



The first question from Fatwa No. 2909

Q 1: Some benevolent people build Masjids (mosques) at there expense and specify a space at the side or in front of these Masjids for themselves or their families to be buried in. They do so thinking that this is a means of becoming closer to Allah. Some scholars have told them that it is permissible to place a grave near the Masjid or in front of it provided that they build a wall to separate the Masjid from the grave.

A: It is not permissible to specify an area in the Masjid to bury the person who built it at his expenses or any other person, because there are substantiated evidences indicating that it is not permissible to build Masjids on the graves. It is authentically narrated in the two Sahih (authentic) Books of Hadith on the authority of `Aisha (may Allah be pleased with her) that Um Salamah told Allah's Messenger (peace be upon him) about a church which she had seen in Abyssinia (Ethiopia). She told him about the pictures which she had seen in it. He said,

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﴿ When any righteous pious man dies amongst them, they build a place of worship at his grave and put these pictures in it; they are the worst creatures in the sight of Allah. ﴾ Also it is narrated by Ahl-ul-Sunan (the compilers Sunan books of Hadith i.e. Abu Dawud, Ibn Majah, Al-Nassa'i, Al-Tirmidhi) on the authority of ibn `Abbas (may Allah be pleased with them both): ﴿ Allah's Messenger (peace be upon him) cursed the women who visit graves and those who build Masjids on them and place lights upon them. ﴾ Also there are other Sahih Hadiths reported from Allah's Messenger (peace be upon him) about this issue.

May Allah grant us success! May peace and blessings be upon our Prophet Muhammad, his family and Companions!

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