

Committing Shirk in the name of Waseela (intercession):

It is common practice in present day society that people are committing Shirk under the disguise of waseela (Intercession) of some pious people either alive or dead. They go to their graves and Say these saints/Wali Allah were pious people, Allah love them, so they can intercede to Allah on their behalf. For people who are alive, they have same contention that they are pious people and have direct connection with Allah (SWT) and they can intercede for them. Interestingly these all claim that Allah is supreme creator of everything in Heaven and Earth, Nothing happens without His Knowledge and permission, but they think that these pious people are beloved to Allah, so they can persuade Him for such and such things in their favors. Some also believe that though Allah is Supreme, but He Needs some deputies, assistants to run His affairs of the world and these pious, Saints acts as His assistants. Some even say that when they go to graves sights of these saints, they do not ask them any of their needs but simply these places and their surrounding are so blessed that their supplications/Duas are accepted by Allah (SWT) etc.

Incidentally same kind of thinking Mushrakeen (Polytheists) of Arab had in the time of Jahalia (Era of ignorance) before the advent of and in the time of Prophet Muhammad (SAW). They all believed in Allah being supreme, creator of the universe and unlimited power and authority, but He needs assistance, or listens to His pious people and that's why they ask them to intercede to Allah on their behalf.

This kind of thinking in the sight of Allah (SWT) and Quran is pure and major Shirk.

Here are few References from Quran in this regard>

1) وَيَعْبُدُونَ مِن دُونِ اللَّهِ مَا لَا يَضُرُّهُمْ وَلَا يَنْفَعُهُمْ وَيَقُولُونَ هَؤُلَاءِ شَفَعَاؤُنَا عِنْدَ اللَّهِ ۗ قُلْ أَتُنَبِّئُونَ اللَّهَ بِمَا لَا يَعْلَمُ فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ وَلَا فِي الْأَرْضِ سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى عَمَّا يُشْرِكُونَ

They worship other deities besides Allah, who can neither harm them nor benefit them, and they say: “These are our intercessor with Allah.” O Muhammad, say to them: Are you informing Allah of what He knows to exist neither in the heavens nor on the earth? Glory to Him! He is far above from having the partners they ascribe to Him!” Q 10/18

2)

قُلْ لِمَنِ الْأَرْضُ وَمَن فِيهَا إِن كُنتُمْ تَعْلَمُونَ
سَيَقُولُونَ لِلَّهِ قُلْ أَفَلَا تَذَكَّرُونَ
قُلْ مَن رَّبُّ السَّمَاوَاتِ السَّبْعِ وَرَبُّ الْعَرْشِ الْعَظِيمِ
سَيَقُولُونَ لِلَّهِ قُلْ أَفَلَا تَتَّقُونَ

قُلْ مَن بِيَدِهِ مَلَكُوتُ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ وَهُوَ يُجِيرُ وَلَا يُجَارُ عَلَيْهِ إِن كُنتُمْ تَعْلَمُونَ
سَيَقُولُونَ لِلَّهِ قُلْ فَأَنَّى تُسْحَرُونَ

Say, “To whom does the earth belong, and everyone in it, if you happen to know?”

They will say, “To God.” Say, “Will you not reflect?”

. Say, “Who is the Lord of the seven heavens, and Lord of the Splendid Throne?”

. They will say, “To God.” Say, “Will you not become righteous?”

. Say, “In whose hand is the dominion of all things, and He protects and cannot be protected from, if you happen to know?”

. They will say, “To God.” Say, “Then are you deluded?”

Q 23/84-89.

3)

أَمْ اتَّخَذُوا مِنْ دُونِ اللَّهِ شُفَعَاءَ قُلُوبِ أَوْلَوُ كَانُوا لَا يَمْلِكُونَ شَيْئًا وَلَا يَعْقِلُونَ

قُلْ لِلَّهِ الشَّفَاعَةُ جَمِيعًا لَهُ مُلْكُ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ ثُمَّ إِلَيْهِ تُرْجَعُونَ

Or have they chosen intercessors other than God? Say, “Even though they have no power over anything, and are devoid of reason?”

Say, “All intercession is up to God. To Him belongs the kingdom of the heavens and the earth. Then to Him you will be returned.

