

Series of Islamic Principles

# THE SEVEN **DESTRUCTIVE** SINS



Imam adh-Dhahabi

**DARUSSALAM**  
GLOBAL LEADER IN ISLAMIC BOOKS

Series of Islamic Principles

Book - 10

# Seven Destructive Sins

---

By: Imam Adh-Dhahabi

Published By: Darussalam Publishers

---

**ALL RIGHTS RESERVED**

No part of this book may be reproduced or utilized in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying and recording or by any information storage and retrieval system, without the written permission of the publisher.



## **Contents**

About the Series.....	4
The First Major Sin: Shirk With Allah, the Exalted .....	8
The Second Major Sin: Murdering a Soul.....	10
The Third Major Sin: Sorcery.....	15
The Fourth Major Sin: Consuming Riba (Usury).....	18
The Fifth Major Sin: To Usurp the Property of an Orphan .....	20
The Sixth Major Sin: Defaming Chaste Women Through False Accusations .....	21

*In the Name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful*

## **About the Series**

All praise is due to Allah, Lord of the world. Blessings and peace be upon the leaders of the early and latter generations, our leader Muhammad (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) and also upon his family and his Companions.

This Series is directed to the general Muslims, compassing of a very easy and simple language, but with a strong content. It serves for a Muslim's fundamental needs wherever he may be.

Muhammad bin Isma'il Al-Bukhari reported on the authority of Talhah bin 'Ubaidullah, who narrated: A man from the people of Najd with unkempt hair came to Allah's Messenger (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) and we heard his loud voice but could not understand what he was saying, till he came near (and we heard that) he was asking about Islam. Allah's Messenger (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) said: "You have to perform five prayers in a day and night" The man asked, "Are there any other prayers upon me?" He (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) said: "No, but if you want to perform the voluntary prayers". Allah's Messenger (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) said: "You have to observe fasts during the month of Ramadan." The man asked, "Are there any other fasting upon me?" Allah's Messenger (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) replied, "No, but if you want to observe the voluntary fasts." Then Allah's Messenger (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) said to him, "You have to pay the obligatory charity". The man asked, "Is there anything other than the obligatory charity for me to pay?" Allah's Messenger (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) said: "No, unless you want to give voluntary alms of your own." And then that man turned away saying, "By Allah! I will neither do less nor more than this." He (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) said, "If what he said is true, then he will be successful."

Muslim reported on the authority of Sufyan bin Abdullah, who said: "I said, O Messenger of Allah (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him), tell me something about Islam that I will not need to ask anyone about after you (according to the narration of Abu Usamah, "other than you.") He (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) said: "Say: I believe in Allah, then adhere firmly to that."

In this series we carefully rely on the Book of Allah, the authentic Sunnah of His Prophet (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him), and the sayings of the famous scholars, so that it may illuminate the path of guidance for the one who seeks it.

We ask Allah, the All-High, the All-Magnificent to accept from us this blessed work, to make it sincere for Allah's Noble Face, to make it useful for the people, and to remove hardships through it.

May the blessings of Allah, be upon His Prophet Muhammad, his family and all his Companions, and on those who follow them till the Day of Resurrection.

Servant of the Book and the Sunnah

**Abdul Malik Mujahid**

*In the Name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful*

Praise be to Allah (SWT) for [our] belief in Him, His books, His messengers, His angels, and His decree. May Allah grant everlasting mercy upon our Prophet, his family and helpers, and may He grant us a home in the Permanent Abode [i.e. Paradise] as his (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) neighbors.

This is a beneficial book concerning the major sins, the all-inclusive and the detailed. May Allah provide us, through His mercy, [the ability to] abstain from them.

He, the Exalted, says,

﴿إِنْ تَجْتَنِبُوا كَبَائِرَ مَا نُهَوْنَ عَنْهُ  
نُكَفِّرْ عَنْكُمْ سَيِّئَاتِكُمْ وَنُدْخِلَكُمْ مُدْخَلَ كَرِيمًا﴾

*If you avoid the great sins which you are forbidden to do, We shall remit from you your (small) sins, and admit you to a Noble Entrance (i.e. Paradise). (An-Nisa' (4):31)*

Indeed Allah will be responsible for entering him into Paradise, who avoids the great sins as mentioned in the above text.

He, the Exalted, says,

﴿وَالَّذِينَ يَحْتَنِبُونَ كَبِيرَ الْإِثْمِ وَالْفَوَاحِشَ وَإِذَا  
مَا غَضِبُوا هُمْ يَغْفِرُونَ ﴿٣٧﴾ وَالَّذِينَ اسْتَجَابُوا  
لِرَبِّهِمْ وَأَقَامُوا الصَّلَاةَ وَأَمْرُهُمْ شُورَى بَيْنَهُمْ وَمِمَّا  
رَزَقْنَاهُمْ يُنْفِقُونَ ﴿٣٨﴾ وَالَّذِينَ إِذَا أَصَابَهُمُ الْبَغْيُ هُمْ يَنْتَصِرُونَ ﴿٣٩﴾﴾

*And those who avoid the greater sins, and al-fawahish (illegal sexual intercourse, etc.), and when they are angry, they forgive. And those who answer the Call of their Lord, and perform al-salat (prayer), and who (conduct) their affairs by mutual consultation, and who spend of what We have bestowed on them. And those who, when an oppressive wrong is done to them, take revenge. (Ash-Shura (42):37-39)*

He, the Exalted, says,

﴿الَّذِينَ يَحْتَنِبُونَ كَبِيرَ الْإِثْمِ وَالْفَوَاحِشَ إِلَّا اللَّمَمَ إِنَّ رَبَّكَ وَاسِعُ الْمَغْفِرَةِ﴾

*Those who avoid great sins and al-fawahish, except the small faults, verily, your Lord is of vast forgiveness. (An-Najm (53):32)*

The Prophet (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) said,

«الصَّلَوَاتُ الْخَمْسُ، وَالْجُمُعَةُ إِلَى الْجُمُعَةِ  
كَفَّارَةٌ لِمَا بَيْنَهُنَّ مَا لَمْ تَغْشَ الْكَبَائِرَ»

*“The five [daily] prayers and [from] Jumu‘ah to Jumu‘ah are an expiation for whatever was between them, so long as no major sins were given into.” (Narrated by Muslim (233) and others)*

Thus, it is specifically incumbent upon us to inquire regarding the major sins, so that a Muslim may abstain from them. We find that the scholars differed over them. It is said that they are seven in total, arguing that based on his (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) saying,

«اجْتَنِبُوا السَّبْعَ الْمُوبِقَاتِ...»

