

Worshipping dead people

Based on the works of Shaykh Saalih al Fawzaan (حفظه الله)

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

QUESTION: What excuse do people give for worshipping dead people who are lying in graves, when they cannot help or harm them?¹

ANSWER:

This practice is found in many countries of the world in some way shape or form.

It was also a common practice in the time of Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him).

The Qur'aan mentions the answer that the people give when they are asked why they do this worship of the dead:

“And they worship besides Allaah (those things or people) which can neither hurt them nor benefit them – and they say “These are our intercessors with Allaah!”

[Soorah Yoonus (the 10th chapter) ayah 18]

“We worship them only so that they can bring us closer to Allaah!”

[Soorah Zumar (the 39th chapter) ayah 3]

People think that these dead people can ask Allaah for things on the living people's behalf.

Islam completely rejects this idea and says that Muslims should call on Allaah directly.

Allaah says in the Qur'aan:

Call on Me, I will answer you.

[Soorah Ghaafir (the 40th chapter) ayah 60]

Despite this, sadly we see some Muslims calling on dead 'saints' and dead relatives if they have a need to be fulfilled e.g. a serious illness to be cured. This constitutes an act of shirk in Islamic law and as such is a very serious matter.

¹ Refer to 'Aqeedah ut Tawheed p30 of Shaykh Saalih al Fawzaan for more information