

Praising the Deceased

Imaam Al-Nawawee's Riyad-us-Saliheen Chapter 163

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of Allaah, the Most Merciful, the Bestower of Mercy

950. Anas (May Allaah be pleased with him) reported: Some Companions happened to pass by a funeral procession (bier) and they praised him (the deceased). The Prophet (sallallaahu alayhi wa sallam) said, **“He will certainly enter it.”** Then they passed by another funeral procession and they spoke ill of the deceased. The Prophet (sallallaahu alayhi wa sallam) said, **“He will certainly enter it.”** `Umar bin Al-Khattaab (May Allaah be pleased with him) said: “(O Messenger of Allaah,) what do you mean by ‘He will certainly enter it?’” He (sallallaahu alayhi wa sallam) replied, **“You praised the first person, so he will enter Jannah; and you spoke ill of the second person, so he will enter Hell. You are Allaah’s witnesses on earth.”**¹

951. Abul-Aswad (May Allaah be pleased with him) reported: I came to Al-Madeenah, and while I was sitting beside `Umar bin Al-Khattaab, a funeral procession passed by. The people praised the deceased, and `Umar bin Al-Khattaab said: “He will certainly enter it.” Then another funeral procession passed by and the people praised the deceased. `Umar bin Al-Khattaab (May Allaah be pleased with him) said: “He will certainly enter it.” A third funeral procession passed by and the people spoke ill of the deceased. He said: “He will certainly enter it.” I (Abul-Aswad) asked: “O Amir Al-Mu’mineen (i.e., Leader of the Believers)! What do you mean by ‘He will certainly enter it?’” He replied: “I said the same as was said by the Prophet (sallallaahu alayhi wa sallam). He (sallallaahu alayhi wa sallam) said, **‘If four persons testify the righteousness of a Muslim, Allaah will grant him Jannah.’** We asked: ‘If three persons testify his righteousness?’ He (sallallaahu alayhi wa sallam) replied, **‘Even three’.** Then we asked: ‘If two?’ He (sallallaahu alayhi wa sallam) replied, **‘Even two.’** We did not ask him (regarding the testimony) of one.”²

¹ Al-Bukhaaree and Muslim

² Al-Bukhaaree