



Fatwa no. 2734

Q: I am a preacher and religious leader in Tabuk. I am the Imam (leader) for the congregational Salahs (Prayers) and Jumu`ah (Friday) Prayers in one of the Masjids (mosques). I have established a library that contains a lot of valuable books on the Sunnah (what was reported from the Prophet) and I teach Hadith, Fiqh (jurisprudence), Tawhid (monotheism), and Tafsir (exegesis of the Qur'an). I also treat the sick with lawful Ruqyah (reciting Qur'an and saying supplications over the sick seeking healing) that are confirmed to have been transmitted from the Messenger of Allah (peace be upon him) in Sahih (authentic) Hadith. For example, I use the Ruqyah that he used for his family and Sahabah (Companions), and the Ruqyah that Jabril (Gabriel, peace be upon him) used for him. I do not use anything other than what was mentioned in the Hadith, and of course, you know that Ruqyah has been confirmed by the books of Sunnah. The supplications that I use most for Ruqyah are those mentioned in the books of Shaykh Al-Islam, such as "Idah Al-Dalalah fy `Umum Al-Risalah" and other well-known books, and books written by Ibn Al-Qayyim, such as "Zad Al-Ma`ad." It is well known that I receive a fee for doing this, and I do so based on the evidence given in the Two Sahihs (Al-Bukhary and Muslim's

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Abu Sa`id Al-Khudry, which gave evidence of the permissibility of saying Ruqyah and receiving fee for doing so, and the Hadith will be well-known to Your Eminence. This enables me to take a wage and saves me from begging for money, and as I am blind, have straitened family circumstances, and am not fortunate enough to be employed, so knowing that it is legally permissible, I take a fee. However, some ignorant people have objected to my doing so, without any evidence, therefore I am now asking Allah and then Your Eminence to help me by issuing a Fatwa (legal opinion issued by a qualified Muslim scholar) to explain what is needed to be explained, so that I can be well-informed and be more convincing to those who object to me taking a fee due to ignorance. But if you see that what I am doing is wrong, please advise me with what will convince me, and I will not oppose you.

A: If the reality of your situation is as you mentioned, that you treat the sick with the lawful Ruqyah, you only treat people using what was confirmed from the Prophet (peace be upon him), and that you keenly refer to what the scholar Ibn Taymiyyah (may Allah show mercy to him) said in his well-known books and what the scholar Ibn Qayyim Al-Jawziyyah (may Allah show mercy to him) said in "Zad Al-Ma`ad," and other similar books of Ahl-ul-Sunnah wal-Jama`ah (those adhering to the Sunnah and the Muslim community), your work is permissible and your methods commendable, and you will be rewarded for it, if Allah wills. There is no problem in taking a fee for doing this, according to the Hadith narrated on the authority of Abu Sa`id Al-Khudry (may Allah be pleased with him) that you referred to in your question. We also ask Allah to reward you for the work you mentioned, such as preaching, guiding, teaching, leading Salah in the Masjid and establishing a library there containing valuable books written by Ahl-ul-Sunnah wal-Jama`ah.

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We ask Allah to reward you with the best for the good you did to your brothers and we hope that Allah will grant you more success in doing good and grant you from His Bounty to prevent you from having to beg from anyone. Allah (may He be Glorified) is Near and responds to Du`a'.

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

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