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Do the Aawliyaa' have the ability to answer one's prayers?

Article taken and slightly adapted from: mtws.posthaven.com [Taken from the explanation of انظيف الاعتقاد من ادران الالحاد on 26-03-1432]

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

In the name of Allaah, the Most Merciful, the Bestower of Mercy

Question: He says: Noble Shaykh, may Allaah give you success. Some of the grave worshippers say, we pray to the Walee (saint), and he answers some of our prayers. So because he has the ability to do this, this means it's permissible to pray to him. So how do we respond to this?

Shaykh Saalih al-Fawzaan (حفظه الله)¹: My brother, the achievement of a goal by way of shirk does not prove that it's permissible, because this is a test and a trial, and gradual punishment from Allaah (عزوجل)². He may be punishing you gradually with this.

Or the devil who is present at the grave or tomb is answering your needs in order to mislead you from the path of Allaah, because he may have the ability and he can't be seen. He might respond to your need and bring this to you from somewhere far off.

This is either a gradual punishment from Allaah, or it is from the devil, intending to mislead you, or it happened as a decree and a due measure. It was already decreed for you to obtain this need at this time and this place, by the decree and due measure of Allaah, not because you called upon this dead person.

And the point is that Allaah has forbidden this. That's enough. It's enough that Allaah forbade this. ["So don't call upon anyone other than Allaah."]³ This is enough. So if they say, "This is not enough for me, and I will call upon other than Allaah", then say, "Then you have destroyed yourself."

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^{1 (}حفظه الله) May Allaah the Most High preserve him

² (عزوجل) (Azza wa Jaal) Mighty and Majestic is He

Soorah al-Jinn [72:18] – سورة الجن 3