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People who visit the domes built over graves

Article taken and slightly adapted from: alifta.net

<p align="center">بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم</p>

Question: What is the ruling on people who visit the domes built over graves, bringing with them some chickens or sheep to slaughter near the shrine of a dead person, saying: "This deceased person is a saint."? Is this Haram (unlawful) or Halal (lawful)?

Answer: Tawaaf (Circumambulation) around graves is Haram, and if it is performed with the intention of drawing closer to the deceased occupant of the grave, this is major Shirk (major form of associating others in worship with Allaah) that takes the doer outside the fold of Islam. Tawaaf is an act of 'Ibaadah (worship), as Allaah (Exalted be He) says (what means): **...and circumambulate the Ancient House (the Ka'bah at Makkah).** Therefore, making an act or a part of an act of worship for other than Allaah is Shirk.

Slaughtering animals at graves is forbidden, and if it is performed with the intention of drawing closer to the occupant of the grave, this is major Shirk, as Allaah (Glorified be He) 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."** "Nusuk" here means "slaughtering a sacrifice." The Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) also said, **"Allaah has cursed the one who slaughters (a sacrifice) to other than Allaah."[2]**

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) **(sallallaahu 'alayhi wa sallam) May the peace and blessings of Allaah the Most High be upon him**
[2] **Reported by Muslim in his Saheeh [Book of Authentic Hadeeth]**