



Visiting a Shrine ¹

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Question: When we visit a Walī's shrine, how do we pray [the *fātiha*] there and what should be [further] recited in the prayer?

Answer:

To visit shrines of Awliyā, go from the foot of the shrine and stand facing the head of the shrine at a distance of about six feet, and [then] greet them respectfully with a voice neither loud nor quiet, saying: '*assālamu `alaykum yā Sayyidi wa-rahmatullāhi wa-barakātub.*' Then recite *durūd ghamsiyya* (Allāhumma sallī `alā Sayyidinā Muhammadin ma'dan al-jūdi wal karami wa `alā ahlihi wa-sahbihi wa-bārik wa-sallim) thrice, *al-hamd sharīf* once, *Ayāt al-Kursī* once, *Sūrat Ikhḷās* seven times and if there is enough time [left], recite *Sūrat Mulk* and *Sūrat Yā Sīn* too. And pray to Allāh Ta`ālā,

***'Oh Lord, Give as much reward for this recitation as is worthy to your Grace
and not as much that is worthy of my action,
and convey it to your favorite slave as an offering.'***

After this *dū`a* for your lawful [and] good desires, make the Walī sleeping in this shrine a means in the court of Allāh Ta`ālā. And then, after offering the greeting, return in the same way. Don't touch the shrine or kiss it. Circumventing it is unanimously forbidden, and prostration is purely *harām*.

And Allāh Ta`ālā knows best!



¹ Excerpted and adapted from *Necessity of Zakaat* p.19, Ahmad Ridā Khān (Tehreek-e-fikr-e-reza, Mumbai 1998); translated by Abdul Naim Azizi.