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## From the manners of eating food

Translated by Abbas Abu Yahya

Article taken and slightly adapted from: [followingthesunnah.wordpress.com](http://followingthesunnah.wordpress.com)

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Taken from 'Silsilah Ahadeeth As-Saheehah'<sup>1</sup>

No. 71 – From AbdurRahman bin Jubayr (rad iyallaahu `anhu)<sup>2</sup> who said: a man who used to serve the Messenger of Allaah (صلى الله عليه وسلم)<sup>3</sup> for eight years narrated to him: that he used to hear the Messenger of Allaah (صلى الله عليه وسلم) say when food was brought close to him:

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ

In the name of Allaah (*Bismillaah*)'

When he would finish he would say:

اللهم أطعمت وأسقيت وأقنيت وهديت وأحييت، فله الحمد على ما أعطيت

(Allaahumma Attamta, wassqayta, wa Aqnayta, wa Haadayta wa Ahayata, Fallak al-Hamd ala ma A'aatayta)

O Allaah! You fed, You gave drink, You satisfied, You guided, You gave life, so for You is praise for what You have given.'

Shaykh Albaanee (rahimahullaah)<sup>4</sup> said:

'And in this hadeeth it mentions that saying '*Bismillaah*' (in the name of Allaah) is done when you begin to eat, and that you do not add anything extra to that '*Bismillaah*'.

All the authentic ahadeeth which have been mentioned regarding this topic, such as this hadeeth do not mention any extra wording, and I am not aware of it being mentioned in any hadeeth. Any extra wording is a bida'<sup>5</sup> according to the Fuqaha<sup>6</sup> with the meaning of a real bida', as for the blind followers then their answer is well-known: 'What's wrong with extra wording?!'

In fact we say: everything is wrong with it. Since it is a form of trying to amend the One who legislated the Deen<sup>7</sup>, The Wise, Who never left anything whatsoever which will bring us closer to Allaah except that He ordered us with it and legislated it upon us.

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<sup>1</sup> Taken from Silsilah Ahadeeth as-Saheehah by Shaykh al-Albaanee (No. 71)

<sup>2</sup> (rad iyallaahu `anhu) May Allaah be pleased with him

<sup>3</sup> (صلى الله عليه وسلم) May the peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him

<sup>4</sup> (rahimahullaah) May Allaah have mercy on him

<sup>5</sup> Bid'ah denotes any newly invented matter that is without precedent and is in opposition to the Qur'aan and Sunnah.

<sup>6</sup> Scholars of Fiqh

<sup>7</sup> The Religion (Islam)

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Therefore, if it was legislated to add extra wording to '*Bismillaah*' and there was nothing wrong with that, then the Messenger (صلى الله عليه وسلم) would have added an extra wording, even once. And is this extra wording added to saying '*Bismillaah*' not like the extra wording added on to sending *Sallat*<sup>8</sup> (Praise) upon the Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) when someone sneezes and adds the *Sallat* (Praise) after saying '*Alhamdulillah*'<sup>9</sup>.

Abdullaah ibn Umar (rad iyallaahu `anhu) rejected this bida' as is mentioned in the 'Mustadrak' of al-Hakim, and reaffirmed by Suyootee in 'al-Haaweeya liifatawaa' that it is a disliked bida', so can the blind followers (*al-Muqalidoon*) give a reply to the reason which made Suyootee reaffirm that it is a bida'!!

Some of the negligent people among them hastily accuse Suyootee – as is their habit to do so – that he is a Wahaabee! Even though Suyootee's death took place before the death of Muhammad bin AbdulWahhab by about three hundred years!!

This reminds me of a strange story which took place in some of the schools in Damascus. One of the famous teachers from amongst the Christians was talking about the movement of Muhammad bin AbdulWahhab in the Arabian Peninsula, and how they fought against *Shirk*<sup>10</sup>, bida' and superstitions, and it seems as if he praised that movement, so some of his students said: it is evident that the teacher is a Wahhabee!!

Some of the other people, perhaps said that Suyootee was incorrect, however, where is the proof for this?! On the contrary the proof is with Suyootee which is the saying of the Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم): '**Whoever innovates something in this matter of ours that which is not of it, then it will be rejected.**'<sup>11</sup>

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<sup>8</sup> *Sallat* is sent upon the Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) by saying *sall Allaahu 'alaihi wa sallam* (صلى الله عليه وسلم).

<sup>9</sup> *Alhamdulillah* (الحمد لله): All praise and thanks are Allaah's

<sup>10</sup> *Shirk*: *Shirk* is ascribing a partner to Allaah in terms of His *Ruboobeeyah* (Lordship), *Asma wa Sifaat* (Names and Attributes) and *Ulooheeyah* (Worship). The common type of *Shirk* is the *Shirk* in *Ulooheeyah*, which entails supplicating others along with Allaah, or dedicating to them worships such as, offerings, vows, reverence, fear, hope, and devotional love.

<sup>11</sup> Collected by Bukhaaree and Muslim