



The second and third questions of Fatwa no. 6208

Q: Some people have developed an annual tradition on the Day of 'Ashura' (10th of Muharram) of slaughtering over forty sheep and ewes and over ten cows at the shrines of the so-called Awliya' (pious people). Some ignorant Muslims, who have poor knowledge of the Shari'ah (Islamic law), would gather there and recite the Qur'an by these graves, claiming that they recite the Qur'an as a supplication for the dead. They then eat the sacrificed animals. We ask Your Eminence to clarify the legal opinion on this issue supported by proofs from the Qur'an and the Sunnah.

A: First: What you have mentioned in regard to slaughtering sacrifices at the shrines of Awliya' is considered Shirk (associating others with Allah in His Divinity or worship). Anyone who does so is cursed. This is because they are offering sacrifices to other than Allah; it is authentically narrated that the Prophet (peace be upon him) said, [\(Allah has cursed the one who slaughters \(sacrifices\) to other than Allah\)](#) Therefore, it is impermissible to eat from the meat of the sheep and cows slaughtered by the graves of the Awliya'.

Second: Reciting the Qur'an over the dead is Bid'ah (an innovation in religion); it is authentically narrated that

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the Prophet (peace be upon him) said, [\(Whoever introduces anything into this matter of ours \(Islam\) that is not part of it, shall have it rejected.\)](#) (Agreed upon its authenticity: Imams Al-Bukhari and Muslim).

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