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Fatwa no. 18723

Q: Here in Yemen, we have a printed material that is issued every Hijri (lunar) year entitled: (Calendar of Yemeni Astronomer, known as the calendar of Bayt Al-Faqih), produced by Mahdy Amin. It should be mentioned that this man died, but his grandson, Ahmad Muhammad Mahdy Amin, is still publishing and distributing thousands of copies of this release all over the cities and villages of Yemen. This calendar shows people's horoscope and luck as well as the future horoscope of people in authority, Yemeni regions and Arab countries, and also shows what will happen in the Hijri months all over the year. Its owner mentions the following in the calendar in page 3 for year 1417 A.H.: (The Yemeni Astronomer looks into your horoscope and luck as well as the future using stars, the sciences of Jafr (knowing the predestination and the Unseen), Al-Zirgah (knowing the answers of certain questions in a certain way) and Sand (knowing the Unseen by drawing some lines in the sand...etc). However, many of the common laymen and semi-educated people believe in and appreciate this calendar. Attached is a copy of it for clarification. My question is:

- a- Is it permissible to write, publish and distribute it?
- b- What is the ruling on whoever distributes, sells, or buys it?
- c- Is it permissible to read and believe in all or part of what is mentioned in it?

And what should be the response to anyone who claims that some of that which is mentioned in it occurs?

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d- What is the ruling on money earned from publishing, writing, printing, distributing or selling it?

A: It is impermissible to make, publish, sell or distribute this calendar, for it includes false sayings that denote Kufr (disbelief) and Shirk (associating others with Allah in His Divinity or worship), as it involves claiming the knowledge of Ghayb (the Unseen) and the good or bad future events occurring to countries and people, which is definitely an act of Kufr in Allah (Glorified and Exalted be He). This also constitutes a false claim of sharing with Allah (Exalted be He) the Knowledge of the Ghayb that is known only to Him, as He (Exalted be He) says: ("(He Alone is) the All-Knower of the Ghaib (Unseen), and He reveals to none His Ghaib (Unseen).") (Except to a Messenger (from mankind) whom He has chosen (He informs him of unseen as much as He likes)) And: (Say: "None in the heavens and the earth knows the Ghaib (Unseen) except Allâh") The Prophet (peace be upon him) also said: (Anyone who goes to a soothsayer or a diviner and believes what he says, has disbelieved in what was revealed to Muhammad.) (peace be upon him). Therefore, this calendar must not be published and should be destroyed. Moreover, whoever publishes or promotes it should be legally punished by rulers with an equitable punishment according to Shari'ah (Islamic law) to protect Muslims' 'Aqidah (creed) from Shirk and Kufr, deter callers to falsehood, and to fulfill the duty of enjoining good and forbidding evil.

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Furthermore, this should be restricted to the calculations of the regular Hijri months, Salah (Prayer) times, times of throwing seeds and similar beneficial issues to people without violating the 'Aqidah.

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

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Source: Fatwas of the Permanent Committee

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