

Islam Question & Answer

General Supervisor:
Shaykh Muhammad Saalih al-Munajjid

39376 - Throwing away papers on which is one of the names of Allaah

the question

My name is 'Abd al-Qadir and in many dealings with government departments for example, I have to write my name when submitting applications etc. Then after that they may throw this application in the trash. Do I bear any responsibility in that?.

Detailed answer

Praise be to Allah.

There is nothing wrong with you writing your name on papers and forms that you need to submit to others and there is no sin on you. Rather the sin is on the one who throws these papers into the trash, because that is showing disrespect towards the name of Allaah.

Shaykh 'Abd al-'Azeez ibn Baaz (may Allaah have mercy on him) was asked: is it permissible to write the Basmalah ("Bismillaah ir-Rahmaan ir-Raheem - in the name of Allaah, the Most Gracious the Most Merciful") on wedding invitations, knowing that they will be thrown away after that, on the street or in trashcans?

He replied:

It is prescribed to write the Basmalah on invitations and other kinds of letters, because it is narrated that the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) said: "Every matter of concern that is not started in the name of Allaah is bereft of barakah (blessing)." And because he (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) used to start his letters by mentioning the name of Allaah. It is not permissible for the one who receives an invitation which contains the name of Allaah or a verse of the Qur'aan to throw it in the trash or to put it in an inappropriate place. It is

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not permissible to handle [Arabic-language] newspapers etc with disrespect or to throw them in the trash, or to use them as tablecloths or to wrap things in them, because they contain mention of Allaah. The sin is on the one who does that, but there is no sin on the writer.

Majmoo' Fataawa al-Shaykh 'Abd al-'Azeez ibn Baaz, 5/427, 2nd edn.

And Allaah knows best.