

Islam Question & Answer

General Supervisor:
Shaykh Muhammad Saalih al-Munajjid

109224 - It is not prescribed to face towards the grave of the Prophet (blessings and peace of Allah be upon him) when offering du 'aa' (supplication)

the question

In the Prophet's Mosque I saw some people facing towards the grave of the Prophet (blessings and peace of Allah be upon him)) when offering supplication, and raising their hands. Is this Sunnah?

Detailed answer

Praise be to Allah.

What some visitors and others do, of striving to offer du'aa' at the grave of the Prophet (blessings and peace of Allah be upon him), turning to face towards the grave and raising their hands in supplication, is contrary to the way of the righteous early generations, the companions of the Messenger of Allah (blessings and peace of Allah be upon him) and those who followed them in truth.

Rather it comes under the heading of innovations that have been introduced into the religion. The Prophet (blessings and peace of Allah be upon him) said: "I urge you to adhere to my Sunnah and the way of the Rightly-Guided Caliphs who come after me. Adhere to it and cling firmly to it. And beware of newly introduced matters, for every newly introduced matter is an innovation, and every innovation (in religion) is a going astray." Narrated by Abu Dawood and an-Nasaa'i with a hasan isnaad. And he (blessings and peace of Allah be upon him) said: "Whoever introduces anything into this matter of ours that is not part of it, it will be rejected." Narrated by al-Bukhaari and Muslim. According to a version narrated by Muslim: "Whoever does an action that is not in accordance with this matter of ours, it will be rejected."

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'Ali ibn al-Husayn Zayn al-'Aabideen (may Allah be pleased with him) saw a man offering du'aa' at the grave of the Prophet (blessings and peace of Allah be upon him) and he told him not to do that and said: Shall I not tell you a hadeeth that I heard from my father, from my grandfather, from the Messenger of Allah (blessings and peace of Allah be upon him), that he said: "Do not take my grave as a place of regular visitation, and do not make your houses graves. Send blessings upon me, for your salaams will reach me no matter where you are." Narrated by al-Haafiz Muhammad ibn 'Abd al-Waahid al-Maqdisi in his book, al-Ahaadeeth al-Mukhtarah.

The same applies to what some visitors do when sending salaams upon him, namely placing the right hand on the left hand on or below the chest, as is done in the prayer. This is not permissible when sending salaams upon the Prophet (blessings and peace of Allah be upon him) or when greeting anyone else, such as kings, leaders and so on, because it is a posture of humility, submission and worship, and is not befitting except for Allah, as al-Haafiz Ibn Hajar (may Allah have mercy on him) narrated from the scholars in (his book) al-Fath. This matter is quite clear for the one who reflects on it, and whose aim is to follow the guidance of the righteous early generations.

With regard to the one who is overwhelmed by partisan feelings, and whims and desires, blind imitation and suspicion towards those who call people to follow the practice of the righteous early generations, his case is for Allah to judge. We ask Allah to guide us and him, and to help us all to give precedence to the truth over all else, for He, may He be glorified, is the best to be asked. End quote.

Shaykh 'Abd al-'Azeez ibn Baaz (may Allah have mercy on him).