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## Acts of Bid`ah when offering condolences -1

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of Allaah, the Most Merciful, the Bestower of Mercy

**Question:** We are asking about a phenomenon spreading in many Muslim countries, which is done by the bereaved family after finishing the burial of the deceased person. They set up large tents or something wherein the bereaved family gather after lighting it up. They hold it in a square or a street to receive people, where they serve coffee, tea, and other drinks. In addition, they bring a reciter to recite the Qur'aan in return for fees. If this is not possible, they play a cassette recorder to listen to the Qur'aan. On the third night, they serve a banquet for everyone. What is the advice of Your Eminence? Is it permissible to take part in it?

**Shaykh Abdul-Azeez ibn Baaz** (رَحِمَهُ اللَّهُ)<sup>1</sup>: Such ceremonies are Bid`ah (innovation in religion) that is not permissible to hold or participate in, because it was authentically reported that Jareer ibn `Abdullah Al-Bajaly (may Allaah be pleased with him) said: [**We used to consider sitting with the family of the deceased and making food for mourners after burial as a sort of wailing.**]<sup>2</sup> However, it is an act of the Sunnah (whatever is reported from the Prophet) to serve food for the bereaved family by their relatives and neighbours. It was authentically reported that the Prophet (peace be upon him) said to his family when he was informed of the death of Ja`far ibn Aboo Taalib (may Allaah be pleased with him): [**Serve meals to the family of Ja`far, as they are too grieved.**]<sup>3</sup> We ask Allaah to grant the Muslims success to what makes them safe and protects their religion and worldly life, He is All-Hearer, Ever Near.

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<sup>1</sup> (رَحِمَهُ اللَّهُ) (rahimahullaah) May Allaah have mercy on him

<sup>2</sup> Related by Imaam Ahmad with an authentic chain of narration

<sup>3</sup> Reported by Imaam Ahmad and the compilers of Sunnan through an authentic chain of narrators