

# Should we Celebrate the Birthday of the Prophet?

**Question:** Is it permissible for Muslims to celebrate in the mosque, in order to remember the life of the noble Prophet on the night of the twelfth of Rabe' al-Awwal on the occasion of the birthday of the noble Prophet, may the peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him, without turning the day into a holiday, like the 'Eid? We are in disagreement over it. Some say it is a good innovation and some say it is a bad one.

**Answer:** It is not permissible for Muslims to organise celebrations for the birthday of the Prophet (*may the peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him*) on the night of the 12th Rabe' al-Awwal, nor on any other night. Neither is it permissible for them to organise celebrations for any other person's birthday, because celebrating a birthday is an innovation in the religion, for indeed the Prophet (*may the peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him*) did not celebrate his own birthday at any time in his life, and he was the conveyor of this Religion and the one who carried out the rulings conveyed to him from his Lord, the most Glorified. And he did not command others to celebrate it neither the righteous Caliphs, nor the rest of his Companions. And none of the successive generation known as the *taabi'een* celebrated the birthday either and neither those who followed them! And they were the best of mankind and the closest to the Prophet in terms of following his example and in terms of their love of him. Allaah's Messenger (*may the peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him*) said, **"The best of mankind is my generation, then those who follow them, and then those who follow them."** (Reported by al-Bukhaaree)

So we therefore state it is a forbidden innovation known as a *bid'ah*. And the Messenger (*may the peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him*) stated, **"Whoever innovates into this affair of ours that which is not from it, will have it rejected."** (Reported by al-Bukhaaree). And in a variant wording, he stated, **"Whoever performs a deed which is not from this affair of ours, will have it rejected."** (Reported by Muslim). So whether one initiates a new act of worship or merely imitates an innovated act in worship, it is rejected by Allaah since it is not in conformity with the revealed texts. Acts of worship are done based only upon revelation contained in the Qur'aan and Prophetic Sunnah, one is not allowed to introduce new acts of worship into the Religion. And this is due to the fact that our religion has been completed and perfected, as Allaah has said, **"This day I have perfected your religion for you, completed my favour upon you and I am pleased with Islaam as your religion."** (*Qur'aan* 5:3). That which has been completed and perfected by the Lord of the universe requires no further perfection or completion or addition!

Allaah, the Most High, forbade any legislation or worship to

be added to His completed Religion, **"Or have they partners alongside Allaah who have legislated for them from the Religion that which Allaah has not ordained."** (*Qur'aan* 42:21)

So celebrating the birthday of the Prophet is a newly invented religious act, which does not conform with the texts of the Qur'aan and Prophetic guidance. It was innovated into this pure Religion centuries after the passing away of Allaah's Messenger (*may the peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him*). The Prophet (*may the peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him*) used to say during his Friday sermon, **"Verily, the best speech is the Book of Allaah, and the best guidance is the guidance of Muhammad, and the worst of all affairs are the newly invented matters (in religion), and every innovation is misguidance. And every misguidance is in the Fire."** (Reported by Muslim and an-Nasaa'ee).

If celebrating the Prophet's birthday had been legislated, the earlier generations would have been the first to celebrate it, since they were the best of generations and the closest to the noble Prophet and the most beloved to him from mankind. The Companions of the Prophet would have been the first to enact the celebration had it been legislated or something good, and they would have called others to it, and the knowledge of it would have been present in their authentically reported statements and actions. Yet this celebration was unknown to the earliest three generations of noble believers, and is rejected by religious text. So the Muslim should keep away from these newly innovated celebrations, for they do not bring you closer to Allaah and nor increase you in goodness. In these times we find certain Muslim sects gathering in the streets, or in mosques and houses making dhikr and distributing sweets and gifts in celebration of the birthday of the Prophet. All of this is forbidden, regardless of how beautiful it may seem.

## Is the Light of the Prophet from Allaah's Light?

**Answer:** The light of the Prophet (*may the peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him*) is the light of the Message and the Guidance by which Allaah guides whom He wills from amongst His creatures. Without doubt, the light of the Message and the light of Guidance are from Allaah. He, the Most High, says, "It is not given to any human being that Allaah should speak to him unless it be by inspiration, or from behind a veil, or that He sends a Messenger to reveal what He wills by His leave. Verily, He is Most High, Most Wise. And thus We have sent to you (O Muhammad) an inspiration of Our command. You knew not what is the Book, nor what is Faith. **But We have made it (this Qur'aan) a light wherewith We guide whosoever of Our slaves We will.** And verily, you (O Muhammad) are indeed guiding mankind to the Straight Path. The Path of Allaah,

**Question:** Was the light of Muhammad (*may the peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him*) from the Light of Allaah, or from some other light?

to whom belongs all that is in the heavens and all that is in the earth..." (*Qur'aan* 42:51)

Allaah's Messenger was created from a father and a mother and he was a human being. Allaah, the Most High stated, **"Say (O Prophet), 'Indeed I am only a man like yourselves.'" (*Qur'aan* 18:110).** And the Messenger (*may the peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him*) said, **"Indeed I am a man like yourselves, I forget like you forget. So if I forgot, then remind me."** (Reported by Bukhaaree and Muslim). The affirmation of these texts does not entail any belittlement of our noble Prophet, indeed we clearly state as Allaah's Messenger (*may the peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him*) stated, **"...and the best guidance is the guidance of Muhammad."** (Reported by Muslim). And Allaah, the Most High, said, **"Say (O Prophet), if you truly love Allaah then follow me and then Allaah will love you and forgive you your sins."** (*Qur'aan* 3:31). And His saying, **"Indeed in the Messenger of Allaah, you have a fine example."** (*Qur'aan* 33:21)

As for narrations which claim that Allaah created the light of the Prophet Muhammad or that Allaah filled His Hand with light from His Face and that this handful of light was Muhammad, or that Allaah created the whole of creation from the light of the Prophet Muhammad, then none of these narrations can authentically be attributed to Allaah's Messenger (*may the peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him*). It is not permissible to describe the Prophet with descriptions that are not established in the Qur'aan and Sunnah. We find in our times some Muslim sects claiming that the Prophet (*may the peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him*) was not a human and that he was light and that he has knowledge of the unseen and that he is present in gatherings etc. All of this is falsehood not supported by any evidence.

