



19- Ruling on poems that excessively praise the Prophet during Mawlid celebrations

Q: What is the ruling on celebrating the Mawlid (the Prophet's birthday) every Friday night? There is a book titled "Al-Mawlid Ar-Rabi`y" which contains many poems praising the Messenger (peace be upon him), many invocations of blessings and peace on the Prophet and praises him a lot. It also narrates the Sirah (the Prophet's biography) from birth to death. Please explain this issue and present your evidence.

A: Celebrating the birthday of the Prophet (peace be upon him), or that of any other person, is baseless in Shari`ah (Islamic law) and has no supporting evidence. The Prophet (peace be upon him) did not do this during his life, nor did his Rightly-Guided Caliphs who were the most knowledgeable of the Sunnah of the Prophet (peace be upon him) and the most beloved to him. The Sahabah (Companions of the Prophet Muhammad) after his death did not celebrate his birthday, nor did the Tabi`un (Followers, the generation after the Companions of the Prophet) during all early centuries of Islam, renowned as the best. This is an indication that celebrating it is Bid`ah (innovation in religion). However, studying the biography of the Prophet (peace be upon him) by having a scholar to teach it to people at any time of the day or the night, once or twice a week, or more or less, is good and praiseworthy. Studying the biography of the Prophet (peace be upon him) and explaining his habits during his travels and while at home and studying his manners and actions are necessary in order for people to follow his example. However, devoting attention to poems of excessive praise and specifying a certain time for such gatherings, on the twelfth of Rabi` Awwal or other dates with the intention of studying his biography from the time of his birth and chanting polytheistic poems during these celebrations;

(Part No. 3; Page No. 79)

such as the Al-Burdah poem and other poetry are disapproved of by Shari`ah and have no supporting evidence. What is prescribed is to encourage people to read at home and learn in the Masjids (mosques) like all other lessons through which the biography of the Prophet (peace be upon him) is taught and his teachings are explained. People should learn about his birth, how he lived and then learn about his actions in deeds or words; particularly after Prophethood so that believers will follow his example and benefit from this study. As for what people do of celebrating his birthday during the month of Rabi` Awwal, slaughter animals, prepare banquets, recite overly laudatory poems and their standing up at a certain time, saying: "He (peace be upon him) has come", and then all those present stand up for him, are all baseless condemned Bid`ah. Moreover, they are a means that lead to falling into Shirk, as in some of these celebrations people exceed the limits, over praise the Prophet (peace be upon him), seek help from him and ask him for support and victory, in addition to other acts of associating partners with Allah. Furthermore, some false and fabricated Hadiths are read in such celebrations, and in some places there is free mixing between men and women and many other evil practices that take place at these gatherings. Therefore, one must be on guard against this. It is not allowed to hold such celebrations because they are against what Allah (Glorified and Exalted be He) has legislated. If there were any good in these celebrations, the Sahabah would have been the first to hold them and they would have been followed by their successors. These gatherings were introduced by the Fatimids during the fourth century after Hijrah and then spread to many places. Therefore, it is not permissible for people of sound mind to be deceived by the Fatimids, known by

denying (the caliphates of Abu Bakr Al-Siddiq and `Umar ibn Al-Khattab and making accusations against them and many other Companions of the Prophet) and Shiism, or to take them as their guide in this regard. We ask Allah to grant us all guidance and safety from misleading trials!

(Part No. 3; Page No. 80)

Source: Fatwas of Nur `Ala Al-Darb