



The fourth question of Fatwa No (5476):

Q4: There is a righteous person or so we call him who lives at my residence.

(Part No : 1, Page No: 140)

He is still alive and people honor him greatly. He has yearly banquets prepared by the rich men of the tribes for him. One person may come and say: 'O sir, you will have dinner with me' as a matter of blessing. Another says: 'O sir, you will have lunch with me.' As for the banquet, they slaughter one or two animals. About fifty or sixty people gather at the banquet and recite formulae of dhikr i.e. remembrance of Allah in the nightly banquet. The cost of the banquet may be around 100 pounds. When the pious man leaves, the owner of the banquet follows him and gives him from 20 to 50 pounds. This happens every year by the well-to-do people. He knows that people supplicate Allah by means of his position or honor in his absence. For example, when a person who thinks highly of this man's piety, falls into distress, he says: 'O sir so and so, by your position and dignity with Allah, relieve my distress, whether it be sickness, fear of a road, or darkness at night,

etc. After supplication, the person would say: 'I will give you five pounds when you cure my sickness or relieve my fear.' All this happens in the absence of this righteous man. On meeting the righteous man, a person says: 'Here is one pound.' Thereupon, the pious man says: 'Give me the five pounds you mentioned in your distress.' The distressed person wonders at this. All this happens in the absence of this man.

(Part No : 1, Page No: 141)

Does this indicate the righteousness of this man? Or is it a fortuneteller's act, which is forbidden? We hope you can explain this matter and identify its essence; is it a righteousness, or forbidden act?

A4: Firstly: Invoking others instead of Allah such as Godly men and righteous people to remove harm, cure the sick, or secure a road is a major sin and an act of disbelief. Allah, the Exalted, says:﴿ And the mosques are for Allâh (Alone); so invoke not anyone along with Allâh. ﴾Allah (the Exalted) says:﴿ And invoke not besides Allâh any such that will neither profit you nor harm you, but if (in case) you did so, you shall certainly be one of the Zâlimûn (polytheists and wrong-doers). ﴾

Secondly: Claiming the knowledge of the unseen is an act of disbelief. Allah (the Exalted) says:﴿ Say: "None in the heavens and the earth knows the Ghaib (Unseen) except Allâh" ﴾

Thirdly: Slaughtering for anyone other than Allah to seek the blessing of a righteous person is not permissible. It is a wrongdoing that incurs curse; it has been authentically reported that the Prophet (peace be upon him) said:﴿ "Allah curses the one who sacrifices to anyone other than Allah..." ﴾Allah (the Exalted) also says:﴿ Say (O Muhammad peace be upon him): "Verily, my Salât (prayer), my sacrifice, my living, and my dying are for Allâh, the Lord of the 'Alamîn (mankind, jinn and all that exists). ﴾(He has no partner. And of this I have been commanded, and I am the first of the Muslims. ﴾

(Part No : 1, Page No: 142)

If slaughtering is just out of good hospitality, feeding Muslim brothers, and doing good, there is no harm in doing so.

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

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