



Fatwa no. 7210

Q: In our country, there are many graves on some of which there are black and white stones. People build on them and argue that they do not build on the graves of men who killed many people and then were killed and had a good reputation. I think that it is mistaken to build on graves, so I have decided to demolish these buildings. Is it permissible to do so? Does this deserve Allah's Punishment? Please advise me and may Allah reward you with the best reward!

A: Building on graves is an abominable Bid`ah (rejected innovation in religion) that involves exceeding the proper bounds in glorifying those who are buried there. It is also a means that can lead to Shirk (associating others in worship with Allah). It is therefore obligatory on the Muslim ruler or his representative to order the removal of these buildings on graves and that they be leveled to the ground, to end this Bid`ah and to block the means to Shirk. It was reported

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by Muslim in his Sahih (Book of Authentic Hadith), on the authority of Abu Al-Hayyaj Hayyan ibn Hussayn, who said, `Aly (may Allah be pleased with him) said to me, ("Shall I send you on the same mission that the Messenger of Allah (peace be upon him) sent me? Do not leave an image without erasing it or a high grave without leveling it.") It is also confirmed that the Prophet (peace be upon him) forbade building on graves, plastering them, or sitting by them.

However, you should not do this by yourself, in case you are harmed before completely removing them. You should, instead, refer this matter to a judge or the leader in your area to take the necessary actions of demolishing them and warn Muslims against this evil, as they are the ruler's representative in such matters.

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

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