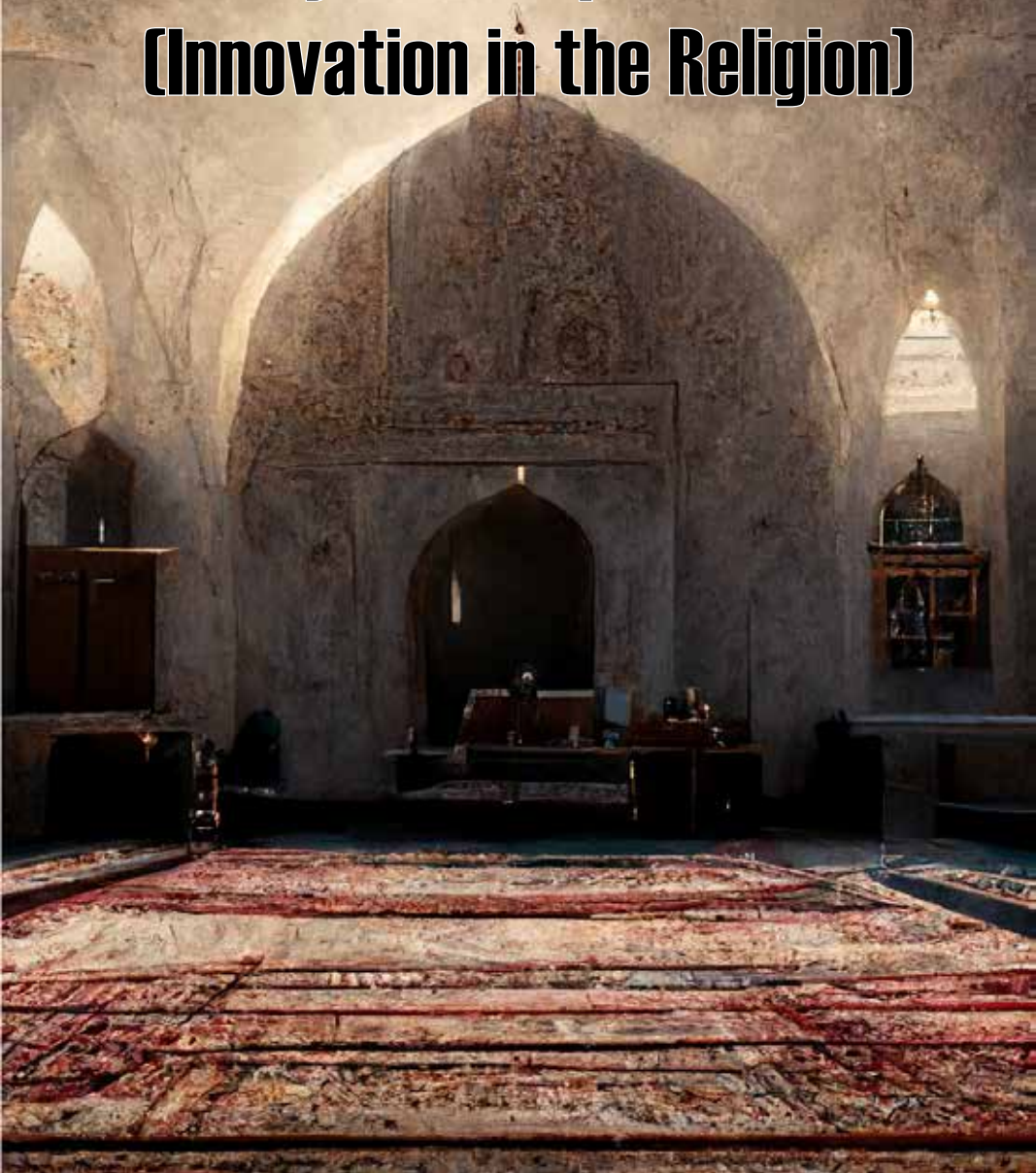


**Celebrating the Prophet's
Birthday is a Despicable Bid'ah
(Innovation in the Religion)**



Celebrating the Prophet's Birthday is a Despicable *Bid'ah* (Innovation in the Religion)

All praises and thanks are due to Allâh, Who granted His Favor to the believers by sending to them a Messenger from among them, reciting to them His *Âyat*, purifying them and teaching them the Book and *Al-Hikmah* (his *Sunnah*), even though they were in manifest error beforehand. I bear witness that there is no deity worthy of worship except Allâh Alone, without partners in the worship, just as He has no partners in His creation and Kingship. Allâh is Free from all that they ascribe to Him of partners and *Shirk*. I bear witness that Muhammad ﷺ is Allâh's slave and Messenger, who was entrusted to deliver His revelation, and he is the best of Allâh's creation. He was sent with the right religion as a mercy to all mankind, as a leader for the righteous and as a proof against mankind and the jinn. May Allâh's peace and blessings be on Muhammad, his progeny, his Companions and all those who followed them with excellence until the Day of Resurrection.

