

Prostrating and slaughtering animals at graves

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Question: What is the ruling on making Sujood (Prostration) and slaughtering animals on graves?

Answer: Making Sujood (Prostration) and slaughtering animals at graves are idolatrous habits and acts of Shirk Akbar (major form of associating others in worship with Allaah). Sujood and slaughtering are acts of `Ibaadah (worship) and `Ibaadah should be exclusively confined to Allaah. Thus, whoever performs any of them to anyone other than Allaah commits an act of disbelief. Allaah (the Exalted) says: **Say (O Muhammad (صلى الله عليه وسلم))¹:** ["Verily, my Salaah (prayer), my sacrifice, my living, and my dying are for Allaah, the Lord of the `Alameen (mankind, jinn and all that exists). "He has no partner. And of this I have been commanded, and I am the first of the Muslims."] He also says: [Verily, We have granted you (O Muhammad (صلى الله عليه وسلم)) **Al-Kauthar (a river in Paradise). Therefore turn in prayer to your Lord and sacrifice (to Him only).**] In addition, there are so many Ayahs (Qur'aanic verses) indicating that Sujood and slaughtering are acts of `Ibaadah, thus performing them to anyone other than Allaah is an act of Shirk Akbar. It is undoubtedly true that going to graves to make Sujood and sacrifice is an act of glorifying these graves by means of Sujood and sacrificing animals near them. This is also reported by Imaam Muslim in a long Hadeeth concerning the prohibition of slaughtering for anyone other than Allaah and cursing its doers. `Alee Ibn Abu Taalib (رضي الله عنه)² narrated: "The Messenger of Allaah (عليه السلام)³ told me four statements": **Allaah curses a person who sacrifices to anyone other than Allaah; Allaah curses a person who curses his or her parents; Allaah curses a person who shelters a heretic; Allaah curses a person who changes the marks of the land.** Likewise, Abu Daawood related in his Sunan (Hadeeth compilations classified by jurisprudential themes) on the authority of Thabit ibn Al-Dahhak (رضي الله عنه) who said: **A man vowed to sacrifice camels in Buwanah, he then came to the Prophet (عليه السلام) and said, "I have vowed to sacrifice camels in Buwanah." The Prophet (عليه السلام) asked: "Did the place contain any idols that were worshipped in pre-Islamic times?" They said: "No." He asked: "Was any pre-Islamic festival observed there?" They said, "No." The Messenger of Allaah**

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

² (رضي الله عنه) (rad iyallaahu `anhu) May Allaah the Most High be pleased with him

³ (عليه السلام) ('alaihi-salaam) Peace be upon him

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(عليه السلام) said: "Fulfil your vow, for an invalid vow that must not be fulfilled is that of doing an act of disobedience to Allaah or vowing things over which a child of Adam has no control."

The evidence mentioned above indicates the curse incurred on those who sacrifice for anyone other than Allaah. Likewise, they declare the prohibition of slaughtering animals in places containing worshipped idols, glorified graves, or customary meetings of people of the pre-Islamic period even if the doer devotes the act of slaughter to Allaah.

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

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