

Praying in a Masjid containing a grave and honouring the dead and invoking them

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Question: Is it permissible to perform Salaah (Prayer) in a Masjid (mosque) that contains a grave? Is it obligatory to kiss the entry threshold of Masjid Al-Husayn and Masjid Al-Sayyidah Zaynab, kiss their shrines, beseech Allaah by them, and seek strength and support from them?

Answer: **Firstly**, if a Masjid is built over a grave, it is not permissible to offer Salaah there. The same applies if someone was buried in a Masjid after it was built. It is obligatory that the buried remains be moved to a public cemetery, if this is possible. This is based on the Hadeeths that indicate the prohibition of praying in Masjids that contain graves.

Secondly, it is forbidden to kiss the entry threshold of Masjid Al-Husayn, Al-Sayyidah Zaynab, or any other Masjid, or to kiss shrines, as it implies submission to other than Allaah and glorification of inanimate beings and the dead. This glorification is not sanctioned by Allaah, and it is a means that can lead to Shirk (associating others with Allaah in His Divinity or worship). The same applies to beseeching Allaah in the name of their status, person, right or honour. As for seeking strength or help from them, this is an act of major Shirk (associating others with Allaah in His Divinity or worship that takes the Muslim out of Islam). Allaah (Glorified be He) says: [And whoever invokes (or worships), besides Allaah, any other ilaah (god), of whom he has no proof; then his reckoning is only with his Lord. Surely! Al-Kaafiroon (the disbelievers in Allaah and in the Oneness of Allaah, polytheists, pagans, idolaters) will not be successful.] Allaah (Glorified and Exalted be He) also says: [Such is Allaah, your Lord; His is the kingdom. And those, whom you invoke or call upon instead of Him, own not even a Qitmeer (the thin membrane over the date-stone). If you invoke (or call upon) them, they hear not your call; and if (in case) they were to hear, they could not grant it (your request) to you. And on the Day of Resurrection, they will disown your worshipping them. And none can inform you (O Muhammad (صلى الله عليه وسلم)¹) like Him Who is the All-Knower (of everything).]

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