



Q 3: There is a grave of a waly (pious man) at which people offer sacrificial animals every year. They do so with the intention of supplication, giving charity for the dead and invoking the dwellers of the graves for rain. These ignorant Muslims do not know the ruling concerning that or they may know it but disregard it, so please guide us in this issue. May Allah guide you!

A: All that you mentioned concerning offering sacrificial animals at the grave of the Waly (pious man) is an act of Shirk (associating others in worship with Allah). There is a detailed discussion about when a person invokes them (other than Allah) and seeks their help for rain or anything else that it is an act of major Shirk. However, if a person asks Allah (may He be Exalted) through their honor and dignity, which some people call Tawassul (supplicating to Allah through a means), then it is an act of Bid`ah (rejected innovation in religion) which it is not permissible and is considered a means that leads to Shirk. However, it is permissible for a person to ask Allah through His Beautiful Names and Attributes, through Tawhid (Oneness of Allah) or through the person's good deeds. It is the duty of the ruler to ask anyone who practices major Shirk to repent otherwise he should be killed for the Prophet (peace be upon him) said: **"If somebody (a Muslim) discards his religion, kill him."** Narrated by Al-Bukhary in his Sahih (Authentic book of Hadith).

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

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