



(Part No : 1, Page No: 579)

Soothsaying

Fatwa No. 3261

Q: The people in the town that we live in do not say Isti`adhah (Seeking refuge with Allah from Satan), Tasmiyah (saying, "Bismillah [In the Name of Allah]"), recite Du`a'-ul-Istiftah (opening supplication when starting the Prayer), or pause where the Messenger (peace be upon him) used to be silent. Many of them, especially the Khutaba' (preachers who deliver Friday Khutbah (sermon)) shave their beards in addition to other Bid`ah such as, practicing soothsaying and issuing Batil (null and void) Fatwa to please others. We have informed them of Hadiths that are authentically reported from the Prophet (peace be upon him) regarding Salah but they did not accept our advice and said: "this is what we found our fathers following". These Imams, except for a few, do not follow Allah's commands in bringing up their children. Their daughters go out without wearing Hijab (veil) and without taking into consideration that their actions contradict Islam. Khutaba' (preachers) do not forbid Munkar (that which is unacceptable or disapproved of by Islamic law and Muslims of sound intellect) committed by these people on Friday. They, before the Khutbah and before the Imam enters the Masjid, say Hadiths and recite Qur'an. They also recite Adhan (call to prayer) on Friday three times and this is a prevailing phenomenon in our country. Sunni people

(Part No : 1, Page No: 580)

who hold fast to the Sunnah of the Prophet (peace be upon him) have advised them.

These are some of the Bid`ah (rejected innovation in religion), that they commit, that contradict what the Prophet (peace be upon him) was sent with.

Q: Is it permissible for a Muslim to perform Salah behind these Imams who commit acts of Bid`ah?

Is it permissible to perform Salah behind an Imam who denies the Sunnah? Some of them say Dhikr (Remembrance of Allah) after every Salah in a loud voice and in congregation and always recite a Hizb (a 60th portion of the Qur'an) after Fajr and Maghrib prayers. They recite Qur'an in commemoration parties, weddings, graveyards, and funerals for money. They also escort the deceased to the graves while saying Dhikr. We hope that you can explain this matter to us so that we are fully aware of our religion concerning these matters.

A: First: It is recommended to say Isti`adhah when starting the recitation of the Qur'an whether in Salah or not for Allah says: ﴿ So when you recite the Qur'ân, seek refuge with Allâh from Shaitân

(Satan), the outcast(the cursed one). ﴿But it should be said subvocally like Tasmiyah. It is also recommended to say Basmalah (saying, "Bismillah Al-Rahman, Al-Rahim [In the Name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful]") subvocally before starting the recitation of Al-Fatihah when offering Salah. In addition to taking a slight pause between Takbirat-ul-Ihram (saying: "Allahu Akbar [Allah is the Greatest]" upon starting Prayer) and the recitation of Du`a'-ul-Istiftah and also between the end of the recitation and ruku` (bowing).

(Part No : 1, Page No: 581)

Whoever adopts this view is right and gets double reward, and whoever does not adopt it, gets one reward in case he was a Mujtahid (a scholar qualified to exercise juristic effort to infer expert legal rulings). Salah of both of these people behind each other is permissible. There is flexibility in this matter, so it is not permissible to argue or quarrel regarding it.

Second: It is unlawful for a person to shave his beard because the Prophet (peace be upon him) orders people to let their beards grow and trim their moustaches. This is also against Fitrah (natural disposition).

Third: A soothsayer is a person who claims to know the Ghayb (Unseen) or what is in the inner-selves. Most of them practice astrology or use Jinn who eavesdrop. These people practice sand-reading, cup-reading and palm-reading claiming that these enable them to know the Ghayb and the future. They are Kafirs (disbelievers) because this means that they share one of Allah's Attributes with Him, and for disbelieving in the saying of Allah (may He be Exalted):﴿ Say: "None in the heavens and the earth knows the Ghaib (Unseen) except Allâh" ﴾And:﴿ (He Alone is) the All-Knower of the Ghaib (Unseen), and He reveals to none His Ghaib (Unseen). ﴾ Except to a Messenger (from mankind) whom He has chosen (He informs him of unseen as much as He likes), and then He makes a band of watching guards (angels) to march before him and behind him. ﴾And:﴿ And with Him are the keys of the Ghaib (all that is hidden), none knows them but He. ﴾

(Part No : 1, Page No: 582)

Whoever consults a soothsayer is a Kafir. It was related by Abu Dawud on the authority of Abu Hurayrah (may Allah be pleased with him) that the Prophet (peace be upon him) said:﴿ If anyone resorts to a diviner and believes in what he says, then he disbelieves in what was revealed to Muhammad ﴾(peace be upon him). ﴿It is also related by the four compilers of Hadith (Abu Dawud, Ibn Majah, Al-Tirmidhi and Al-Nasa'i) and by Al-Hakim who declared it Sahih (a Hadith that has been transmitted by people known for their uprightness and exactitude; free from eccentricity and blemish) on the authority of Abu Hurayrah (may Allah pleased with him) that the Prophet (peace be upon him) said:﴿ If anyone resorts to a diviner or a soothsayer and believes in what they say, then they disbelieve in what was revealed to Muhammad ﴾(peace be upon him). ﴿In addition to numerous other Hadiths discussing the disbelief of soothsayers, fortunetellers and whoever believes in them. It is not permissible to perform Salah behind them and it is considered Batil, and whoever performs Salah behind any of them, should ask Allah to forgive him and repeat the prayer.

Fourth: A guardian should direct their families to all that is good for them with regard to religion and worldly affairs. They should bring them up according to the manners of Islam because they are considered their responsibility. The Messenger of Allah (peace be upon him) said:﴿ All of you are guardians and responsible for your charges... ﴾

Imams and scholars are role models for people. Neglecting their family affairs encourages others to neglect and exceed all limits and manners of religion. They do not guide or educate their families, and as a result their wives and daughters go out without being covered. The ruling on performing Salah behind such Imams and scholars is the same as the ruling on performing Salah behind a Fasiq (someone openly and flagrantly violating Islamic law) such as those who shave their beards. It is a sound Salah according to preponderant opinion of the scholars.

Fifth: Reciting the following Ayah, ([Allâh sends His Salât \(Graces, Honours, Blessings, Mercy\) on the Prophet \(Muhammad peace be upon him\)](#)), reading the Hadith which warns of speaking during the Khutbah and ordering people to listen to the Khatib before he starts delivering it, is an act of Bid`ah (rejected innovation in religion). As well as reciting the Qur'an on Friday before the Khatib comes in congregation, and saying Dhikr (Remembrance of Allah) and some invocations in congregation before the Adhan are forms of Bid`ah which have spread in Islamic countries. Many scholars do not warn people against committing them though Allah does not allow them. We ask Allah to keep us safe and to help Ahl-ul-Sunnah (those who adhere to the Sunnah) to disapprove of these innovations so that Muslims may return to the right path of the Prophet (peace be upon him) and his Rightly-Guided Caliphs (may Allah be pleased with them). We ask Him to reward you for rejecting these innovations and to keep you steadfast

on the truth and help you support the Sunnah and resist Bid`ah for He (may He be Praised) is the One Who responds to the Du`a' of His servants.

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

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