



The First Question from Fatwa no. 3627

Q1: What are the rulings on the following: Using the Awliya' (pious people) as a means of healing for illnesses, visiting graves, vowing to make sacrifices to the dead, and holding annual Mawlid (celebrations of the birth days) for the Awliya'?

A: It is forbidden to regard a Waliy (pious person) as a means of healing for illnesses by saying, for example, "O Allah! Cure my patient by the honor of Waliy so-and-so." This is because it is

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a means that can lead to Shirk (associating others in worship with Allah) and an innovated form of Tawassul (supplicating to Allah through a means) that has no origin in the Shari`ah (Islamic law). In fact, it is major Shirk to say, for example, "O Imam Shafi`y, cure my patient."

It is a Sunnah (commendable act) to visit graves to be reminded of death, take warnings and lessons, and to supplicate to Allah to forgive the dead and be merciful with them. However, visiting graves to be blessed by their occupants, seeking their help to meet needs or relieve distresses is major Shirk, and takes the one who does it out of the fold of Islam - may Allah save us from this. Likewise, vowing to make sacrifices for the dead or offering sacrifices to them without vows is major Shirk. Allah (may He be Exalted) says: ﴿ And your Lord has decreed that you worship none but Him. ﴾ Allah (may He be Exalted) also says: ﴿ And whoever invokes (or worships), besides Allah, any other ilah (god), of whom he has no proof; then his reckoning is only with his Lord. Surely! Al-Kafirun (the disbelievers in Allah and in the Oneness of Allah, polytheists, pagans, idolaters) will not be successful. ﴾

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

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