

بَابُ مَا جَاءَ أَنَّ الْغُلُوفَ فِي قُبُورِ الصَّالِحِينَ يُصَيِّرُهَا أَوْثَانًا تُعْبَدُ مِنْ دُونِ اللَّهِ

Exaggeration concerning the graves of the righteous leads to them being taken as idols that are worshipped besides Allah

Overview of Chapter

Chapter 21 What has come in relation to exaggeration in the graves of the righteous, that it turns them into idols that are worshipped besides Allāh

Exaggeration in the graves of the righteous means to take them beyond the description that they ought to have and exceeding the limits with respect to them. Thus, he (صلى الله عليه) prohibited plastering of graves, or raising them and beautifying them, rendering them places where people congregate, and eventually in a step by step fashion, Iblīs (Satan) misleads them into invoking their inhabitants, or sacrificing to them in order to solicit their intercession, rescue and relief, something observed among Muslims today. The Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) supplicated to Allāh that his grave not to be turned into an idol that is worshipped, which is proof that graves can be turned into idols that are worshipped, with the meaning that people come to them and worship their inhabitants by seeking aid, refuge and rescue from them, and seeking worldly needs from them.

Figure 1 Screenshot from <https://abuiyaad.com/a/kitaab-tawhid>

Start of the main text

Ahadeeth No. 1 – Zayd Ibn Aslam

رَوَى مَالِكٌ فِي ، الْمُوَطَّأِ ، أَنَّ رَسُولَ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ
 قَالَ « اللَّهُمَّ لَا تَجْعَلْ قَبْرِي وَتَنَّا يُعْبَدُ إِشْتَدَّ غَضَبُ اللَّهِ عَلَى قَوْمٍ
 اتَّخَذُوا قُبُورَ أَنْبِيَائِهِمْ مَسَاجِدَ »

Imām Mālik (rahimahullāh) reported in Al-Muwatta’ that Allah’s Messenger (salallāhu ‘alaihi wasallam) said: “O Allah! Do not make my grave into an idol that is worshipped. Allah’s anger is severe upon a people who turned the graves of their Prophets into places of worship (mosques) ”.

[Al-Muwatta no. 85 in mursal form; Abdur-Razzāq in his Musannaf, 1/406 from the hadeeth of Zayd Ibn Aslam (radiyallāhu ‘anhu), declared saheeh (authentic) by Al-Albānee in Al-Mishkāt, no. 750]

Quote No. 1 – Ibn Jareer At-Tabaree

وَلابن جرير بسنده عن سفيان، عن منصور، عن مجاهد
﴿أَفَرَأَيْتُمُ اللَّاتَ وَالْعُزَّى﴾ (2) قَالَ كَانَ يَلْتُمُ لَهُمُ السَّوِيقَ، فَمَاتَ،
فَعَكَّفُوا عَلَى قَبْرِهِ .

Ibn Jareer reports with his chain of narration to Sufyān from Mansoor, from Mujāhid regarding the verse: “Have you then considered [the two idols] Al-Lāt and Al-‘Uzzā...” [An-Najm: 19] that he (Mujāhid) said: “Lāt used to serve the pilgrims flour mixed with ghee and water (called Saweeq). So when he died, they would gather and sit around his grave in devotion ”.

[Reported by Ibn Jareer At-Tabaree in his Tafseer, 22/523]

Ahadeeth No. 2 – Ibn Abbās

وَكَذَا قَالَ أَبُو الْجَوَزَاءِ، عَنْ إِبْنِ عَبَّاسٍ كَانَ يُلْتُ السَّوِيقَ لِلْحَاجِّ
 وَعَنْ إِبْنِ عَبَّاسٍ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُمَا قَالَ « لَعَنَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى
 اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ زَائِرَاتِ الْقُبُورِ، وَالْمُتَّخِذِينَ عَلَيْهَا الْمَسَاجِدَ
 وَالشُّرُجَ » رَوَاهُ أَهْلُ السُّنَنِ

The same was stated by Abul-Jawzā’ from Ibn Abbās (radiyallāhu ‘anhumā) that: “He would prepare flour mixed with ghee and water (Saweeq) for those performing Hajj ”.

[Reported by Al-Bukhāree, no. 5859]

Ibn Abbās (radiyallāhu ‘anhumā) said: “Allah’s Messenger invoked the curse of Allah upon the women who continually visit the graves and those people who build mosques upon them and place lights over them.” Reported by the authors of the Sunan. [Reported by Abu Dāwood, no. 3236; At-Tirmidhee, no. 320]

Important Points - 10

Important issues of the Chapter:	فِيهِ مَسَائِلُ:
Explanation of idols.	الأُولَى: تَفْسِيرُ الْأَوْثَانِ.
Explanation of worship.	الثَّانِيَّةُ: تَفْسِيرُ الْعِبَادَةِ.
The Prophet (May the peace and blessing of Allah be upon him) did not seek refuge in Allah except from that which he feared would occur.	الثَّالِثَةُ: أَنَّهُ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ لَمْ يَسْتَعِذْ إِلَّا مِمَّا يُخَافُ وُقُوعَهُ.
The Prophet's joining this supplication i.e., "O Allah! Never turn my grave..." with taking the graves of Prophets as Masjid.	الرَّابِعَةُ: قَرَنَهُ بِهَذَا إِتِّخَاذَ قُبُورِ الْأَنْبِيَاءِ مَسَاجِدَ.
Mention of the intense wrath of Allah (on those who indulge in such activities).	الخَامِسَةُ: ذَكَرَ شِدَّةَ الْعُصْبِ مِنْ اللَّهِ.
Of most importance is the description as to how the worship of Lat, one of the major (pre- Islamic) idols, was started.	السَّادِسَةُ: وَهِيَ مِنْ أَهْمِيَّاتِ مَعْرِفَتِهِ صِفَةَ عِبَادَةِ الْأَلَاتِ الَّتِي هِيَ مِنْ أَكْبَرِ الْأَوْثَانِ.

<p>السَّابِعَةُ: مَعْرِفَةُ أَنَّهُ قَبْرُ رَجُلٍ صَالِحٍ. The knowledge that Lat was the grave of a righteous man.</p>
<p>الثَّامِنَةُ: أَنَّهُ إِسْمُ صَاحِبِ الْقَبْرِ، وَذِكْرُ مَعْنَى التَّسْمِيَةِ Lat was the name of a person buried in that grave and the mention of the meaning behind (the idol) being named such.</p>
<p>التَّاسِعَةُ: لَعْنُهُ زَوَارَاتِ الْقُبُورِ. Curse (of the Prophet (May the peace and blessing of Allah be upon him)) on the women who visit the graves.</p>
<p>العَاشِرَةُ: لَعْنُهُ مَنْ أَسْرَحَهَا . The Prophet's curse upon those who put up lights on the graves.</p>