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First question from Fatwa No. 1711

**Q 1: What is the ruling on a Muslim who testifies that there is no deity but Allah and that Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah, but he supplicates to Allah to grant him goods both in this world and in the Hereafter saying: O Allah, I ask You by the honor of the Prophet (peace be upon him), by the blessings of the Messenger, by the sanctity of Al-Mustafa (the Chosen one i.e. the Prophet), by the honor of Shaykh Tijani, by the blessings of Shaykh Abd Al-Qadir, or by the sanctity of Shaykh Al-Senusi?**

**A:** It is impermissible to make Tawassul (supplicating to Allah through a means) to Allah by the honor, sanctity or blessings of the Prophet (peace be upon him) or by the honor, sanctity or blessings of any other pious people. For example if a person says, "O Allah, I ask You by the honor, sanctity or blessings of Your Prophet to give me wealth and children or admit me to Paradise and to save me from Hell." This is not an act of Shirk (associating others in worship with Allah) that takes him out of Islam, but it is prohibited in order to block the means leading to Shirk and preventing a Muslim from doing things leading to Shirk. Undoubtedly, making Tawassul by the honor of the prophets and the pious people is one of the means leading to Shirk over time, for the established facts and human experiences proved this matter. There are many proofs from the Qur'an and Sunnah that authoritatively affirm that Sadd-ul-Dhara'i' i.e. blocking the means leading to shirk and forbidden acts, is one of the objectives of Shari'ah. For example Allah (may He be Exalted) says, ﴿ [And insult not those whom they \(disbelievers\) worship besides Allāh, lest they insult Allāh wrongfully without knowledge. Thus We have made fair-seeming to each people its own doings; then to their Lord is their return and He shall then inform them of all that they used to do.](#) ﴾

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Allah (may He be Praised), in this Ayah, forbids Muslims to insult the gods that the Mushriks (those who associates others with Allah in worship) worship other than Him, lest they may insult the True deity (may He be Praised) wrongfully without knowledge while defending their false gods. The Prophet (peace be upon him) also forbade taking graves as places for worship lest people may worship these graves. He (peace be upon him) forbade man to stay alone with a woman who is marriageable to him, and forbade woman to show her adornment to marriageable men or leave her house while wearing perfume. In addition, He (peace be upon him) forbade men to look at women's adornment and ordered women to lower their gaze. All these acts which the Prophet forbade may be means leading to temptation and immorality. Allah (may He be Exalted) says, ﴿ [Tell the believing men to lower their gaze \(from looking at forbidden things\), and protect their private parts \(from illegal sexual acts\). That is purer for them. Verily, Allāh is Well-Acquainted with what they do.](#) ﴾ [And tell the believing women to lower their gaze \(from looking at forbidden things\)...](#) ﴾ It is authentically narrated from the Prophet (peace be upon him) that he said, ﴿ ["Allah cursed the Jews and the](#)

Christians, for they have taken the graves of their Prophets as places of worship.” ﴿We should know that making Tawassul by honor, sanctity and the like is an act of worship, and worship is one of the Tawqifiy matters (bound by a religious text and not amenable to personal opinion). So, Tawassul should be sanctioned by Shari'ah. Since there is no evidence in the Qur'an, Sunnah or the reports of the Sahabah (Companions) affirming Tawassul by the honor, sanctity and the like, then it is an act of Bid`ah (rejected innovation in religion). The Prophet (peace be upon him) said,

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﴿ If somebody innovates something which is not in harmony with the principles of our religion, that thing is rejected ﴾.

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

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