

1783 - Calling oneself by one of Allaah's names in ignorance

the question

After embracing Islam, I ignorantly changed my name to one of Allah's 99 names. It's been a year and all my records reflect this name not to mention that everyone is accustomed to it. Am I burdened to officially put an Abdul in front of my name or can I just start verbally using it? Also, I was told that it was haram to change my name.

Detailed answer

Some of Allaah's names are also suitable for human beings and it is permissible to use them, so long as one distinguishes between the meaning applied to the Creator and the meaning applied to the created being, such as Kareem (generous), Lateef (kind), Shaheed (witness), Hakeem (wise), etc. Other Divine names may not be given to human beings because they are befitting only for Allaah, such as al-Baari (the Creator), al-Raaziq (the Provider), al-Muhyi (the Giver of Life), al-Awwal (the First), al-Aakhir (the Last), etc.

If your name is of the first type, then there is nothing wrong with it. If it is of the second type, then putting the word "Abd" (slave of) in front of the name will solve the problem. May Allaah help us to adhere to the truth.

And Allaah knows best.