
Acts of Bid`ah when offering condolences -2

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

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

Question: In Syria, we have different and sometimes strange customs. For example, when someone dies, people rush to offer condolences carrying what they can afford of food articles such as sugar, rice, and so on, for a week or more.

They sit to chat and have tea and cigarettes, particularly narghile. They keep sitting for a long time. Each day after `Asr Salaah (Afternoon Prayer), they recite what is called Khatmah (completing of one reading of the whole Qur'aan), where each of them recites a Juz' (a 30th of the Qur'aan) of the Qur'aan. Then, they dedicate the reward of this recitation to the deceased. Sometimes two persons exchange the recitation of the same part, where each one recites one page and stops in order for the other to complete the following page, so as to recite the Juz' quickly.

The same thing reoccurs at the fortieth day, but this time it starts after Dhuhr (Noon) Prayer after serving one or two banquets for lunch. What is your opinion about this? May Allaah reward you with the best.

Shaykh Abdul-Azeez ibn Baaz (رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ)¹: Praise be to Allaah. Really, offering condolences to the bereaved family is permissible as is the case with sending them food, because the Prophet (peace be upon him) [told his family to serve meals to the family of Ja`far ibn Aboo Taalib when he was informed of the news of his death and said: "They are too grieved."] The gathering of the bereaved family or others for a day or more to recite the Qur'aan and dedicate the rewards to the deceased is a baseless Bid`ah that has no origin in the purified Sharee'ah (Islamic law).

The same applies to what you have mentioned concerning what is done on the fortieth day; this has no origin in the purified Sharee'ah.

Smoking is Munkar (that which is unacceptable or disapproved of by Islamic law and Muslims of sound intellect) at all times, resulting in a great deal of harm.

We ask Allaah to keep Muslims safe from all evils, to grant them success in following the Sunnah, and being careful in all their affairs, He is the Most Generous. May Allaah grant us success.

¹ (رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ) (rahimahullaah) May Allaah have mercy on him