Dear Muslims! Fear Allâh and know that the best of His bounties on you and the people of the earth is that He sent to them Muhammad ﷺ as the Last and Final Prophet and Messenger, after a prolonged time in which He did not send a Prophet. Allâh guided mankind by His sending Muhammad ﷺ with the straight path and the clearest way and required them to follow and obey him. The Prophet ﷺ was the fruit of the supplication that Prophet Ibrahim عليه السلام invoked Allâh with, when he said:

﴿ رَبَّنَا وَأَبْعَثْ فِيهِمْ رَسُولًا مِنْهُمْ يَتْلُو عَلَيْهِمْ آيَاتِكَ وَيُعَلِّمُهُمُ الْكِتَابَ وَالْحِكْمَةَ
وَيُرِيدُهُمْ إِتْقَانًا أَنْتَ الْعَزِيزُ الْحَكِيمُ ﴾

“Our Lord! Send amongst them a Messenger of their own, who shall recite unto them Your Verses and instruct them in the Book (this Qur’ân) and *Al-Hikmah* (full knowledge of the Islâmic laws and jurisprudence or wisdom or Prophethood), and

purify them. Verily, You are the All-Mighty, the All-Wise.”
(2:129)

Muhammad ﷺ was also the glad tidings that Jesus, son of Mary, delivered:

﴿يَسِّرْ لِي إِسْرَائِيلَ إِلَى رَسُولِ اللَّهِ إِتِّكُمُ مُصَدِّقًا لِمَا بَيْنَ يَدَيَّ مِنَ التَّوْرَةِ وَمُبَشِّرًا رَسُولًا يَأْتِي مِن بَعْدِي
أَسْمُهُ أَحْمَدُ﴾

“O Children of Israel! I am the Messenger of Allāh unto you, confirming the Taurât [(Torah) which came] before me, and giving glad tidings of a Messenger to come after me, whose name shall be Ahmad.” (61:6)

And when the Prophet’s mother was pregnant with him, she saw a vision in which a light started out of her and lighted the palaces of Syria.¹

These three qualities came true in the Messenger of Allāh ﷺ, for he was the fruit of Prophet Ibrahim’s supplication, the glad tidings that Jesus foretold and delivered and the true explanation of his mother’s vision. Allāh has made Muhammad ﷺ the light that enlightened the entire earth, after it had been engulfed with darkness, and a guide for mankind, after they fell prey to utter confusion. He is the great bounty and the tremendous gift that Allāh has granted to His creation. He was born in the sacred city of Makkah on the Year of the Elephant –570 CE- in the lunar month of Rabi‘ Al-Awwal. It was the year that the king of Abyssinia (Abrahah) attacked Makkah with his army (and several elephants) seeking to demolish the Ka‘bah. Allāh repelled this attack and sent down a great punishment on Abrahah and his army, just as He mentioned in His Glorious Book (chapter 105). Allāh protected the Sacred House in Makkah in preparation for sending Muhammad ﷺ.

¹ **Editors Note:** Differing statements have been issued by *Hadith* scholars concerning the authenticity of this narration. It is recorded in Ibn Sa‘d’s *Tabaqat*, Ahmad’s *Musnad* and the *Sunan* of Ad-Darmi. Yet its veracity is questionable.

The Prophet ﷺ was reared to have the best types of conduct and behavior. Later on, when he reached forty years of age, Allâh sent him His Messages. The Prophet ﷺ indeed conveyed the Message, fulfilled the trust, gave sincere advice to the *Ummah* and performed true *Jihâd* in Allâh's Cause, until Allâh sent down this *Âyah* to him:

﴿الْيَوْمَ أَكْمَلْتُ لَكُمْ دِينَكُمْ وَأَتِمَمْتُ عَلَيْكُمْ نِعْمَتِي وَرَضِيتُ لَكُمُ الْإِسْلَامَ دِينًا﴾

“This day, I have perfected your religion for you, completed My Favor upon you, and have chosen for you Islâm as your religion.” (5:3)

Also, the Prophet ﷺ said:

﴿تَرَكْتُكُمْ عَلَى الْمَحَجَّةِ الْبَيْضَاءِ﴾ .

