



# Module 11

## Miscellaneous Matters

## THE MUKAFFIRAT

It is obligatory to safeguard one's faith and know in general the things that would cause one to leave Islam. These are called *Mukaffirat*.

## MAIN POINTS

- It is individually obligatory upon every Muslim to secure their faith and safeguard it.
- Thus it is important to know the beliefs, statements, and actions that cause one to leave the fold of Islam.
- Kufr is any saying, deed or belief that denies, disrespects, or makes fun of God, the Prophets, the Angels, the Quran or the Islamic religion.

## WHAT IS KUFR?

1] **Deny** means to profess or believe anything that contradicts what Allah has revealed definitively in the Quran, or anything the Prophet Muhammad (Allah bless him and give him peace) taught definitively.

2] **Disrespect** is a form of disdain, which is a clear outward sign of one's inward rejection and denial.

Committing Kufr causes one to be a non-Muslim (kafir), even if one was previously a Muslim. Kufr after being Muslim is called *ridda* (apostasy).

Ridda has effects in this life (marriage, inheritance, burial rites, etc.) and effects in the Hereafter.

## IMPORTANT DISCLAIMERS

- 1] Not everything in this list is the same. Some are obvious where ignorance is not an excuse; others are less clear but would count as ridda if the proof is established on the person and they insist on it.
- 2] A person may fall into kufr but one cannot recklessly call them a kafir. Conditions must be met and impediments must be removed before a ruling is made on a specific individual. Everything presented here is a general description and not a specific application to a person.
- 3] Careless takfir (declaring Muslims as kafirs) is dangerous to one's own iman. The Prophet (Allah bless him and give him peace) said, 'Whoever says to his brother, "O disbeliever," the description applies to one of the two.'

## MUKAFFIRAT IN THEOLOGY

- 1] Saying or believing that any of Allah's attributes has a beginning is kufr, because this would mean that He is part creator and part brought into existence.
- 2] Saying or believing that God is united with His creation, or physically enters created things, such as the sky or a body is kufr.
- 3] It is kufr to say or believe that Allah changes, because changes are series of events, and all events have a beginning.

## MUKAFFIRAT IN THEOLOGY

- 4] It is kufr to say or believe that Allah is like His creation. It is kufr to say things like '**Allah is a body like other bodies.**' It is a heresy to say 'He is a body *unlike* other bodies.'
- 5] It is kufr to believe or say that Allah needs something.

## MUKAFFIRAT IN THEOLOGY

6] Saying or believing that Allah has a partner is kufr; having a partner means needing agreement. It is likewise kufr to believe or say that:

- Allah has a rival, child, part, or a partner.
- Allah has a mother or a wife.
- Anything other than Allah deserves worship
- Allah has limbs or body parts.
- Anyone or anything has a similarity to Allah or His Essence, Attributes, or Acts.

## MUKAFFIRAT IN THEOLOGY

- 7] Saying or believing that Allah does not have omnipotence (qudra).
- 8] Saying or believing that anything or anyone besides Allah has the independent power to create.
- 9] Saying or believing that Allah's actions are unwise or unjust.
- 10] Saying or believing that Allah does not have absolute knowledge.
- 11] Saying or believing that Allah needs others to be aware of what is happening in His dominion.
- 12] Saying or believing that Allah has attributes of imperfection, flaws, weaknesses, boundaries, needs or limits (such as body, location, size, shape, or distance.) is kufr.

## MUKAFFIRAT IN PROPHETOLOGY

Every Muslim must believe that Prophets are examples of human perfection and are models for us to follow.

- 1] Saying or believing that it is possible for prophets (even before prophethood) to lie, cheat or betray, or to be cowards, stupid, or ill mannered is kufr.
- 2] Saying or believing that it is possible for Prophets (even before prophethood) to commit kufr, large sins, or small sins that show meanness (*khissa*) is kufr.
- 3] If someone says that there is a Prophet after the Prophet Muhammad, this is kufr.

## MUKAFFIRAT IN PROPHETOLOGY

4] It is kufr to say it is acceptable for someone to follow a religion other than Islam.

5] It is kufr to believe that any Prophet, such as Jesus or Moses taught the beliefs of another religion than Islam. All Prophets taught the beliefs of Islam.

6] Cursing, insulting, or making fun of Allah, a prophet, a revealed book, the Islamic religion or any of its rules is kufr. Neither ignorance nor anger is an excuse in this.

## ACTIONS THAT ARE KUFR

Any action that denies, disrespects, or makes fun of God, the Prophets, the Angels, the Quran or the Islamic religion is kufr, such as:

- 1] Purposely throwing the Quran, or the written name of God, in filth.
- 2] Wearing a cross believing it is okay to do so. This is kufr because the cross is the distinctive sign of another religion, and God only accepts Islam. Being pleased with kufr and the signs of kufr is a form of kufr itself.
- 3] Knowingly prostrating to the sun or fire, or another object. If someone does a prostration to a human to worship him (with the intention of worship), then he has committed kufr. If it is not done to worship him, however, then it is not kufr, but is forbidden.

