

10011 - Ruling on travelling to visit the grave of the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him)

the question

What is the ruling on travelling to visit the grave of the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) and others graves of awliya' and righteous people and others?

Detailed answer

It is not permissible to travel with the intention of visiting the grave of the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) or the grave of any other person, according to the more correct of the two scholarly opinions, because the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) said:

“No one should travel for the purpose of visiting (any mosque) except three: al-Masjid al-Haraam (in Makkah), this mosque of mine (in Madeenah) and al-Masjid al-Aqsaa (in al-Quds/Jerusalem).” Agreed upon).

It is prescribed for the one who wants to visit the grave of the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) and who lives far from Madeenah to have the intention of travelling to visit al-Masjid al-Nabawi; that will include by implication visiting the grave of the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him), the graves of Abu Bakr and 'Umar, and the graves of the martyrs and people of al-Baqee'.

If he has the intention of visiting both (the mosque and the grave), this is permissible, because things may be permissible as part of something else which are not permissible on their own. But having

the intention only to visit the grave and travelling for that purpose is not permissible. Intending to visit the grave only is not permissible if it involves travelling. But if a person lives close by and does not need to travel, and his going to the grave is not regarded as “travel” or a “journey”, then it is OK, because visiting the grave of the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) and the graves of his two companions without having to travel is Sunnah and is an act of worship. The same applies to visiting the graves of the martyrs and of the people of al-Baqee’. Similarly, visiting the graves of Muslims in all places is Sunnah and is an act of worship, but without travelling for that purpose, because the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) said: “Visit graves, for they will remind you of the Hereafter.” (Narrated by Muslim in his Saheeh).

The Prophet (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) used to teach his Sahaabah, when they visited graves, to say, “Al-salaamu ‘alaykum ahl al-diyaa’ min al-mu’mineen wa’l-Muslimeen, wa innaa in shaa’ Allaah bikum laahiqaan, nas’al Allaaha lana wa lakum al-‘aafiyah (Peace be upon you, O believing and Muslim dwellers of this place. We will join you soon, if Allaah wills. We ask Allaah to keep us and you safe).” (Narrated by Muslim in his Saheeh).