Q 39/43

4) أَلَا لِلَّهِ الدِّينُ الْخَالِصُ وَالَّذِينَ اتَّخَذُوا مِنْ دُونِهِ أَوْلِيَاءَ مَا نَعْبُدُهُمْ إِلَّا لِيُقَرِّبُونَا إِلَى اللَّهِ زُلْفَى إِنَّ اللَّهَ يَحْكُمُ بَيْنَهُمْ فِي مَا هُمْ فِيهِ يَخْتَلِفُونَ إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يَهْدِي مَنْ هُوَ كَاذِبٌ كَفَّارٌ

Is not to God that sincere faith is due? As for those who take guardians besides Him, “We only worship them that they may bring us nearer to Allah.” Allah will judge between them regarding their differences. God does not guide the lying and ungrateful.

Q39/2

[Allah calls Mushriks Liars and ungrateful, because they tell lie that these pious and saint people are Allah’s beloved so they ask them to intercede on their behalf and they are ungrateful that they enjoy all their life due to Allah’s Mercy but thanks other.]

5)

قُلْ اِدْعُوا الَّذِيْنَ رَعَمْتُمْ مِّنْ دُوْنِهٖ فَلَا يَمْلِكُوْنَ كَشْفَ الضُّرِّ عَنْكُمْ وَلَا
تَحْوِيْلًا

اُولٰٓئِكَ الَّذِيْنَ يَدْعُوْنَ يَبْتَغُوْنَ اِلٰى رَبِّهِمُ الْوَسِيْلَةَ اَتِيْهِمْ اَقْرَبُ وَيَرْجُوْنَ رَحْمَتَهُ
وَيَخَافُوْنَ عَذَابَهُ اِنَّ عَذَابَ رَبِّكَ كَانَ مَحْذُوْرًا

Say, “Call upon those you claim besides Him. They have no power to relieve your adversity, nor can they change it.”

Those they call upon are themselves seeking means of access to their Lord, vying to be nearer, and hoping for His mercy, and fearing His punishment. The punishment of your Lord is to be dreaded. Q17/56-57.

6)

اتَّخَذُوا أَحْبَارَهُمْ وَرُهَبَانَهُمْ أَرْبَابًا مِّن دُونِ اللَّهِ وَالْمَسِيحَ ابْنَ مَرْيَمَ وَمَا أُمِرُوا إِلَّا لِيَعْبُدُوا إِلَهًا وَاحِدًا لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ سُبْحَانَهُ عَمَّا يُشْرِكُونَ

They have taken their rabbis and their priests as lords instead of Allah, as well as the Messiah son of Mary. Although they were commanded to worship none but The One Allah. There is no god except He. Glory be to Him; High above what they associate with Him. Q9/31

7)

وَيَوْمَ يَحْشُرُهُمْ وَمَا يَعْبُدُونَ مِن دُونِ اللَّهِ فَيَقُولُ أَأَنْتُمْ أَضَلَلْتُمْ عِبَادِي هَؤُلَاءِ
أَمْ هُمْ ضَلُّوا السَّبِيلَ

قَالُوا سُبْحَانَكَ مَا كَانَ يَنْبَغِي لَنَا أَنْ نَتَّخِذَ مِن دُونِكَ مِنْ أَوْلِيَاءَ وَلَكِن مَّتَّعْتَهُمْ
وَآبَاءَهُمْ حَتَّى نَسُوا الذِّكْرَ وَكَانُوا قَوْمًا بُورًا

On the Day when He gathers them, and what they worshiped besides God, He will say, "Was it you who misled these servants of Mine, or was it they who lost the way?"

. They will say, "Glory be to You. It was not for us to take any lords besides You. But you gave them enjoyments, and their ancestors, until they forgot the Message, and became ruined people." Q25/17-18

8) قُلِ ادْعُوا الَّذِينَ زَعَمْتُمْ مِّن دُونِ اللَّهِ لَا يَمْلِكُونَ مِثْقَالَ ذَرَّةٍ فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ وَلَا فِي الْأَرْضِ وَمَا لَهُمْ فِيهِمَا مِن شِرْكٍَ وَمَا لَهُ مِنْهُمْ مِّن ظَهِيرٍ

Say, "Call upon those whom you claim besides God. They possess not an atom's weight in the heavens or the earth, and they possess no share of either, and He has no backers from among them." Q 34/22.

