



(Part No. 1; Page No. 190)

(Part No. 1; Page No. 191)

Slaughtering animals for other than Allah

(Part No. 1; Page No. 192)

The fourth question of Fatwa no. 2450

Q 4: Some people practice the custom of sacrificing animals at the grave of a person whom they believe to be one of the Awliya' (pious people). They also assign a share of their tilth and cattle to these "so-called" Awliya' for the purpose of seeking their blessings or fending off afflictions to their children and their means of livelihood.

A: Islam prohibits the sacrificing of animals or distribution of food or fruits near graveyards. Such practices are considered acts of Al-Shirk-ul-Akbar (major form of associating others in worship with Allah) if they are done with the intention of drawing closer to the Waliy (pious person) or seeking their Shafa`ah (intercession) or for removing an affliction or other such intentions like those made by worshippers of the graves.

The Permanent Committee has previously received a similar question to this one and the answer was provided in Fatwa no.(189).

The Permanent Committee for Scholarly Research and Ifta'

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