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The second question of Fatwa no. 13961

Q 2: On the ninth and tenth of Muharram, Muslims wake up early, go to rivers and swim there. They claim that Allah (Exalted be He) replaces the water on this day with fresh water. After sunrise, men and women shake hands. What is the ruling on this in Islam?

A: Men swimming with women and then shaking hands on the ninth and tenth of Muharram is a great Munkar (that which is unacceptable or disapproved of by Islamic law and Muslims of sound intellect) and impermissible. Those who do so must be reprovved, and the governor should stop them from doing so. 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