

## Ruling on celebrating the Prophet's Mawlid and other events

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of Allaah, the Most Merciful, the Bestower of Mercy

All praise be to Allaah, and peace and blessings be upon the Messenger of Allaah, his family, his Companions, and those who follow his guidance.

There is a repeated question about the ruling on celebrating the Prophet's Mawlid (birthday), offering special night prayer, sending peace and blessings upon him, and other practices done by people in this event.

The answer is that it is not permissible to celebrate the Mawlid of the Prophet (peace be upon him) or anyone else, as such a practice is a Bid`ah (innovation in the religion). The Prophet (peace be upon him) did not celebrate such an event and neither did the righteous Caliphs, the Companions or those who followed them in the best times of Islaamic history. They were the best with regard to knowledge of the Prophetic Sunnah, love to the Prophet (peace be upon him) and following the laws of Islaam. It was authentically reported that the Prophet (peace be upon him) said: **[Anyone who introduces anything into this matter of ours (Islaam) that is not part of it will have it rejected.]**<sup>1</sup> This denotes that such innovations must be rejected. Also, the Prophet (peace be upon him) said: **[You must follow my Sunnah (way) and that of the Rightly-Guided Caliphs. Adhere to them and clench your teeth on them (i.e., hold fast to them). Beware of innovated matters (in religion), for every innovated matter is a Bid`ah, and every Bid`ah is a Dalalah (deviation from what is right).]**<sup>2</sup>

In these two Prophetic Hadeeths there is a roughly-worded warning against introducing innovations into the faith of Islaam and acting upon them. Allaah (Glorified be He) says in His Truth-Clarifying Book: **[And whatsoever the Messenger (Muhammad ﷺ) gives you, take it; and whatsoever he forbids you, abstain (from it).]**<sup>3</sup> And: **[And let those who oppose the Messenger's (Muhammad ﷺ) commandment (i.e. his Sunnah - legal ways, orders, acts of worship, statements) (among the sects) beware, lest some Fitnah (disbelief, trials, afflictions, earthquakes, killing, overpowered by a tyrant) should befall them or a painful torment be inflicted on them.]**<sup>4</sup> And: **[Indeed in the Messenger of Allaah (Muhammad ﷺ) صلى الله عليه وسلم you have a good example to follow for him who hopes for (the Meeting with)**

<sup>1</sup> Sunan Ibn Maajah

<sup>2</sup> Aboo Dawood and at-Tirmidhee

<sup>3</sup> Soorah al-Hasher [59:7]

<sup>4</sup> Soorah al-Noor [24:63]

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Allaah and the Last Day, and remembers Allaah much.]<sup>5</sup> And: [And the foremost to embrace Islaam of the Muhaajiroon (those who migrated from Makkah to Al-Madeenah) and the Ansaar (the citizens of Al-Madeenah who helped and gave aid to the Muhaajiroon ) and also those who followed them exactly (in Faith). Allaah is well-pleased with them as they are well-pleased with Him. He has prepared for them Gardens under which rivers flow (Paradise), to dwell therein forever. That is the supreme success.]<sup>6</sup> And: [This day, I have perfected your religion for you, completed My Favour upon you, and have chosen for you Islaam as your religion.]<sup>7</sup>

There are many Ayahs to this effect. It is worth mentioning that celebrating the Prophet's Mawlid can lead people to understanding that Allaah (Glorified be He) has not perfected the religion for the Muslim nation and that the Messenger of Allaah (peace be upon him) did not convey what he should have conveyed to the Muslim nation. The later generations introduced into the Religion of Allaah things which Allaah (Exalted be He) has not revealed to His Prophet (peace be upon him), claiming that such things bring them closer to Allaah. There is no doubt that such practices imply a grave danger and an objection to Allaah (Glorified be He) and His Prophet (peace be upon him), as Allaah (Exalted be He) has perfected the religion for His servants and completed His Favour upon them.

