بالحق. وقال رجل للنبي ﷺ : أي الذنب أعظم عند الله تعالى؟ قال : «أن تجعل لله نداً وهو خلقك» قال : ثم أي؟ قال : «أن تقتل ولدك خشية أن يطعم معك». قال : ثم أي؟ قال : «أن تزاني حليلة جارك» فأنزل الله تعالى تصديقها : ﴿وَالَّذِينَ لَا يَدْعُونَ مَعَ اللَّهِ

(١) سورة النساء، الآية : ٩٣ .

(٢) سورة الفرقان، الآيات : ٦٨ - ٧٠ .

(٣) سورة المائدة، الآية : ٣٢ .

(٤) سورة التكويد، الآية : ٨ - ٩ .

(٥) رواه البخاري ومسلم بدون الآية في آخره ورواه الترمذي والنسائي مع الآية وكل الروايات عن أبي مسعود الأنصاري .

## THE SECOND MAJOR SIN

### MURDER

Allah Most High says: And if anyone kills a believer deliberately, his recompense is Hell, to remain therein forever. And Allah's anger will be upon him and His curse, and a great punishment will be prepared for him. (al-Nisa 4: 93)

(The servants of the Most-Merciful are, among others,) those who do not call upon any other god together with Allah, nor kill any person whom Allah has prohibited (killing) except in (the course of) justice, nor commit fornication (or adultery) - and whoever does that will incur guilt; the punishment will be doubled for him on the Day of Resurrection and he will remain in it forever, disgraced, excepting the one who repents and believes and acts righteously (al-Furqan 25: 68-70.)

On account of that (the killing of one of the descendants of Adam by his brother), we prescribed for the Children of Israel that if someone kills a person, unless it is (retaliation) for the murder of another or for spreading corruption on earth, it will be as if he had killed the whole of mankind. (Al-Maidah 5:32[35]).

When the girl who was buried (alive) is asked for what crime she was killed... (al-Takweer 81:8-9)

The Prophet (SAW) said: «Avoid the seven noxious things,» and he mentioned among them, "Killing one whom Allah has declared inviolate without a just cause."

A man asked Allah's Messenger (SAW) what was the greatest sin is in Allah's sight, to which he replied, "That you should treat anything as equal to Allah, when He has created you." "What next?" he asked, to which the Prophet (SAW) replied, "That you should kill your child for fear that he

## THE EIGHTH MAJOR SIN

### DISRESPECT TO PARENTS<sup>(1)</sup>

Allah Most High says:

"And your Lord has decreed that you worship no one except Him and that you treat your parents well. If one or both of them reach old age along with you, never say: "Uff!" to them nor repulse them, but (rather) speak to them words of honour. And, out of mercy, lower to them the wing of humility and say: "My Lord, have mercy on them, as they took care of me when I was little." (al-Isra 17:32-24)

"Treating parents well" means to take care of their needs with love and kindness, while "Never say 'Uff!' to them" means not to resent their senility and mistakes due to old age. It is an obligation upon you to serve them as they served you when you were a little child, as well as having brought you into life. The superior claim belongs to the one who does it (a good deed) first. Therefore, you should bear any trouble from them with forbearance until they leave this life.

Allah also says:

Be thankful to Me and to your parents. To Me is the (final) goal. (Luqman 31:14)

Just see how Allah has linked gratitude to parents with gratitude to Himself!

Ibn 'Abbas(RAA) said: "Three verses (of the Qur'an) were revealed, joining three (pairs), and one (part) of any (of these) pairs is not acceptable without the other. Allah Most High says: 'Obey Allah and Obey the

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(1) «Disrespect to parents» means to deny them their rights, to leave off treating them well, or, even worse, to treat them badly.