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Second Level:

It is when one flirts with Allah Almighty through the intensity of conceit in his heart. This flirtation is different from the feeling of having obliged, although some scholars do not differentiate between them. A person filling this category claims he is loved by Allah Almighty, considering such love to be extended to those who are close to him and to those who preceded him.

When one of the friends of Allah is mentioned by name, or when a talk goes on about those who are loved by Allah or who love Allah or the one on such a path who attracts others to Him, one of them feels in his heart that he is one of them. Pretension may humble itself and appears to be different from that. Or, in order one may confirm such a station for himself, one may deny it in a way when the denial is akin to confirming! If Allah afflicts him with an affliction, he will then beat the drum of "only friends [of Allah] are afflicted".

Those who claim that they offer guidance to others, the men of knowledge, the Sufis, the men who study behavior and mathematics, are all closer to this danger than all others.

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