



The second and fifth questions of Fatwa No. 9027:

Q 3: In times of calamities and disasters, some people invoke the Messenger of Allah and the Awliya' (pious people). Also, if they are afflicted with illness, they visit the graves of the Awliya' and seek help from them. Such people claim that Allah (may He be Exalted) removes affliction by virtue of the dead who are buried in these graves. They allegedly, ask their help as a means while keeping in mind that Allah (may He be Exalted) has control over everything. Is such an act counted as Shirk (associating others with Allah in worship)? It is important to note that those people offer Salah (Prayer), recite Qur'an and do other good deeds.

A: What these people are doing is Shirk which is similar to that which was practiced by the people of Jahiliyyah (pre-Islamic time of ignorance). They invoked and sought help from the idols (Al-Lat, Al-'Uzza, Munat and others), hoping

(Part No : 1, Page No: 150)

that they could draw nearer to Allah (may He be Exalted). They used to justify these acts saying, [﴿ We worship them only that they may bring us near to Allâh. ﴾](#) and [﴿ These are our intercessors with Allâh. ﴾](#) The Prophet (peace be upon him) stressed that Du`a' (supplication) is an act of worship that should not be made to anyone except Allah (may He be Exalted). Moreover, Allah forbids making Du`a' to anyone other than Him. Allah (may He be 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 \(polytheists and wrong-doers\). ﴾](#) and [﴿ And if Allâh touches you with harm, there is none who can remove it but He, and if He intends any good for you, there is none who can repel His Favour which He causes it to reach whomsoever of His slaves He wills. And He is the Oft-Forgiving, the Most Merciful. ﴾](#) The Muslims regularly say [﴿ You \(Alone\) we worship, and You \(Alone\) we ask for help \(for each and everything\) ﴾](#) in every rak`ah of Salah, as a constant reminder that worship should only be directed to Allah alone, and that they should seek help from Him; not from prophets and Awliya' who have already passed away. You should not be deceived by the many acts of worship that these people do including offering Salah, observing Sawm (Fast) and reciting Qur'an. Their efforts are lost in this worldly life, while they think that they are doing good deeds. As their worship is not based on the true Tawhid (monotheism), it entails no reward and goes in vain. There is a lot of proof from the Book of Allah and the Sunnah asserting that such acts are Shirk and that their deeds are rendered fruitless. For more details, you may refer to the Qur'anic Ayahs, the authentic Sunnah and the books of Ahl-ul-Sunnah (those adhering to the Sunnah). May Allah grant us all guidance.

The Permanent Committee for Scholarly Research and Ifta'

Member	Member	Committee Deputy Chairman	The Chairman
`Abdullah ibn Qa`ud	`Abdullah ibn Ghudayyan	`Abdul-Razzaq `Afify	`Abdul-`Aziz ibn `Abdullah ibn Baz

