

The meaning of *sadd udh dharaa-i* (blocking the routes)

With regards to the *sadd udh dharaa-i* (blocking the means which lead to something), Shaykh Muhammad ibn Saalih al 'Uthaymeen *rahimahullaah* states:

Dharaa-i' are the paths which lead to the thing; and the *dharaa-i'* of a thing are the means and paths to it.

And the *dharaa-i'* are of two types:

1) the *dharaa-i'* to matters which are desirable; and these are not to be blocked. Rather they are to be opened and sought after.

2) the *dharaa-i'* to blameworthy matters, and these are to be blocked. And this was what was intended by the author (ibn 'Abdil Wahhaab in *Kitaab ut Tawheed*) - may Allaah, the Most High, have mercy upon him.

And (the tree of) Dhaat ul Anwaat was a means leading to *shirk*. So when they (those who had newly accepted Islaam) placed their weapons upon it and sought blessing through it, Shaytaan would have led them to worshipping it and their asking for (fulfilment) of their needs from it directly.

Therefore the Prophet *sall Allaahu 'alaihi wa sallam* blocked the means (to that *shirk*).

(al qawl ul mufeed of Shaykh Muhammad ibn Saalih al 'Uthaymeen *rahimahullaah* , quoted in Mu'jam at Ta'reefaat pp218 to 219)