Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
Portal of the General Presidency
of Scholarly Research and Ifta'

Fatwa No. (6773):

Q: There are many diviners in my country who do certain things. When a person is sick, people bring him to them. They recite Ayahs (verses) of the Qur'an for him and ask him to bring a male sheep, ox, she-camel or other kinds of livestock. People go and give them a lot of money yearly. Is it permissible to do this in our religion?

A: Firstly: It is not permissible for them to sacrifice camels, cows and sheep over the graves as it is one of the types of Shirk (associating others in worship with Allah) that renders one as a disbeliever if he intends to be nearer to them seeking their blessings. Sacrificing should be for Allah alone. Allah (may He be Exalted) says:❨ Say (O Muhammad peace be upon him): "Verily, my Salât (prayer), my sacrifice, my living, and my dying are for Allâh, the Lord of the 'Alamîn (mankind, jinn and all that exists). ❩❨ He has no partner. And of this I have been commanded, and I am the first of the Muslims. ❩Moreover, it is not permissible for men to beat Duf (a kind of drums that have no metal discs), but it is permissible for women to do so in weddings for the sake of announcement.

Secondly: Pronoucing Ruqyah by reciting Qur'an, Adhkar and supplications reported in authentic Hadiths over a sick person is legally permitted. But going to those whom you have mentioned in order to recite poems and to ask for a ram or ox is not permissible.

This is a Bid'ah (rejected innovation in religion) and a kind of devouring people's property through deception. Moreover, this may be Shirk if these animals are sacrificed for the sake of jin, dead persons or the like in order to bring benefit or remove harm.

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

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