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Q 2: Does the Prophet (peace be upon him) hear the invocations and supplications made at his grave? Also does he hear us when we invoke blessings upon him there as it is narrated in the Hadith, 'Whoever invokes Allah's blessings upon me at my grave, I will hear him...'? Is this Sahih (authentic), Da`if (weak) or Mawdu` (fabricated) Hadith?

A: It is basically known that the dead do not hear the calls or supplications of the living people, as Allah (may He be Exalted) says: ﴿ and certainly, Allâh will resurrect those who are in the graves. ﴾ Nothing in the Qur'an, or the authentic Sunnah indicates that it is a characteristic of the Prophet (peace be upon him) to hear the invocations or calls of humans. But it is reported from the Prophet (peace be upon him) that only the invoking Allah's blessings upon him reaches him, no matter where the person is, whether near his grave or not. It is authentically narrated on the authority of `Aly ibn Al-Husayn ibn `Ali (may Allah be pleased with them all) that ﴿ He saw a man while he was supplicating in a small cave near the grave of the Prophet (peace be upon him). Whereupon he forbade him, then he said: Shall I inform you of a Hadith which I heard from my father on the authority of my grandfather who quoted the Messenger of Allah (peace be upon him) saying: Do not make my grave a place of celebration and do not turn your houses into graves, but invoke blessings on me, for your blessings reach me wherever you may be. ﴾.

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As to the saying: ﴿ "Whoever invokes Allah to bless me beside my grave, I will hear him, and whoever invokes Allah to bless me from afar (from my grave), I will get to know about that", ﴾ it is a Da`if Hadith. ﴿

As for the Hadith narrated by Abu Dawud with hasan isnad (sound chain of narration), on the authority of Abu Hurayrah (may Allah be pleased with him) that the Prophet (peace be upon him) said: ﴿ Whenever someone greets me, Allah returns the soul to my body (in the grave) and I return his greeting. ﴾ It does not declare explicitly that the Prophet (peace be upon him) hears the greetings of the Muslims. He (peace be upon him) may return their greetings when the angels inform him of them. Suppose that he (peace be upon him) hears the greetings of the Muslims who greet him, this does not entail that he hears other calls and invocations. May Allah grant us success! May peace and blessings be upon our Prophet Muhammad, his family and Companions!

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