



The third question of Fatwa no. 4335

Q 3: Is it permissible to perform Salah (Prayer) in a Masjid (mosque) that contains a grave? Is it obligatory to kiss the entry threshold of Masjid Al-Husayn and Masjid Al-Sayyidah Zaynab, kiss their shrines, beseech Allah by them, and seek strength and support from them?

(Part No. 1; Page No. 406)

Is it permissible to travel from one place to another to commemorate the birthdays of pious people?

A: Firstly: If a Masjid is built over a grave, it is not permissible to offer Salah in it. The same applies if someone was buried in a Masjid after it was built. It is obligatory that the buried remains be moved to a public cemetery, if this is possible. This is based on the Hadiths that indicate the prohibition of praying in Masjids that contain graves.

Secondly: It is forbidden to kiss the entry threshold of Masjid Al-Husayn or Al-Sayyidah Zaynab, or any other Masjid, or to kiss shrines, as it implies submission to other than Allah and glorification of inanimate beings and the dead. This glorification is not sanctioned by Allah, and it is a means that can lead to Shirk (associating others with Allah in His Divinity or worship). The same applies to beseeching Allah in the name of their status, person, right or honor. As for seeking strength or help from them, this is an act of major Shirk (associating others with Allah in His Divinity or worship that takes the Muslim out of Islam), as Allah (Glorified be He) says (what means): **﴿And whoever invokes (or worships), besides Allāh, any other ilāh (god), of whom he has no proof; then his reckoning is only with his Lord. Surely! Al-Kāfirūn (the disbelievers in Allāh and in the Oneness of Allāh, polytheists, pagans, idolaters) will not be successful.﴾** Allah (Glorified and Exalted be He) also says: **﴿Such is Allāh, your Lord; His is the kingdom. And those, whom you invoke or call upon instead of Him, own not even a Qitmīr (the thin membrane over the date-stone).﴾** **﴿If you invoke (or call upon) them, they hear not your call; and if (in case) they were to hear, they could not grant it (your request) to you. And on the Day of Resurrection, they will disown your worshipping them. And none can inform you (O Muhammad صلى الله عليه وسلم) like Him Who is the All-Knower (of everything).﴾**

Thirdly: It is not permissible to hold a celebration to commemorate the birthday of the Messenger (peace be upon him) or any other person, and certainly not to travel to attend such a commemoration.

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His Eminence, Shaykh `Abdul-`Aziz ibn `Abdullah ibn Baz has written in detail on this subject, stating that it is Bid'ah (innovation in religion) and such an act was neither done by the Messenger of Allah (peace be upon him), his Sahabah (Companions, may Allah be pleased with them), nor other scholars of the earliest and best three generations of Islam; and certainly all goodness lies in following them.

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

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Source: Fatwas of the Permanent Committee