



Fatwa no. 6773

Q: There are many shaykhs in my country who do the following things: They play Duffs (tambourine-like instruments without bells) and go to graves where they slaughter sheep, camels, and cows, and they cook food on them. Is this Haram (prohibited) or not? They have also constructed a dome outside the city where they play Duffs and drums, and shout loudly: "Help us, O our shaykh Jilany!" They also ask the help of other shaykhs. In addition to this, they walk among the people collecting money from them, and say that it is to visit Shaykh so-and-so and for other matters. If someone is ill, they take them and recite Ayahs (Qur'anic verses) over them, and ask them to bring a ram, a bull, a camel, some cattle, or other animals. In a year, people pay them large sums of money when they go to them. Are these things prohibited according to our Din (religion)?

A: Firstly:  It is not permissible to slaughter camels, cows, sheep, or anything else on

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graves. In fact, it is an act of major Shirk (associating others in worship with Allah) that takes a person out of Islam, if by doing so they mean to draw near to those buried in the graves hoping for their blessing. It is only Allah Who can be drawn close to in this way. Allah (may He be Exalted) says: ﴿ Say (O Muhammad, peace be upon him): "Verily, my Salat (prayer), my sacrifice, my living, and my dying are for Allah, the Lord of the 'Alamin (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. ﴾ Likewise, men are absolutely prohibited from playing Duffs, and women are only permitted to do so to announce a marriage.

Secondly: Seeking the help of the dead and absent living beings from the Jinn, angels, or humans, and supplicating to them to bring a benefit or ward off harm, are all acts of major Shirk that take a person out of Islam. Allah (may he be Exalted) says: ﴿ And invoke not besides Allah any such that will neither profit you nor harm you, but if (in case) you did so, you shall certainly be one of the Zalimun (polytheists and wrong-doers). ﴾ And if Allah 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. ﴾ Playing drums is prohibited for both men and women.

Thirdly: The visiting of shaykhs of Sufi Tariqahs (orders) by their followers, for which they collect money, is begging and eats up money unjustly. It is necessary that someone who has the ability to advise them should help them. They should advise the followers not to spend money, except on legitimate matters.

Fourthly: Treating a sick person by reciting the Qur'an, Dhikr (Remembrances of Allah) and Du`a' (supplications)

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that are authentically reported from the Prophet (peace be upon) is lawful. However, going to the people you mentioned for them to recite Ayahs and them ordering the slaughtering of rams or bulls, for example, is not permissible. In fact, this type of Ruqyah (reciting Qur'an and saying supplications over the sick seeking healing) is Bid`ah (rejected innovation in religion) and consumes money unjustly. It is Shirk to slaughter animals for the Jinn, the dead, or others, to ward off evil or bring a benefit. 🗨️

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

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