*“Avoid the seven great destructive sins.” (Al-Bukhari (2766, 5764, and 6857); Muslim (89); and others)*

He mentioned amongst them shirk (setting up partners to Allah), sorcery, murdering a soul, usurping the property of an orphan, consuming riba (usury), fleeing on the day of a battle, and defaming chaste women through false accusations.

It has been mentioned from Ibn ‘Abbas (May Allah be pleased with him), “They are closer to seventy than seven” and by Allah, Ibn ‘Abbas has spoken the truth.

As for the hadith in which the major sins are confined [to a certain number], the evidences indicate that whoever commits one of these atrocities that causes a legal punishment in this world—such as murder, fornication, and stealing—or causes the promise of punishment, anger, or threat, or the person who does it is cursed from the tongue of our Prophet Muhammad (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him), it is [considered] a major sin. It is necessary, along with affirmation, that some major sins are greater [in degree] than others. Do you not consider how he (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) counted shirk with Allah as being from the major sins even though the one who commits it is made to abide eternally in the Fire, never to be forgiven?

Allah, the Exalted, says,

﴿إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يَغْفِرُ أَنْ يُشْرَكَ بِهِ وَيَغْفِرُ مَا دُونَ ذَلِكَ لِمَنْ يَشَاءُ﴾

*Verily, Allah forgives not that partners should be set up with him in worship, but He forgives except that (anything else) to whom He wills. (An-Nisa' (4):48 & 116)*

He, the Exalted, says,

﴿إِنَّهُ مَنْ يُشْرِكْ بِاللَّهِ فَقَدْ حَرَّمَ اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ الْجَنَّةَ﴾

*“Verily, whosoever sets up partners (in worship) with Allah, then Allah has forbidden Paradise to him.”  
(Al-Ma'idah (5):72)*

It is necessary to harmonize the meanings of the texts.

The Prophet (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) said,

«أَلَا أُنبِئُكُمْ بِأَكْبَرِ الْكِبَائِرِ؟ قَالَهَا ثَلَاثًا. قَالُوا: بَلَى يَا رَسُولَ اللَّهِ! قَالَ: الْإِشْرَافُ  
بِاللَّهِ، وَعُقُوقُ الْوَالِدَيْنِ، وَكَانَ مُتَكِنًا فَجَلَسَ فَقَالَ: أَلَا وَقَوْلُ الزُّورِ»

*“Shall I inform you of the greatest of the great sins?” He said this three times. They said, “Yes, O Allah’s Messenger!” He said, “To join others in worship with Allah; to be undutiful to one’s parents.” The Prophet then sat up after he had been reclining [on a pillow] and said, “And I warn you against giving false witness,” and he kept repeating that warning until we thought he would not stop.*

So, he (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) explained that [giving] false witness is from the greatest of the major sins, while it was not mentioned as one of the seven destructive sins. Similarly, is disobedience to the parents [which was also mentioned here but excluded from the seven destructive sins].



## The First Major Sin: Shirk With Allah, the Exalted

It is to take an equal to Allah, while it is He Who created you, and [encompasses] the worshipping of anything besides Him, such as a stone, a person, the sun, the moon, a prophet, a scholar, a jinn, a star, an angel, or anything else besides these.

Allah, the Exalted, says,

﴿إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يَغْفِرُ أَنْ يُشْرَكَ بِهِ، وَيَغْفِرُ مَا دُونَ ذَلِكَ لِمَنْ يَشَاءُ﴾

*Verily, Allah forgives not that partners should be set up with him in worship, but He forgives except that (anything else) to whom He wills. (An-Nisa' (4):48 & 116)*

He, the Exalted, says,

﴿إِنَّهُ مَنْ يُشْرِكْ بِاللَّهِ فَقَدْ حَرَّمَ اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ الْجَنَّةَ وَمَأْوَهُ النَّارُ﴾

*Verily, whosoever sets up partners (in worship) with Allah, then Allah has forbidden Paradise for him, and the Fire will be his abode. (Al-Ma'idah (5):72)*

He, the Exalted, says,

﴿إِنَّ الشِّرْكَ لَظُلْمٌ عَظِيمٌ﴾

*Verily! Joining others in worship with Allah is a great zulm (wrong) indeed. (Luqman (31):13)*

The verses concerning that are many.

Therefore, whoever sets up partners with Allah and dies as a mushrik, is, without any doubt or exception, from the people of the Fire; just as he who believes in Allah and dies as a believer is from the people of the Garden, even if he is [initially] punished.

The Prophet (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) said,

«أَلَا أُنبِّئُكُمْ بِأَكْبَرِ الْكَبَائِرِ؟: الْإِشْرَاكُ بِاللَّهِ»

*“Shall I inform you of the greatest of the great sins? To join others in worship with Allah.”*

as [mentioned in a previous] hadith.

He (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) said, “Avoid the seven great destructive sins” and he mentioned shirk as being from amongst them.

He (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) said,