The Messenger (peace be upon him) conveyed the Message of Allaah perfectly and left no way to Paradise or out of Hellfire but he guided the Muslim nation to it. It was authentically reported that `Abdullah ibn `Amr (may Allaah be pleased with him) narrated that the Messenger of Allaah (peace be upon him) said: **[It was the duty of every Prophet whom Allaah has sent to guide his followers to what he knew was good for them and warn them against what he knew was bad for them.]**<sup>8</sup>

It is well known that our Prophet (peace be upon him) was the best and last of all prophets and the one who most perfectly conveyed the Message of Allaah. If celebrating the Prophet's Mawlid had been a practice of our religion pleasing to Allaah (Glorified be He), the Messenger (peace be upon him) would have showed it to his nation or done it during his lifetime, or his Companions (may Allaah be pleased with them) would have done it. Since it was not celebrated by any of them, it has been deduced that it is not a practice of the faith of Islaam, but it is a Bid`ah against which the Prophet (peace be upon him) warned his nation, as mentioned in the previous two Hadeeths. Other Hadeeths imply the same meaning of the two Hadeeths, such as the Prophet (peace be upon him) saying in Friday Khutbah (sermon): **[Now then, the best of speech is the Book of Allaah, the best of guidance is the guidance of Muhammad (peace**

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<sup>5</sup> Soorah al-Ahzab [33:21]

<sup>6</sup> Soorah at-Tawbah [9:100]

<sup>7</sup> Soorah al-Maa'idah [5:3]

<sup>8</sup> Related by Muslim in his Saheeh

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**be upon him), the most evil of matters are those that are innovated (in religion), and every Bid`ah is an error.]<sup>9</sup>**

There are many Ayahs and Hadeeths to this effect. Some Muslim scholars have denied and warned against celebrating the Prophet's Mawlid, depending on some religious evidence like those mentioned above and others. However, some contemporary scholars consider such a celebration permissible as long as no violations are committed, such as exaggerating praise of the Prophet (peace be upon him), mixing between women and men, use of musical instruments and other practices that are condemned by the purified Sharee'ah (Islaamic law), which they deemed in this case to be good Bid`ah.

As fixed by the legal rule, all disputable matters must be referred to the Holy Book and the Prophetic Sunnah. This is because Allaah (Glorified be He) says: **[O you who believe! Obey Allaah and obey the Messenger (Muhammad ﷺ), and those of you (Muslims) who are in authority. (And) if you differ in anything amongst yourselves, refer it to Allaah and His Messenger (ﷺ), if you believe in Allaah and in the Last Day. That is better and more suitable for final determination.]<sup>10</sup>** Allaah (Glorified be He) also says: **[And in whatsoever you differ, the decision thereof is with Allaah (He is the ruling Judge).]<sup>11</sup>**

By referring the issue of celebrating the Prophet's Mawlid to the Holy Book, we find that it orders us to follow all that the Prophet (peace be upon him) enjoined and to avoid all that the Prophet (peace be upon him) prohibited. It tells us that Allaah (Glorified be He) has perfected the faith of Islaam for this nation. Since such a celebration was not a practice of the Prophet (peace be upon him), it is not of the religion which Allaah (Exalted be He) has perfected for this nation and ordered us to follow the Prophet in. Similarly, on referring the issue of celebrating the Prophet's Mawlid to the Prophetic Sunnah, we find that the Prophet (peace be upon him) never did it or enjoined Muslims to do it and neither did his Companions (may Allaah be pleased with them). Consequently, it is a novel Bid`ah and imitation of the People of the Book from among the Jews and the Christians in their feasts. It becomes clear for those who seek the truth that celebrating the Prophet's Mawlid is not a practice of Islaam, but rather a Bid`ah which Allaah enjoined His Prophet (peace be upon him) to avoid and beware of. A reasonable person should not be deceived by such a large number of people who celebrate the Prophet's Mawlid all over the world, as an illegal practice cannot be legalised by the number of people who do it, but can only be legalised by legal evidence from the Holy Qur'aan and the Prophetic Sunnah. Allaah (Glorified be He) says about the Jews and the Christians : **[And they say, "None shall enter Paradise unless he be a Jew or a Christian." These are their own desires. Say (O Muhammad ﷺ), "Produce your proof if you are**

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<sup>9</sup> Related by Imaam Muslim in his Saheeh

<sup>10</sup> Soorah al-Nisaa [4:59]

<sup>11</sup> Soorah al-Shoora [42:10]

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truthful."]<sup>12</sup> Allaah (Glorified be He) also says: **[And if you obey most of those on the earth, they will mislead you far away from Allaah's Path.]**<sup>13</sup>

