

Slaughtering animals to entertain guests or out of generosity towards one's family

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Question: The Messenger of Allaah (عليه السلام)¹ said: **Allaah curses the person who offers a sacrifice to anyone other than Allaah ...** what is meant by this exactly given that here in the South when we slaughter animals to entertain guests or as meat for the household, people say, "In the Name of Allaah and upon the religion of the Messenger of Allaah, this is a Sadaqah (voluntary charity) purely for the Sake of Allaah. O Allaah! Please grant the reward for this to me and my household?"

Answer: What is meant by this Hadeeth is the prohibition of offering sacrifices to the dead Prophets or Aawliyyaa' (pious people), seeking their blessing; or offering sacrifices to the Jinn (creatures created from fire), so as to please them and in return seek fulfilment of demands or to ward off their evil.

All these acts constitute Al-Shirk-ul-Akbar (major form of associating others in worship with Allaah) which will incur the Curse and Anger of Allaah upon the doer. As for slaughtering an animal to entertain guests, or out of generosity towards one's family, or slaughtering sacrifices as a means of drawing closer to Allaah, as an act of charity towards the dead while hoping for reward from Allaah to the living and the dead, all this is permissible. Rather, it is a kind act, hoped to be rewarded by Allaah; likewise are the sacrificial animals offered on the Yawm-ul-Nahr "Day of Sacrifice" (the 10th of Dhul-Hijjah on which pilgrims slaughter their sacrificial animals) on behalf of the dead and the living.

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

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¹ (عليه السلام) ('alaihi-salaam) Peace be upon him