9) وَمَنْ أَضَلُّ مِمَّن يَدْعُو مِن دُونِ اللَّهِ مَن لَّا يَسْتَجِيبُ لَهُ إِلَى يَوْمِ الْقِيَامَةِ وَهُمْ عَن دُعَائِهِمْ غَافِلُونَ

Who is more wrong than him who invokes, besides God, those who will not answer him until the Day of Resurrection, and are heedless of their prayers? Q46/5

10) وَلَئِن سَأَلْتَهُم مَّن خَلَقَ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ لَيَقُولُنَّ اللَّهُ قُلْ أَفَرَأَيْتُمْ مَا تَدْعُونَ مِن دُونِ اللَّهِ إِنْ أَرَادَنِيَ اللَّهُ بِضُرٍّ هَلْ هُنَّ كَاشِفَاتُ ضُرِّهِ أَوْ أَرَادَنِي بِرَحْمَةٍ هَلْ هُنَّ مُمْسِكَاتُ رَحْمَتِهِ قُلْ حَسْبِيَ اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ يَتَوَكَّلُ الْمُتَوَكِّلُونَ

And if you asked them, "Who created the heavens and the earth?" they would say, "Allah." Say, "Have you seen those you pray to instead of Allah? If Allah willed any harm for me, can they lift His harm? And if He willed a blessing for me, can they hold back His mercy?" Say, "Allah suffices for me. On Him the reliant rely. Q39/38.

11)

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ تَدْعُونَ مِن دُونِ اللَّهِ عِبَادٌ أَمْثَلُكُمْ فَادْعُوهُمْ فَلْيَسْتَجِيبُوا لَكُمْ إِنْ كُنْتُمْ صَادِقِينَ

Those you call upon besides Allah ,slaves like you. So call upon them, and let them answer you, if you are truthful. Q7/194

12)

وَالَّذِينَ تَدْعُونَ مِن دُونِهِ لَّا يَسْتَجِيبُونَ نَصْرَكُمْ وَلَا أَنفُسَهُمْ يَنْصُرُونَ

Those you call upon besides Him cannot help you, nor can they help themselves. Q7/197.

13)

مَا الْمَسِيحُ ابْنُ مَرْيَمَ إِلَّا رَسُولٌ قَدْ خَلَتْ مِنْ قَبْلِهِ الرُّسُلُ وَأُمُّهُ صِدِّيقَةٌ كَانَا
يَأْكُلَانِ الطَّعَامَ انظُرْ كَيْفَ نُبَيِّنُ لَهُمُ الْآيَاتِ ثُمَّ انظُرْ أَنَّى يُؤْفَكُونَ

قُلْ أَتَعْبُدُونَ مِنْ دُونِ اللَّهِ مَا لَا يَمْلِكُ لَكُمْ ضَرًّا وَلَا نَفْعًا وَاللَّهُ هُوَ السَّمِيعُ
الْعَلِيمُ

The Messiah son of Mary was only a messenger, before whom other Messengers had passed away, and his mother was a woman of truth. They both used to eat food. Note how We make clear the revelations to them; then note how deluded they are.

. Say, “Do you worship, besides Allah, what has no power to harm or benefit you?” But Allah: He is the Hearer, the Knower. Q5/75/76.

A lot of people who use “Waseela” intercessor of pious and saints in asking Allah for their needs claim that Quran forbids only idols (Like Mushrakeen of Mecca or Hindus and other religion worships) to ask for help. But from above Ayats quoted above it is very obvious that Allah is not talking about Idols, stones or pictures of saints etc, He is talking about persons, like Prophets, saints, pious people.

Forget about pious persons or Saints, we cannot even ask Our beloved Prophet Muhammad (SAW) for help and his waseela in

this world. Look what Quran says about Prophet Muhammad (SAW).

