

Performing Salaah behind an Imam who seeks the help of the dead

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Question: An Imam of a Masjid (mosque) seeks help from dead people in their graves, claiming that these are the graves of Aawliyaa' (pious people) to whom we should resort. He says that they may act as mediators between us and Allaah (Exalted be He). Am I allowed to perform congregational Salaah (Prayer) behind this Imam, despite the fact that I call for Tawheed (belief in the Oneness of Allaah)? Could you please also clarify such questions as making vows, seeking help from other than Allaah, and Tawassul (seeking to draw close to Allaah) through a means.

Answer: If you are sure that the Imam you mentioned seeks help from the dead or vows to them, then it is not permissible to perform Salaah behind him because he is considered a Mushrik (one who associates others with Allaah in His Divinity or worship); the Salaah he performs individually as well as the congregational Salaah that he leads are Batil (null and void). Furthermore, it is not permissible for a Muslim to perform Salaah behind him, as Allaah (Glorified be He) says (what means): **[But if they had joined in worship others with Allaah, all that they used to do would have been of no benefit to them. , And indeed it has been revealed to you (O Muhammad (صلى الله عليه وسلم)¹), as it was to those (Allaah's Messengers) before you: "If you join others in worship with Allaah, (then) surely (all) your deeds will be in vain, and you will certainly be among the losers."]** and **[Nay! But worship Allaah (Alone and none else), and be among the grateful.]**

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

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¹ (صلى الله عليه وسلم) (sallallahu 'alayhi wa sallam) May the peace and blessings of Allaah the Most High be upon him