

Making Tawaaf Around the Tombs of Saints and Kissing their Graves

Q: Imaan-74: A Bid'ati Molvi says that people will be rewarded for making Tawaaf around the graves of saints, for prostrating before them out of respect and for kissing them. He also adds that those who forbid this are the Wahaabis, who are enemies of the saints. What reply can be given to him?

Answer: The researched reply to this type of nonsense has been repeated over so often. In reply to this Bid'ati Molvi, we shall reproduce a Fatwa from his leader Molvi Ahmad Ridha Khan. After reading this, he may then decide whether Molvi Ahmad Ridha Khan was also a Wahaabi and an enemy of the saints.

Molvi Ahmad Ridha Khan was asked, "What do the Ulema of Deen and the Muftis have to say about kissing the graves of the saints, making Tawaaf around them and prostrating before them out of respect? Is this permissible in the light of the Shari'ah and the Hanafi Madh'hab?"

In reply, Molvi Ahmad Ridha Khan wrote, "Without any doubts, making Tawaaf of anything other than the Kabah out of reverence is impermissible. Our Shari'ah also declares it Haraam to prostrate before anything other than Allaah out of respect. As far as kissing graves is concerned, there exists a difference of opinion amongst the Ulema, but the more cautious stance is that it is prohibited. When our Ulema have explicitly mentioned that a person should stand at least four arm lengths away from the graves of the saints out of respect, how can one imagine kissing the grave?"

The following appears in his Bihsare Shari'sh (Vol, 4 Pg, 157). Mas'ala: Although some Ulema allow the kissing of graves, the proper opinion states that this is forbidden. Making Tawaaf around graves is also forbidden and while it may be in order to do so to derive blessing, this has been forbidden and should especially not be carried out in front of the common people because it would lead them to misunderstandings."

Fatawa Rahimiyyah (Vol.1)

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