



Second and third questions from Fatwa No. 6208:

Q: Some people developed an annual tradition on the Day of `Ashura' of sacrificing over forty sheep and ewes and over ten cows by the graves of the said Awliya' (pious people). On the other hand, some ignorant Muslims who have poor knowledge of the Islamic Shari`ah, recite the Qur'an by these graves claiming that they dedicate the reward of recitation to the dead. They then cook the meat of the sacrificed animals and eat it. We ask Your Eminence to clarify the legal opinion on this issue supported by proofs from the Qur'an and the Sunnah.

A: Firstly, What you have mentioned in regard to sacrificing animals by the graves of the Awliya' is considered Shirk (associating others in worship with Allah). Anyone who does this has in fact committed a great sin. This is because they slaughter to people other than Allah; it is authentically narrated that the Prophet (peace be upon him) said, [\(Allah has cursed the person who sacrifices to anyone other than Allah ... \)](#) Thereupon, it is impermissible to eat from the meat of sheep and cows slaughtered by the graves of the Awliya'.

Secondly, reciting the Qur'an over the dead is Bid`ah (rejected innovation in religion); it is authentically narrated that

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the Prophet (peace be upon him) said, [\(Anyone who introduces to our affair \(of religion\) anything which does not belong to it will have it rejected. \)](#) (Agreed upon by Imams Al-Bukhari and Muslim). May Allah grant us success! May peace and blessings be upon our Prophet Muhammad, his family and Companions!

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