



The first question of Fatwa no. 2909

Q 1: Some benevolent people build Masjids (mosques) at their expense and specify a space at the side or in front of these Masjids for themselves or their families to be buried in. They do so thinking that this is a means of drawing closer to Allah. Some scholars have told them that it is permissible to place a grave near the Masjid (mosque) or in front of it provided that they build a wall to separate the Masjid from the grave.

A: It is not permissible to specify an area in the Masjid to bury the person who built it at his expense or any other person, because there are substantiated evidence indicating that it is not permissible to build Masjids on the graves. It is authentically narrated in the Two Sahih (authentic) Books of Hadith (i.e. Al-Bukhari and Muslim) on the authority of `Aishah (may Allah be pleased with her) that Um Salamah told Allah's Messenger (peace be upon him) about a church which she had seen in Abyssinia (Ethiopia). She told him about the pictures which she had seen in it. He (peace be upon him) said:

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﴿When any righteous pious man dies amongst them, they build a place of worship at his grave and put these pictures in it; they are the worst creatures in the sight of Allah.﴾ Also it is narrated by Ahl-ul-Sunan (authors of Hadith compilations classified by jurisprudential themes) on the authority of Ibn `Abbas (may Allah be pleased with them both): ﴿Allah's Messenger (peace be upon him) cursed women who visit graves and those who build Masjids on them and place lights upon them.﴾ There are other Sahih Hadiths (Hadiths that have been transmitted by people known for their uprightness and exactitude; free from eccentricity and blemish) reported from Allah's Messenger (peace be upon him) stating the same.

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

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