The first question from Fatwa No. 8705

Q 1: In my town in south Tunisia, there is a Masjid (mosque) which has a grave in one of its corners. This grave is in a separate room where Salah (prayer) is not performed. Some families visit this grave on Thursday nights

(Part No : 1, Page No: 417)

bringing food with them to be given as charity within the Masjid. Is this act permissible? What is the ruling on performing Salah in this Masjid? I need a definitive answer to this important question.

A: Firstly: It is not permissible to perform Salah in any Masjid that has a grave. This is becuase the Messenger of Allah (peace be upon him) forbade it and cursed those who take the graves as places of worship.

Secondly: It is not permissible to take a Masjid, in which there is a grave, as a place to serve food and give Sadaqah (voluntary charity). This is an act of Bid ah (rejected innovation in religion) and a means to seek the blessings of the grave's dweller. Giving Sadaqah with the purpose of drawing close to the grave's dweller is an act of major Shirk (associating others in worship with Allah).

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

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