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Fatwa no. 3783

Q: Dear Chairman and members of the Fatwa Committee, there are some villages here in Jordan, particularly in my village of Kharja, where they continually read the birth story of the Messenger Muhammad (peace be upon him) in the following manner:

- 1. A group of men, which sometimes also includes some women, read the birth story of the Prophet (peace be upon him). In this story are claims such as: "Anyone whose name is Muhammad will be called by a summoner from Allah on the Day of Resurrection, and it will be said to them: Enter Paradise in honor of Muhammad (peace be upon him)," and "Anyone who invokes blessings upon Muhammad (peace be upon him) thousand times, Allah will prohibit the Fire from touching their body," and "When `Abdullah, the father of Muhammad (peace be upon him), married Aminah one hundred women in Makkah died, because they had not married `Abdullah." Also, when the narrator reaches the part relating the Prophet's mother giving birth to him, everyone stands up; and when they read the part about his birth, they recite it, to show respect for Muhammad (peace be upon him). There are even more exaggerated acts performed in a birthday commemoration called Mawlid Al-'Arawy.**
- 2. They put some barley in the middle of the gathering and burn incense. After the recitation, everyone takes a small amount of the barley, over which the birth story of the Prophet (peace be upon him) is recited, to be used in treating any illness.**
- 3. During the celebrations, some women utter Zagharid (trilling cries of joy) by the door of the room where the birth story of the Prophet (peace be upon him) is being told, to express their happiness at the recitation, in front of the men. No one objects to any of this, except me.**

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I, on my part, have objected and denounced their acts, for I have heard many of your Fatwas (legal opinions issued by a qualified Muslim scholar) on the radio, but they do not listen to me.

A: Firstly: It is permissible and encouraged to read the Sirah (the Prophet's biography) to learn the rites and acts of 'Ibadah (worship) that the Prophet (peace be upon him) used to perform, in words and deeds, and learn about his noble manners. However, gathering regularly, at a certain time, to specifically relate the story of the Prophet's birth is a detestable Bid'ah (innovation in religion) that neither took place during the lifetime of the Prophet (peace be upon him) nor that of the first three generations of Islam, which the Prophet (peace be upon him) attested to their being the best of all. It is authentically reported that he (peace be upon him) said: [\(Anyone who does an action which is not in accordance with this matter of ours \(Islam\) will have it rejected.\)](#) The Prophet (peace be upon him) also said: [\(Anyone who introduces anything into this matter of ours \(Islam\) that is not part of it will have it rejected.\)](#) Regarding the part you mentioned from the story that is read by them, about the reward in the afterlife and the death of a hundred women in Makkah upon the marriage between

`Abdullah and Aminah, because they could not marry him, neither of these are confirmed historically nor are they authentically reported from the Prophet (peace be upon him). Even if they were confirmed historically, this could not be used as evidence for the lawfulness of celebrating Al-Mawlid Al-Nabawy (the Prophet's birthday).

Secondly: Putting barley or anything else in the middle of a gathering, burning incense, and then distributing the barley, hoping to obtain blessings from the recitation of the story of the Prophet's birth over it, seeking healing through it and believing in its blessing, are condemned Bid'ah and a corruption of the 'Aqidah (creed).

Thirdly: Women expressing their happiness at the recitation of the story of the Prophet's birth by uttering Zagharid

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and their mixing with the men is Munkar (unacceptable or disapproved of by Islamic law and Muslims of sound intellect) and constitutes a source of a Fitnah (temptation) that may lead to immorality - may Allah save us from this!

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