“I have left you on the clear path...”

The Prophet ﷺ brought back the purity and magnificence of the easy *Hanifiyyah* (to worship none except Allâh), the religion of Prophet Ibrahim عليه السلام. He cleansed *Al-Hanifiyyah* from all practices of *Jahiliyyah*, and its deviant practices, that were added to it. Allâh gathered this *Ummah* around him after it was utterly divided, and when he finished his mission, Allâh joined him with the utmost company (in heaven).

O Allâh's slaves! We are required to appreciate Allâh for this tremendous bounty by striving hard to protect and preserve it. This can only be performed by obeying the Messenger of Allâh and imitating His *Sunnah*, while adhering to what he has commanded and refraining from what he has forbidden. We are required to love Muhammad ﷺ more than we love our own selves, children, fathers and mothers. Indeed, all that is good and righteous is earned through obeying the Prophet ﷺ and imitating him. Allâh said:

﴿مَنْ يُطِيعِ الرَّسُولَ فَقَدْ أَطَاعَ اللَّهَ﴾

“He who obeys the Messenger (Muhammad ﷺ), has indeed obeyed Allâh.” (4:80)

﴿قُلْ إِنْ كُنْتُمْ تُحِبُّونَ اللَّهَ فَاتَّبِعُونِي يُحْبِبْكُمُ اللَّهُ وَيَغْفِرْ لَكُمْ ذُنُوبَكُمْ﴾

“Say (O Muhammad ﷺ to mankind): “If you (really) love Allâh, then follow me (i.e., accept Islâmic Monotheism, follow the Qur’ân and the *Sunnah*), Allâh will love you and forgive you your sins.” (3:31)

And:

﴿فَإِنْ لَمْ يَسْتَجِيبُوا لَكَ فَاعْلَمْ أَنَّمَا يَتَّبِعُونَ أَهْوَاءَهُمْ وَمَنْ أَضَلُّ مِمَّنِ اتَّبَعَ هَوَاهُ بِغَيْرِ هُدًى مِنَ اللَّهِ﴾

“But if they answer you not, then know that they only follow their own lusts. And who is more astray than one who follows his own lusts, without guidance from Allâh?” (28:50)

Loving the Prophet ﷺ requires obeying him, following in his footsteps and avoiding what he has forbidden. Therefore, every act of worship must and should conform to the guidance that this Messenger ﷺ has legislated. Moreover, every act of worship that does not conform to the Prophet’s legislation is a rejected *Bid’ah*, just as the Prophet ﷺ said:

«مَنْ عَمِلَ عَمَلًا لَيْسَ عَلَيْهِ أَمْرُنَا فَهُوَ رَدٌّ»

“Whoever performs an act that does not conform to our matter (religion) then it is rejected.”

And:

«وَإِيَّاكُمْ وَمُحَدَّثَاتِ الْأُمُورِ فَإِنَّ كُلَّ بَدْعَةٍ ضَلَالَةٌ»

“Beware of matters of innovation, for every *Bid’ah* is a heresy.”

O Allâh’s slaves! There are numerous *Bid’ah* that the ignorant and deviant persons have invented. One of these *Bid’ah* is repeated every year, in the lunar month of Rabi‘ Al-Awwal, when the Prophet’s birthday is celebrated. We should assert that celebrating *Al-Maulid*, or the Prophet’s birthday, is an evil *Bid’ah* that Allâh neither allowed nor legislated; those who invented it did so following their whims and desires. It is a *Bid’ah* because the Prophet ﷺ did not practice it in his *Sunnah*, nor did the Companions celebrate it, even though they are the best generation of this Muslim *Ummah* who sought all that is good and

beneficial. To the contrary, the *Bid'ah* of *Al-Maulid* was started in the sixth century after the *Hijrah* to imitate the Christians who used to celebrate Jesus' claimed birthday. The Prophet ﷺ sternly prohibited us from imitating the Christians in specific, when he said:

«لَا تَطْرُونِي كَمَا أَطَرَتِ النَّصَارَى ابْنَ مَرْيَمَ».

“Do not unduly praise me like the Christians unduly praised Jesus.”

In addition to the *Maulid* being a *Bid'ah*, there are many evil practices that occur during these celebration, such as invoking the Prophet ﷺ for help, for various needs and to relieve hardships and calamities. Many poems that contain *Shirk* are being recited during *Al-Maulid*, as well as objectionable mingling between men and women, which lures them into committing illegal sexual activities.

