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Bid'ahs introduced in 'Eids

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The first question of Fatwa no. 5738

Q 1: Is it permissible to celebrate religious 'Eids (festivals) such as the Mawlid (the Prophet's birthday) and the 15th night of Sha'ban etc., according to the occasion?

A: (a) It is not permissible to celebrate innovated 'Eids.

(b) The Sunnah approves only two 'Eids in Islam, i.e. 'Eid-ul-Adha (the Festival of the Sacrifice) and 'Eid-ul-Fitr (the Festival of Breaking the Fast). During these two days, it is permissible for Muslims to rejoice and show happiness, and do the rituals that Allah (Glorified be He) has ordained during them such as Salat-ul-'Eid (the Festival Prayer) and the like. But it is unlawful to practice any Haram (prohibited) matters.

(c) It is not permissible to celebrate the birth of the Prophet (peace be upon him) or that of any other person, because the Messenger of Allah (peace be upon him) did not celebrate his birthday nor did he enjoin Muslims to do so. Likewise, the Sahabah (Companions of the Prophet, may Allah be pleased with them) did not celebrate the birth of the Prophet (peace be upon him) and neither did the Salaf (righteous predecessors) in the three best generations. Indeed, all goodness lies in following their way.

(d) Celebrating the 15th night of Sha'ban is a Bid'ah (innovation in religion) and so is the celebration of the twenty-seventh night of Rajab which some people

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call the Night of Isra' (Night Journey) and Mi'raj (Ascension to Heaven) as mentioned in part (c). Allah is the One sought for help.

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

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