



Fatwa no. 19805

Q: What is the Islamic ruling on certain customs that take place here in

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Egypt, for example, an engaged man sending some gifts to his fiancée on religious occasions, such as Rajab, Sha`ban, Ramadan, the Day of `Ashura` (10th of Muharram), `Eid-ul-Fitr (the Festival of Breaking the Fast) and `Eid-ul-Adha (the Festival of the Sacrifice). Is this act Fard (obligatory) or Sunnah (supererogatory)? Would it be considered wrong on the part of the people who do so?

A: Exchange of gifts between people is one of the means that creates love and affection and removes hatred and ill-will from the hearts; it is therefore encouraged by the Shari`ah (Islamic law). The Prophet (peace be upon him) [\(used to accept gifts and give gifts in return.\)](#) Based upon this teaching Muslims act, all praise be to Allah. But if a gift is associated with an unlawful reason, this is not permissible, such as gifts given on the Day of `Ashura`, Rajab, on the occasion of a birthday, or other newly-invented matters in the religion, as this falls under supporting what is wrong and participating in Bid`ah (innovation in religion). May Allah grant us success! May peace and blessings be upon our Prophet, his family, and Companions!

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Source: Fatwas of the Permanent Committee