Another aspect of celebrating *Al-Maulid* is the extravagance in spending on its activities, paid by some people who might not pay the due *Zakât* on their wealth, even though paying the *Zakât* is a pillar of Islam. It is amazing that those who celebrate the *Maulid* do not practice the *Sunnah* of the Prophet ﷺ, nor refer to his law for judgment. They might not even pray, even though praying is the biggest practical pillar of Islam.

O Allâh's slaves! Allâh did not mention the Prophet's birthday in the Qur'ân, but mentioned sending him as a Prophet ﷺ, when He said:

﴿لَقَدْ مَنَّ اللَّهُ عَلَى الْمُؤْمِنِينَ إِذْ بَعَثَ فِيهِمْ رَسُولًا مِنْ أَنْفُسِهِمْ﴾

“Indeed, Allâh conferred a great favour on the believers when He sent among them a Messenger (Muhammad ﷺ) from among themselves.” (3:164)

And:

﴿هُوَ الَّذِي بَعَثَ فِي الْأُمِّيِّينَ رَسُولًا مِنْهُمْ﴾

“He it is Who sent among the unlettered ones a Messenger (Muhammad ﷺ) from among themselves.” (62:2)

This is because through Muhammad's Prophethood, Allâh's favor became apparent and complete. Ever since then, from the time Muhammad ﷺ was sent until he died, every minute of his life was a blessing for mankind. After his Prophethood started, the Prophet's entire life was spent in *Jihâd*, worshipping Allâh and benefiting Muslims. These blessings encompassed all his time as a Prophet ﷺ, not on any particular day or stance. Muslims should therefore imitate the Prophet ﷺ and implement his law on all days, hours and minutes of their life, not just in one day that falls in a certain month!

If the reason behind celebrating the *Maulid* was to resurrect the Prophet's guidance, commemorate his honor and qualities and recite his life story, as some people claim, then let them know that this is legislated all year long, but according to what Allâh has allowed. For instance, Allâh has legislated mentioning His Prophet ﷺ during certain acts of worship that are repeated every night and day, such as the *Adhan* (call to prayer), the *Iqamah* and during Friday speeches. Whenever one mentions Allâh during these acts of worship, he also mentions His Prophet afterwards. These acts are practiced throughout one's lifetime, not only one day a year. We should also assert that the prayer does not become complete and accepted, except by invoking Allâh for His blessing and Mercy for the Prophet ﷺ during the *Tashahud*. These are but a few of the instance during which Allâh has legislated mentioning the Prophet ﷺ, and this is the *Sunnah* that we should resurrect and implement, while shunning whatever *Bid'ah* people invent.

O Allâh's slaves! We have exposed the *Bid'ah* of celebrating the *Maulid*, in particular, so that we emphasize its evilness and invalidity. Also, it is a fact that the *Maulid* is celebrated in many countries and is usually mentioned in newspapers and other mass media outlets. This fact lures some ignorant Muslims towards liking and preferring this *Bid'ah* and encourages them to try to participate in it.

Let all Muslims know that celebrating the *Maulid* is an evil *Bid'ah*, even though many people practice and propagate it, so do not be deceived by their large numbers. We ask Allâh to guide us to adhere to

Allâh's Book and the *Sunnah* of His Prophet ﷺ, even if most people abandon this better path:

﴿ قُلْ إِنْ كُنْتُمْ تُحِبُّونَ اللَّهَ فَاتَّبِعُونِي يُحْبِبْكُمُ اللَّهُ وَيَغْفِرْ لَكُمْ ذُنُوبَكُمْ وَاللَّهُ غَفُورٌ رَحِيمٌ ﴾

○ قُلْ أَطِيعُوا اللَّهَ وَالرَّسُولَ فَإِنْ تَوَلَّوْا فَإِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يُحِبُّ الْكَافِرِينَ ﴿

“Say (O Muhammad ﷺ to mankind): ‘If you (really) love Allâh, then follow me (i.e. accept Islâmic Monotheism, follow the Qur’ân and the *Sunnah*), Allâh will love you and forgive you your sins. And Allâh is Oft-Forgiving, Most Merciful.’ Say (O Muhammad ﷺ): ‘Obey Allâh and the Messenger (Muhammad ﷺ).’ But if they turn away, then Allâh does not like the disbelievers.” (3:31,32)¹

¹ *Al-Khutab Al-Minbariyyah*, by Shaikh Salih Al-Fozan, vol. 1, p. 124