

Placing a grave in the Masjid

Article taken and slightly adapted from: alifta.net

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Question: Someone built a Masjid (Mosque) in Yemen and he made a will that his family should place his grave inside that Masjid. When he died, they buried him in the Masjid in the direction of the Qiblah (direction faced for Prayer towards the Ka'bah). The distance between the courtyard where his grave lies and the Qiblah is only one meter. Please, guide us concerning this issue.

Answer: This grave should be dug up and the corpse should be carried to any place far from the Masjid such as the town graveyard. Placing a grave inside the Masjid is a means leading to Shirk (associating others with Allaah in His Divinity or worship). If the grave lies in the direction of the Qiblah, the prohibition is more serious and the act is closer to Shirk as it may lead to worshipping the occupant of the grave. This is based on what is related by Al-Bukhaaree and Muslim in their two Saheeh (authentic) Books of Hadeeth on the authority of Aboo Hurairah (رضي الله عنه)¹ that the Messenger of Allaah (صلى الله عليه وسلم)² stated, May Allaah curse the Jews and the Christians for they have taken the graves of their prophets as places of worship. Also Muslim related that the Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) stated, Do not sit on graves and do not pray towards them. Moreover, Muslim related that the Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) stated, Beware! Those who came before you used to take the graves of their Prophets and righteous people as places of worship. Do not take graves as places of worship; I forbid you to do that.

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

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¹ (رضي الله عنه) (rad iyallaahu `anhu) May Allaah the Most High be pleased with him

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