



(Part No. 1; Page No. 590)

The fourth question of Fatwa no. 8924

Q: When a baby is born, the father calls one of the shaykhs to foretell the newborn's future through signs of zodiac and consult on its name. If a suggested name suits the baby's future, the shaykh will be silent, otherwise he will ask for it to be changed, and it often happens that people here end up with multiple names. It is authentically related that the Prophet (peace be upon him) ordered some offensive names to be changed; if a name is not offensive, is it permissible to change it?

A: Firstly: It is not permissible to foretell the future; it is regarded a type of soothsaying. It is also not permissible to change a name if it does not suit predictions, as this involves believing in soothsaying and what soothsayers do.

Secondly: It is permissible to change offensive names, following the example of the Prophet (peace be upon him). There is also no harm in changing them even if they are not offensive, if it is not connected with its suitability for a child's future or any other similar reason, provided that it does not lead to the loss of anyone's rights.

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

The Permanent Committee for Scholarly Research and Ifta'

Member	Member	Deputy Chairman	Chairman
`Abdullah ibn Qa`ud	`Abdullah ibn Ghudayyan	`Abdul-Razzaq `Afify	`Abdul-`Aziz ibn `Abdullah ibn Baz