

Valentine's Day

The Permanent Committee for Scholarly Research and Ifta'

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

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

Question: Some people celebrate Valentine's Day on February 14 by exchanging red roses, dressing in red, and congratulating one another on that day. Some cake shops make heart-shaped cakes in red and draw hearts on them and other shops advertise special items on sale for this day. What is your opinion on:

First: Celebrating this day?

Second: Buying from these stores on this day?

Third: Shop owners who do not celebrate this day selling gifts to those who do celebrate it?

May Allaah reward you with the best.

Answer: The clear-cut evidence from the Qur'aan and Sunnah, upon which the Salaf (righteous predecessors) of this Ummah (nation based on one creed) of this Ummah unanimously agree, confirms that there are only two `Eids (festivals) in Islaam: `Eid-ul-Fitr (the Festival of Breaking the Fast) and `Eid-ul-Adha (the Festival of the Sacrifice). Any other festival, whether peculiar to a person, a group, an event or stands for any meaning whatever, is an invented festival that is not permissible for Muslims to celebrate, approve of, enjoy, or support in any way, because this is considered to be a transgression of the Boundaries of Allaah. Anyone who transgresses the boundaries set by Allaah has wronged themselves. If we add to this fabricated festival the fact that it is one of the festivals of the Kaafirs (disbelievers), this heaps sin upon sin, because it entails imitating them and is a type of support of them. Allaah (Glorified be He) forbids the Mu'mins (believers), in His Ever-Glorious Book, from imitating or supporting the Kaafirs. It is authentically reported that the Prophet (peace be upon him) said: **Anyone who imitates a people is one of them.**¹ Valentine's Day falls under this heading, as it is one of the idolatrous Christian festivals. It is not lawful for a Muslim who believes in Allaah and the Last Day to celebrate, approve of, or congratulate people on it; it is forbidden to them. Rather, it is obligatory for them to ignore and avoid it, in obedience to Allaah and His Messenger and to keep away from that which will arouse Allaah's Anger and incur Punishment. It is also Haraam (prohibited) for Muslims to support this festival or any other forbidden festival by any means, whether by supplying

¹ Aboo Dawood

Valentine's Day

food or drinks; selling, buying, manufacturing, gift-giving, corresponding, advertising and so on, because all this comes under cooperating in sin and transgression, and disobeying Allaah and His Messenger. Allaah (Glorified and Exalted be He) says: [**Help you one another in Al-Birr and At-Taqwaa (virtue, righteousness and piety); but do not help one another in sin and transgression. And fear Allaah. Verily, Allaah is Severe in punishment.**]²

It is obligatory for Muslims to adhere to the Qur'aan and Sunnah in all matters, especially in times of Fitnah (trial) when corruption is widespread. They must be sagacious enough and on their guard to avoid falling into the misguidance of those who have earned Allaah's Anger, those who went astray, or the Faasiqs (those flagrantly violating Islaamic law) who have no fear of Allaah nor have pride in being Muslims. Muslims should resort to Allaah, asking for guidance and steadfastness in Islaam, as it is Allaah Alone Who guides and keeps us steadfast.

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

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² Soorah al-Ma'idah (5:2)