

Making Tawaaf around a grave

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Question: Some people visit the grave of prophet Yoonus (Jonah, ¹(عليه السلام)) and make Tawaaf (circumambulation) around it. The grave is surrounded by a room made of aluminium and glass. There are windows through which some people throw bags of candy such as Jaklit (Iraqi candy made of wheat, fat, milk, and sugar), others throw money, and some others throw green cloth. Allaah knows the secrets of people whether they mean by their actions only the sake of Allaah or if they want to draw closer to Him through prophet Yoonus (عليه السلام). The authority of Waqf (Endowment), in turn, confiscates these types of candy, money, and cloth. Some of the workers there distribute this candy to their relatives and friends for blessing. As for the cloth, they are sold in the form of bands 20 cm × 5 cm for half a dinar. Buyers put these bands in their hands or pockets for the sake of warding off harm or out of fear of getting hurt. As for the money, only Allaah knows what they do with it. Is it permissible to eat this candy or not? May Allaah reward you.

Answer: (1) Visiting graves is Sunnah (a commendable act) because of the Prophet's saying: **Visit graves for they remind you of the hereafter.**

(2) It is not permissible to make Tawaaf around the grave of a prophet or any other person. It is not permissible to put food whether candy or anything else at graves. The same ruling applies to cloth and money. This is considered an act of Shirk (associating others with Allaah in His Divinity or worship) if it is meant for drawing closer to the dead whether they are prophets or not.

(3) What you have mentioned about the grave is not correct because the graves of prophets are not known, whether it is that of Prophet Yoonus or any other prophet except for the grave of Prophet Muhammad ²(صلى الله عليه وسلم) and the grave of Prophet Ibraaheem (Abraham, (عليه السلام)) in Palestine. Whoever claims that the grave of prophet Yoonus or any other prophet is known, is a liar or at least believes some liars.

(4) If the grave of Prophet Yoonus or other prophets were known, it wouldn't be permissible to exceed the limits or draw closer to it by performing any of the acts of `Ibaadah (worship). Also, it wouldn't be permissible to offer candy or pieces of cloth to it; take blessings from it,

¹ (عليه السلام) ('alaihi-salaam) Peace be upon him

² (صلى الله عليه وسلم) (sallallaahu 'alayhi wa sallam) May the peace and blessings of Allaah the Most High be upon him

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or ask its dweller for any worldly affairs because Allaah (Glorified be He) says: [**And the mosques are for Allaah (Alone): so invoke not anyone along with Allaah.**] And He also says: [**And if Allaah touches you with harm, there is none who can remove it but He, and if He intends any good for you, there is none who can repel His Favour.**]

(5) Candy and other kinds of food which are served at graves have no specialty or blessing. It should be taken and distributed to the poor; because it is regarded as money whose owners abandoned it.

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

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