

Slaughtering animals at the graves of Aawliyyaa'

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Question: 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 Aawliyyaa' (pious people). Some ignorant Muslims, who have poor knowledge of the Sharee'ah (Islamic law), would gather there and recite the Qur'aan by these graves, claiming that they recite the Qur'aan 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'aan and the Sunnah.

Answer: First: What you have mentioned in regard to slaughtering sacrifices at the shrines of Aawliyyaa' is considered Shirk (associating others with Allaah in His Divinity or worship). Anyone who does so is cursed. This is because they are offering sacrifices to other than Allaah; it is authentically narrated that the Prophet (عليه السلام)¹ said, **Allaah has cursed the one who slaughters (sacrifices) to other than Allaah.** Therefore, it is impermissible to eat from the meat of the sheep and cows slaughtered by the graves of the Aawliyyaa'.

Second: Reciting the Qur'aan over the dead is Bid'ah (an innovation in religion); it is authentically narrated that the Prophet (عليه السلام) said, **Whoever introduces anything into this matter of ours (Islam) that is not part of it, shall have it rejected.**²

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

² Agreed upon its authenticity: Imaams Al-Bukhaaree and Muslim.