

For a Muslim to Prostrate before a Priest of the Jain Sect

Q: Imaan-46: There is a Muslim person who attends the talks of a Jaini priest. Just as the Jaini people do, the Muslim also invites the priest home, prostrates before him, and places money at his feet. The prostration is just as is done in Sajdah. What is the status of this Muslim's Imaan and marriage? He does not even regard the act as a sin. I am asking the question so as to assist the brother to reform.

Answer: In the Shari'ah of Islaam, it is Haraam and a major sin in no uncertain terms to prostrate before anyone other than Allaah, even though he be a Nabi or a saint. It is a clear act of Kufr if the prostration is carried out as worship. If this is not the intention or if there is no intention, then too, it is an act of Kufr according to senior Ulem a. Durrul Mukhtaar makes it clear that kissing the ground in front of a scholar or a king is Haraam and both the doer and the one approving of the act will be sinful because the act resembles the behaviour of idol worshippers. If the act is done out of respect, the person will be guilty of a major sin, though not becoming a Kaafir.

Multaqit Naasiri states, "A person will become a Kaafir by prostrating before anyone other than Allaah." Kit'aayah of Imaam Sha'bi RAH. also states that such a person becomes a Kaafir because placing the forehead on the ground is to be done only before Allaah. Even though the person in the question is not prostrating before the Jaini priest to worship him, it is necessary for him to repent for the sin and to renew his marriage as well.

When an act reserved only for Allaah is not even permissible for any Nabi ALY. or saint, how can it ever be permissible for a non-Muslim? Refusing to bow before the Roman Emperor, a Sahabi RADI. said, "I would be embarrassed if Muhammad SAW ever knew that I bowed down as I entered the court of a non-Muslim.?"

And Allaah knows best what is most correct.

Fatawa Rahimiyyah (Vol.1)

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