Second question under Fatwa number (4299):

Q2: Making vows for the sake of other than Allah is void. However, is it valid, for instance, to vow a sheep for Shaykh Muḥyī ʿAl-Dīn or ʿAbdūl-Qādir ʿAl-Jīlānī and then give the meat to the poor claiming that the Shaykh receives the reward and so he blesses whoever made the vow? If not, is it lawful to eat the meat of this sheep? Also, does this fall under the saying of Allah:

( Part No : 1, Page No: 185)

( ...and that on which Allāh's Name has not been mentioned while slaughtering, (that which has been slaughtered as a sacrifice for others than Allāh...) because the vowed animal is Tahir (clean)? Can that Tahir animal be unlawful because of a vow that is void?

A: First of all, making vows and slaughtering are acts of Ḥumūd (worship) that should not be offered to other than Allah (may He be Exalted). Whoever vows or slaughters for other than Allah commits Shirk (associating others in worship with Allah). The gravity of the sin increases if someone, in addition to vowing or slaughtering for other than Allah, believes that any of the dead can benefit or harm, for this is Shirk in Al-Rububiyyah (Allah's Lordship) as well as Shirk in Al-Ulūhiyyah (Allah's Right to be worshiped).

Second, vows that are made for other than Allah (may He be Exalted) are void. If someone vows lawful food or an animal before slaughtering it, the ruling depends on the exact intention of its owner. If they slaughter the animal for the sake of other than Allah, it will be regarded as carrion; flesh of dead animals that is unlawful to be eaten by its owner and anybody else. This prohibition falls under the generality of the verse that was mentioned.

May Allah grant us success! May peace and blessings be upon our Prophet Muhammad, his family, and Companions!

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