## Does the Prophet have knowledge of the Unseen and can we seek aid from him?

**Question:** There are people who believe that the Prophet is light from the light of Allaah, and that he was not a human and that he has knowledge of the unseen and we should seek deliverance, rescue and aid from him, believing that the Prophet possesses the ability to bring about benefit and harm. What is the ruling regarding this?

**Answer:** Whoever believes that the Prophet (*may the peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him*), is light from the light of Allaah and not a human being, and that he has knowledge of the Unseen, then he has disbelieved in Allaah and His Messenger. He cannot be considered a friend or ally (*walee*) of Allaah, because this statement entails rejection of the sayings of Allaah and His Messenger. The proof for this is, **"Say (O Prophet), 'I am a man like yourselves.'" (Al-Kahf: 110),** and His statement, **"Say (O Prophet), 'None in the heavens and the earth knows the**

**Unseen except Allaah.’”** (An-Naml: 65), and His statement, **“Say (O Prophet), ‘I do not tell you that with me are the treasures of Allaah, nor that I know the Unseen, nor do I say to you that I am an Angel. I but follow what is revealed to me.’”** (Al-An’aam: 50). The Most High also said, **“Say (O Muhammad), ‘I possess no power of benefit or hurt upon myself except as Allaah wills. If I had knowledge of the Unseen, I would have secured for myself an abundance of wealth, and no evil would have touched me. I am but a warner and bringer of glad tidings to people who believe.’”** (Al-A’raaf: 188)

As for seeking divine aid and rescue, then we seek it only from Allaah, the Most High. To seek aid or rescue from the Messenger of Allaah is *shirk* or polytheism, i.e. to associate partners with Allaah in worship. Allaah stated in the Qur’aan, **“And your Lord said, ‘Invoke Me and I will respond to you.’ Verily, those who scorn my worship they will surely enter Hell in disgrace.”** (Ghaafir: 60) And His statement, **“Say (O Muhammad), ‘It is not in my power to cause you harm, or to bring you to the Right Path.’ Say (O Muhammad), ‘None can protect me from Allaah’s punishment, nor should I find refuge except in Him.’”** (Al-Jinn: 21-22). We also have the statement of the Prophet (*may the peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him*) to his family members, **“I cannot avail you with Allaah anything.”** (Reported by Bukhaaree and Muslim). If this is what the Prophet (*may the peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him*) said to his own daughter, Faatimah, then how much more is that true for other than his own family?!

## Is the Prophet alive now and did he die?

**Question:** Is the Prophet (*may the peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him*) alive now? Did he ever die? Many people say that he never died and he is alive now.

**Answer:** Our Prophet (*may the peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him*) is alive in his grave, living the life of the *Barzakh*, where he is enjoying the ease and comfort which Allaah has prepared for him as a fitting reward for that which he earned in the life of this world. But his soul is not returned to him in the manner it was when he was in the world and nor in the manner as it will be on the Day of Resurrection. Rather, it is the life of the *Barzakh*, which is in between the life of this world and the life of the Hereafter. And every one will go through these stages. Based upon this, it is clear that the Messenger of Allaah died, just as the Prophets before him died. The exception being ‘Eesaa bin Maryam (Jesus the son of Mary), may the peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him, who was raised up to the heavens and will descend at the end of time, after which he will die.

Allaah, the Most High, said, **“And We granted not immortality to any human being before you (O Muhammad). Then if you are to die, would they live forever?”** (Al-Anbiya: 34). He also stated, **“Whatsoever is on earth will perish. And the Face of your Lord, full of Majesty and Honour will abide forever.”** (Ar-Rahmaan: 26-27). Allaah informed the Messenger Muhammad in a clear verse of the Qur’aan, **“Verily, you (O Muhammad) will die and verily, they too will die.”** (Az-Zumar: 30). And there are many other such examples among the verses which prove that Allaah brought death to the Prophet Muhammad (*may the peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him*). The Companions washed his body and prayed over him and buried him. Had they considered him to be alive, as in the life of this world, they would not have buried him in the ground!

And just to seal this discussion, when Allaah’s Messenger died, his closest friend, Companion and successor, Abu Bakr (*may Allaah be pleased with him*) entered and kissed the Messenger’s forehead and said, **“May my mother and father be your ransom! You were good in life and in death.”** And he then said, **“He who worshipped Muhammad, then know that Muhammad has died. But he who worships Allaah, then Allaah is above the sky, He lives and does not die.”** (Authentically reported by Ad-Daarimee)

*This article was based upon the verdicts of some of the great Scholars and Jurists of Islaam, such as Shaykh Ibn Baaz and Shaikh Ibn ‘Uthaimeen.*

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## COMMON DOUBTS REGARDING THE PROPHET

# MUHAMMAD

*May the abundant peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him*

Is his birthday a celebration?

Was he light?

Does he know the Unseen?

Will he answer your call?

Is he dead or alive?

“Verily (O Muhammad) for you there will be an endless reward and verily you are upon an exalted standard of character”

(Qur’aan 68:3,4)