In addition to being Bid`ah, it often includes intermixing between men and women, use of songs and musical instruments, alcohol and drugs and other evil practices in the celebrations of the Prophet's Mawlid. The worst is that some people may commit the worst of all sins, which is major Shirk (associating others with Allaah in His Divinity or worship that takes the Muslim out of Islaam) by invoking the Prophet (peace be upon him) and other allegedly righteous people and appealing to them for help and support, thinking that they know about the Ghayb (the Unseen). They may do other polytheistic practices which many people do in their celebrations of the Prophet's Mawlid and other Mawlid of allegedly righteous people. It was authentically reported that the Messenger of Allaah (peace be upon him) said: **[Do not exceed the limits in your religion, for those who preceded you have been destroyed due to their excessiveness in religion.]** Also, the Prophet (peace be upon him) said: **[Do not extol me as the Christians extolled the son of Mary (i.e. Jesus Christ). I am just His slave, so call me the slave of Allaah and His Messenger.]**<sup>14</sup> It is strange that many people do their best to attend and defend such celebrations, while they do not perform the obligatory acts of worship, such as the Friday Prayer and congregational prayers. They do not admit that they do condemned practices. Undoubtedly, such practices are the product of lack of faith and insight as well as the sins a person commits. May Allaah protect us and all Muslims from doing so.

One of the severely condemned practices is that some believe that the Prophet (peace be upon him) attends such celebrations, and so they stand to welcome and greet him. Actually, this is serious ignorance, as the Prophet (peace be upon him) shall never leave his grave before the Day of Resurrection or communicates with people or attends their gatherings. The body of the Prophet (peace be upon him) lies in his grave until the Day of Resurrection, while his soul is in the highest heaven with his Lord, dwelling in the Abode of Honour. Allaah (Glorified be He) says in Soorah al-Mu'minoon: **[After that, surely, you will die. Then (again), surely, you will be resurrected on the Day of Resurrection.]**<sup>15</sup>

The Prophet (peace be upon him) said: **[I will be the first to rise from my grave on the Day of Resurrection, and I will be the first intercessor and the first whose intercession will be accepted (by Allaah).]**<sup>16</sup> May Allaah's Peace and Blessings be upon him. Those two Ayahs and the Prophetic Hadeeth as well as other Ayahs and Prophetic Hadeeths of the same effect, all denote that the Prophet (peace be upon him) and other dead people will rise from their graves only on the Day of Resurrection. It is worth mentioning that such a matter is

<sup>12</sup> Soorah al-Baqarah [2:11]

<sup>13</sup> Soorah al-An'aam [6:116]

<sup>14</sup> Related by Al-Bukhaaree in his Saheeh on the authority of `Umar

<sup>15</sup> Soorah al-Mu'minoon [23:15-16]

<sup>16</sup> Sunan Ibn Maajah

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unanimously agreed upon by Muslim scholars. That is why all Muslims should be aware of such Bid`ahs and superstitions introduced into Islaam by ignorant people and which have no evidence. There is neither might nor power except with Allaah.

As for invoking Allaah's Blessings and Peace upon the Messenger (peace be upon him), it is one of the best Qurbahs (good deeds by which Allaah's Pleasure is sought) and one of the righteous deeds. Allaah (Exalted be He) Says: **[Allaah sends His Salaat (Graces, Honours, Blessings, Mercy) on the Prophet (Muhammad ﷺ), and also His angels (ask Allaah to bless and forgive him). O you who believe! Send your Salaat on (ask Allaah to bless) him (Muhammad ﷺ), and (you should) greet (salute) him with the Islaamic way of greeting (salutation i.e. As-Salaamu 'Alaikum ).]**<sup>17</sup> Also, the Prophet (peace be upon him) said: **[Anyone who invokes blessings upon me once, Allaah will bless him ten times.]**<sup>18</sup> Sending peace and blessings upon the Prophet (peace be upon him) is desirable at all times, and it is stressed at the end of every Salaah (Prayer), and even obligatory according to some scholars in the second half of Tashahhud (a recitation in the sitting position in the second/last unit of Prayer). Moreover, it is a stressed Sunnah (supererogatory act of worship following the example of the Prophet) in many situations, such as after Adhaan (call to prayer), after hearing the name of the Prophet (peace be upon him), and on Friday during the day and night, as reported in many Prophetic Hadeeths.

It is Allaah Who can guide us and all Muslims to be knowledgeable and steadfast adherents of His Religion, to lead all Muslims to adhere steadfastly to the Prophetic Sunnah and to avoid all forms of Bid`ah. Allaah is the Most Generous and the Most Beneficent. May Allaah's Peace and Blessings be upon our Prophet Muhammad, his family and Companions.

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<sup>17</sup> Soorah al-Ahzab [33:56]

<sup>18</sup> Saheeh Muslim 408