

Visiting Graves

All praise are due to Allah and I bear witness that there is no God worthy of worship except for Allah and I bear witness that Mohammad (p.b.u.h) is His servant and messenger.

Brothers and sisters in Islam,

There is no dispute, no difference of opinion amongst the Fuqaha'u (Muslim Scholars) that visiting graveyards for Muslim men is encouraged and has great benefits to those with a good, clean and wise hearts.

Reported by Imam Muslim (r.a), narrated Buraidah (r.a) that Allah's Messenger (p.b.u.h) said:

"I used to forbid you visiting graves, but now visit them."

In another narration from Abu-Hurairah (r.a), at the end of a Hadith, the Prophet (p.b.u.h) said:

"... so visit the graves for that makes you remember death".

It is also Sunnah that when you visit a Muslims' grave to greet them and make Dua' for them in accordance of how the Prophet (p.b.u.h) taught us in his Sunnah. There are several Dua's and greetings that can be used. One of which reported by Imam Muslim Buraidah (r.a) relates that the Prophet (p.b.u.h) used to teach them (i.e the companions) whenever they came out to visit graveyards to say:

"Asalamu Alaikum ahla-diyari inal-Mu'minina wal Muslimina wa-inna Ins-sha-Allahu bikum lahiqun. As-Alu-Allaha Lana wa-Lakuml-Agiyah.

Translation:

May you be safe, O, inmates of the abodes of the believers and the Muslims and if Allah pleases (if Allah so wills) we shall follow you. We pray to Allah for the well-being for ourselves and for you."

Brothers and sisters in Islam,

As much as we Muslims are encouraged to visit the graveyards to remind them, first of death, and then the Home of the hereafter, they are also discouraged and prohibited from practicing any of the graveyards Bida'i (innovations in religion). Because following such Bida'I, not only deprive the person of Allah's reward for the visit, but also attracts Allah's wrath and punishment upon them.

The Muslims have been commanded to obey Allah and his Messenger (p.b.u.h) if they wish to attain Allah's mercy, forgiveness and Jannah. Happiness in both this world and the Hereafter. Allah says, meaning:

Say: Obey Allah and obey the Messenger. But if you turn away, he is only responsible for the duty placed on him and you for that placed on you. If you obey him, you shall be on the right guidance. The Messenger's duty is only to convey the message in a clear way (to preach the clear message)". 24/54.

Follow the book of Allah and the Sunnah of His messenger (p.b.u.h) and you will have a comfortable transfer from this world to the next. But as some Ullema'a said:

"If you disobey Allah's commands as explained by His Prophet (p.b.u.h), you are not going to be forced. The Prophet's mission is to train your will and explain clearly all the implications of your conduct. The responsibility of your conduct rests entirely on yourselves."

Brothers and sisters in Islam,

Before I end today's Khutbah, I would like to share with you the following commentaries regarding Muslims visiting the graveyards if Muslims:

"The visit to the graves is not only recommendable from a theological point of view but, in the light of the Prophet (p.b.u.h) saying it is also compulsory and binding."

"...the visitor is required to pray the Prophetic prayer there, as it invokes Divine blessing on and pardon to the dead. It may be emphasized here that to greet the dead is a prayer for them. It is not necessary that they should hear it and also respond to it. Allah has the power to make them hear it too. But ours should not be the belief that the dead do hear and reply. The exact position is known to Allah alone. We are only supposed to follow the example of Allah's Messenger (p.b.u.h) and say the greeting and prayer as mentioned (in the Prophet's (p.b.u.h) saying i.e authentic Hadith)". (Riyad 1) .