قُلْ لَا أَقُولُ لَكُمْ عِنْدِي خَزَائِنُ اللَّهِ وَلَا أَعْلَمُ الْغَيْبَ وَلَا أَقُولُ لَكُمْ إِنِّي مَلَكٌ إِنْ أَتَّبَعِ إِلَّا مَا يُوْحَىٰ إِلَيَّ قُلْ هَلْ يَسْتَوِي الْأَعْمَىٰ وَالْبَصِيرُ أَفَلَا تَتَّفَكَّرُونَ

Say, “I do not say to you that I possess the treasures of Allah, nor do I know the future, nor do I say to you that I am an angel. I only follow what is inspired to me.” Say, “Are the blind and the seeing alike? Do you not think? Q6/50

قُلْ لَا أَمْلِكُ لِنَفْسِي نَفْعًا وَلَا ضَرًّا إِلَّا مَا شَاءَ اللَّهُ وَلَوْ كُنْتُ أَعْلَمُ الْغَيْبَ لَأَسْتَكْتَرْتُ مِنْ الْخَيْرِ وَمَا مَسَّنِيَ السُّوءُ إِنْ أَنَا إِلَّا نَذِيرٌ وَبَشِيرٌ لِّقَوْمٍ يُؤْمِنُونَ

Say, “I have no control over any benefit or harm to myself, except as Allah wills. Had I known the future, I would have acquired much good, and no harm would have touched me. I am only a warner, and a herald of good news to a people who believe.”

It is obvious from above Ayats that Most beloved creation to Allah our beloved Prophet cannot help us if we ask his intercession in this world (It is true Our beloved Prophet will intercede for us on the Day of Judgment only with the permission of Allah, but the people committed shirk and died without repentance will not benefit at all with this intercession).

It is also important to mention that at the time of Prophet, when Prophet told the people how to do the Talbiyah (Recitation at the time of Hajj and umrah), Mushrakeen continued adding words to include people who they thought will help them in persuading Allah .

The difference in Talbiyah (the chant recited during Hajj and Umrah) between the Muslims and the polytheists (Mushrikeen) at the time of Prophet

Muhammad (peace be upon him) is mentioned in Sahih al-Bukhari. The Mushrikun used to add polytheistic phrases to the Talbiyah, associating partners with Allah, while the Muslims recited a pure monotheistic Talbiyah.

The Hadith from Sahih al-Bukhari (Book of Hajj) Book 26, Hadith 667 explains:

The Muslims used to say: “Here I am, O Allah, here I am. There is no partner to You, here I am. Surely, all praise, grace, and sovereignty belong to You. There is no partner to You.”

In contrast, the polytheists added phrases to the Talbiyah that implied shirk (associating partners with Allah). They said: “Here I am, there is no partner to You, except a partner whom You own and all that he owns.”

This addition by the polytheists reflected their belief in associating partners with Allah, which Islam came to reject entirely, emphasizing pure monotheism (Tawhid).

Also remember Allah Himself Says in Quran:

وَإِذَا سَأَلَكَ عِبَادِي عَنِّي فَإِنِّي قَرِيبٌ أُجِيبُ دَعْوَةَ الدَّاعِ إِذَا دَعَانِ فَلْيَسْتَجِيبُوا لِي وَلْيُؤْمِنُوا بِي لَعَلَّهُمْ يَرْشُدُونَ

And when My servants ask you about Me, I Am near; I answer the call of the caller when he calls on Me. So let them answer Me, and have faith in Me, that they may be rightly guided. Q2/186

So when Allah Hears what we ask and Answers our call then why we need any other person Waseela of intercession?

Bottom line is why people who believe in Allah are called Mushriks (polytheists) , because they believed other human beings as their intercessors to Allah.

Remember at the time of prophet, his companions used to ask him to pray Allah for such and such things like for rain or stoppage of severe rain etc, This was perfectly ok, as they were asking him to pray to Allah, they were not saying please stop the rain as you are Allah's Messenger and beloved to Allah, so you have the authority to do such and such thing or you can intercede in Allah's affair. And after his death, you cannot go to his grave and ask for anything and request to intercede with Allah (SWT) for such and such thing, neither you can ask him to intercede for you after his departure from this world. Sending

salutation to him in his absence is different, because Allah conveys our salutation to him.

Similarly we can ask our fellow Muslims in their presence to pray Allah for you for such and such things like for health, finding a job or getting pious spouses etc. This is supported by Hadith “The supplication of a Muslim for his brother in his absence will certainly be answered. Every time he makes a supplication for good for his brother, the angel appointed for this particular task say: Ameen! May it be for you too”(Sahih Muslim, Hadith 2733).

Bottom Line: Dua (Supplication) is only with Allah (SWT), directly not through any other person's or entity intercession, Period! , If someone does contrary to this, he is committing Shirk!