



The third question of Fatwa No. 1727:

Q 3: Was the Prophet (peace be upon him) able to make the dead hear?

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A: Hearing sounds is a faculty that only the living possess. When a person dies, he can neither hear nor grasp the speech of the living. Allah (may He be Exalted) stated, ﴿ [but you cannot make hear those who are in graves.](#) ﴾ When Allah (may He be Exalted) likened obstinant people to the dead, He meant to inform His Messenger that they would in no way listen to him. In essence, the aspect of comparison is usually stronger in a thing or a person likened to than in the likened. What the Qur'an explains is that the dead are more likely to hear or respond than the stubborn people who turned a deaf ear to the Messenger's call (peace be upon him) and said, "Our hearts are covered." Allah (may He be Exalted) stated in this regard, ﴿ [Such is Allâh, your Lord; His is the kingdom. And those, whom you invoke or call upon instead of Him, own not even a Qitmîr \(the thin membrane over the date-stone\).](#) ﴾ ﴿ [If you invoke \(or call upon\) them, they hear not your call; and if \(in case\) they were to hear, they could not grant it \(your request\) to you. And on the Day of Resurrection, they will disown your worshipping them. And none can inform you \(O Muhammad peace be upon him\) like Him Who is the Well-Acquainted \(with everything\).](#) ﴾ As for the Kafirs (disbelievers) who were thrown into Al-Qalib (well) on the Day of Badr and their hearing of the Messenger's call when he called upon them and said, ﴿ [Did you find what your Lord promised true? We found what our Lord promised us true.](#) ﴾ and the Prophet's saying to his Sahabah (Companions), ﴿ [You cannot hear me better than they do.](#) ﴾ when they wondered at this action, this was a special miracle with which Allah endowed the Prophet (peace be upon him). This incident was an exception to the general rule, as it was established by proofs. The same applies to the deceased's hearing of the sound of the footsteps of those who attend the funeral.

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The same also applies to the Prophet's statement (peace be upon him) ﴿ [Whenever someone greets me, Allah returns the soul to my body \(in the grave\) and I return his greeting.](#) ﴾ which is an exception to the general rule.

May Allah grant us success! May peace and blessings be upon our Prophet Muhammad, his family, and Companions! Permanent Committee for Scholarly Research and Ifta'.

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