## MISCELLANEOUS MUKAFFIRAT

- 1] Considering anything **definitively** halal to be haram, or believing anything definitively haram to be halal, is kufr. (Committing a sin, such as adultery, stealing or leaving an obligatory prayer is not kufr unless one believes it is permissible to do so.)
- 2] Denying anything that is known in the religion by necessity (like denying the existence of the Angels, or the Last Day, or that Zuhur for a resident is four rak'as, etc.)
- 3] Intending to leave Islam (even if it's the next day).

## THE THREE CAUSES OF APOSTASY

- 1] Denial of something that is known by necessity to be from Islam, such as denying the obligation of salat, fasting, zakat, or Hajj, or denial of the unlawfulness of fornication, sodomy, drinking alcohol, etc.
- 2] Doing certain actions (purposely) that can only come from someone who harbors kufr in their heart, such as disrespecting the Mushaf or prostrating to an idol.
- 3] Disrespect, denigration, or belittlement of Allah, the Prophets, the Angels, or the symbols of Islam.

## IMPORTANT RULES REGARDING KUFR

- It is important to know and not to confuse an **actual belief** with a thought that crosses one's mind.
- Satan can bring thoughts to our mind which are kufr.
- If this should happen, one must reject the thought in their heart and fight to get rid of it.
- As long as one hates the passing thought and strives to remove it and does not believe it, they are Muslim.
- However, if someone believes something that is kufr he becomes a kafir. Satan often tries to bring such thoughts to Muslims.

## IMPORTANT RULES REGARDING KUFR

- It is very important when mentioning kufr stated by someone else to mention that it was that person who made the statement, either directly before or after you mention the statement.
- If someone repeats kufr or writes kufr without relating it to those who said it, it could cause him to leave Islam, whether he believes the kufr or not (for example: willingly repeating kufr in the lyrics of a song without the intention to quote it in order to show its falsehood, etc.)

## IMPORTANT RULES REGARDING KUFR

- To help someone commit kufr is kufr.
- To be happy with someone's kufr is kufr.
- To say or do an act that entails kufr is only kufr when the person is sane ('aql). This does not apply to someone who is insane or a young child who does not discern.
- As for someone who is drunk or high and utters kufr or does an act entailing kufr, they are not guilty of kufr according to the Hanafi school because the ruling of ridda only applies to one who does or says something **with belief and intention** (i.e., intending to say or do the action—not intending kufr). According to the Shafi'i school (in one position), and the soundest view in the Hanbali school, a drunk person can still be guilty of kufr.

## IMPORTANT RULES REGARDING KUFR

- To say or do an act that entails kufr is only kufr when one does so out of free choice, willingly, intending to utter kufr or do what entails kufr. Therefore, one is not guilty of kufr if they are **compelled** as long as their heart is firm on faith.
- Ignorance is not an excuse for kufr pertaining to the attributes of Allah or the Prophets; however, if someone is a new Muslim and lives far from Islamic scholars, they are not guilty of kufr if they think that something haram is halal or vice versa.

## **SOME OF THE EFFECTS OF APOSTASY**

If a Muslim committed apostasy, then:

- His fasting would be broken if he was fasting
- The meat of his slaughter is forbidden to eat
- His marriage contract is void
- None of his acts of worship are valid.
- All his previous good deeds have been lost, even if he returns to Islam later.
- He must return to Islam immediately.

## HOW TO RETURN TO ISLAM AFTER APOSTASY

If someone commits kufr, he is required to immediately say ‘I firmly believe that no one and nothing deserves to be worshipped except God, and Muhammad is His Prophet and Messenger,’ with the intent in his heart to become Muslim and to leave anything that contradicts that belief, loud enough to hear himself, with the intent in his heart to become Muslim, leave that kufr and never repeat it again. This is how one returns to Islam. One is required to feel sorry for having committed kufr.

## WHEN ONE DOESN'T LEAVE ISLAM

There are three occasions under which if someone says kufr he does not leave Islam:

- 1] If someone has a slip of the tongue, i.e., he is trying to say something that is not kufr, but by a slip of the tongue, he says something else that is kufr, he does not leave Islam.
- 2] If someone is not sane or is not conscious of what he is saying, and he commits kufr, he does not leave Islam.
- 3] If someone is directly and immediately threatened with loss of life, limb or the like unless he says something kufr. For example, if someone was threatened with being killed if he did not curse God, he has the option to refuse, be killed and die martyr, or curse God, on the condition that he hates this before he does it, while he is doing it, and after he did it.

## FURTHER READING

*First Pillar:*

<https://www.safinasociety.org/firstpillar>

*The Last Trump Card: Islam and the Supersession of Other Faiths:*

<https://archive.org/details/TheLastTrumpCardIslamAndOtherReligionsTimWinterAbdulahkimMurad>