

direct imitation of the way the Christians celebrate the birth of 'Isā (عليه السلام) – Christmas.

عَنْ أَبِي سَعِيدٍ الْخُدْرِيِّ (رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ)، قَالَ:
قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ (صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ):

«لَتَتَّبِعَنَّ سَنَنَ الَّذِينَ مِنْ قَبْلِكُمْ شِبْرًا بِشِبْرٍ وَذِرَاعًا بِذِرَاعٍ حَتَّى
لَوْ دَخَلُوا فِي جُحْرٍ ضَبَّ لَا تَتَّبِعْتُمُوهُمْ» قُلْنَا يَا رَسُولَ اللَّهِ الْيَهُودُ
وَالنَّصَارَى؟ قَالَ «فَمَنْ؟».

Narrated Abū Sa'īd al-Khudrī (رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ)
the Prophet (صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) said:

“You would tread the same path as was trodden by those before you inch by inch and step by step so much so that if they had entered into the hole of the lizard, you would follow them in this also.” We said: “Allāh’s Messenger, do you mean Jews and Christians (by your words) those before you?” He said: “Who else (than those two religious groups)?”
[Ṣaḥīḥ Muslim]

عَنْ ابْنِ عُمَرَ (رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُمَا) قَالَ: قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ (صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ): «مَنْ تَشَبَّهَ بِقَوْمٍ فَهُوَ مِنْهُمْ»

‘Abdullāh ibn ‘Umar (رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُمَا) said the Prophet (صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) said: “He who imitates any people (in their actions) is considered to be one of them.”
[Sunan Abī Dāwūd]

THE CORRECT WAY TO SHOW RESPECT, APPRECIATION AND LOVE FOR THE PROPHET
(صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ)

Allāh (عَزَّوَجَلَّ) tells us that the Prophet (صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) was sent as a mercy to Mankind. Allāh tells us:

“And We have not sent you, [O Muḥammad], except as a mercy to the worlds...”
[Sūrah 21, al-Anbiyā-: Verse 107]

Every bit of knowledge and every good deed any Muslim does today is a result of what the Prophet (صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) taught his Ummah. Muslims today owe it to the Allāh to love Muḥammad more than we love our own selves, respect him above all humans and show gratitude to Allāh for sending him to us. This

can all be achieved through following his Sunnah and emulating his character in all aspects of life. Allāh says:

“There has certainly been for you in the Messenger of Allāh an excellent pattern for anyone whose hope is in Allāh and the Last Day and [who] remembers Allāh often.”

[Sūrah 33, al-Aḥzāb: Verse 21]

As for singling out one day of the year to remember him, talk about his Sīrah, sing songs, celebrate his birth and whatever people do on this day, then that is a trick from Shayṭān to give a false sense of loving the Prophet (صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ). Furthermore, if one is really adamant about recognizing the birth of the Prophet (صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ), then he should follow the Sunnah and fast every Monday.

عَنْ أَبِي قَتَادَةَ الْأَنْصَارِيِّ (رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ)، أَنَّ رَسُولَ اللَّهِ (صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) سُئِلَ عَنْ صَوْمِ يَوْمِ الْاِثْنَيْنِ، قَالَ:
«ذَاكَ يَوْمٌ وُلِدْتُ فِيهِ، وَبُعِثْتُ فِيهِ، أَوْ أُنْزِلَ عَلَيَّ فِيهِ»

Narrated Abū Qatādah al-Anṣārī (رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ):

“The Prophet (صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) was asked about fasting on Mondays and he said: ‘That is a day on which I was born and on it my mission began – or Revelation came to me.’”

[Ṣaḥīḥ Muslim]

IN SUMMARY

Celebrating the birthday of the Prophet (صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) is not warranted according to the Qur’ān and Sunnah. The mere fact that we don’t really know on which date he was born shows that Allāh never intended for us to know nor celebrate his birthday. This is an innovation which ultimately invokes Allāh’s Anger instead of His Pleasure. Muslims should stay away from this wrong deed and rather try to be steadfast upon following the instructions and teachings of our Beloved Muḥammad, the Last and Final Messenger. May Allāh, the All-Knowing and All-Wise, guide us to His Straight Path.

الإِحْتِفَالُ بِمَوْلِدِ النَّبِيِّ

Celebrating the Prophet's (صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) Birthday

INTRODUCTION

Every year, in various parts of the world, Muslims make an important decision whether to celebrate the birthday of the Prophet Muḥammad (صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) or to abstain. Many of times, families become split, Masjids make decisive decisions, and the debate is ignited. Milād an-Nabī, Mawlid an-Nabī or Yamn an-Nabī are some of the different names used to refer to the Prophet’s birthday. For many, it becomes an opportunity for professing one’s love for the Prophet (صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ), whether it is by participating or by abstaining.

عَنْ أَنَسِ بْنِ مَالِكٍ (رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ)، قَالَ:

قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ (صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ):

«لَا يُؤْمِنُ أَحَدُكُمْ حَتَّى أَكُونَ أَحَبَّ إِلَيْهِ مِنْ وَلَدِهِ وَوَالِدِهِ
وَالنَّاسِ أَجْمَعِينَ»

Narrated Anas bin Mālik (رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ)

that the Prophet (صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) said:

“None of you have complete faith until I am dearer to him than his child, his father and all of mankind.”

[Muslim, Ibn Mājah & an-Nasā-ī]

Allāh (عَزَّوَجَلَّ) says:

“Say, (O Muḥammad [صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ]), ‘If you should love Allāh, then follow me, [so] Allāh will love you and forgive you your sins. And Allāh is Forgiving and Merciful.’”

[Sūrah 3, Āli ‘Imrān: Verse 31]

In this brief pamphlet, the goal is to state evidence for the position that one should refrain from partaking in the celebration. Here are the reasons why:

ALLĀH (ﷺ) HAS COMPLETED THE DĪN

Allāh (ﷺ) says:

“This day I have completed your religion for you and perfected my favor upon you, and I am pleased with Islām as your religion”

[Sūrah 5, al-Mā'idah: Verse 3]

All of the companions had witnessed the Prophet (ﷺ) during the farewell hajj saying:

قَالَ «اللَّهُمَّ هَلْ بَلَغْتُ؟» قَالُوا نَعَمْ [ثَلَاثَ مَرَّاتٍ]، قَالَ «اللَّهُمَّ اشْهَدْ» [ثَلَاثَ مَرَّاتٍ]

“...He then said: ‘O Allāh, have I conveyed the message?’ They (the companions) said: ‘Yes’, saying it three times. He then said: ‘O Allāh, be witness’, saying it three times.”

[al-Bukhārī, Muslim, Abū Dāwūd, Ibn Mājah & an-Nasā'ī]

ALLĀH DID NOT ALLOW US TO KNOW THE DATE OF THE PROPHET'S (ﷺ) BIRTH

Muslim historians confirm that the Prophet (ﷺ) was born in the year of the Elephant (570 AD) in the month of Rabī' al-Awwal and on a Monday. As far as the exact date within the month, we find that they disagree greatly. Some opinions include the 2nd, 8th, 10th, 12th as well as other dates. There is even some dispute on the month but the conflict is more apparent when it comes to determining the exact date.

THE PROPHET'S (ﷺ) BIRTHDAY WAS NEVER CELEBRATED UNTIL SEVERAL CENTURIES AFTER HIS DEATH

During the Prophet's lifetime, his birthday was not celebrated at all. After he died, his companions, along with the generations of Muslims who followed them never celebrated his birthday. It wasn't until 500 years after the Prophet (ﷺ) died that some Muslims started celebrating his birthday. The first group of Muslims to celebrate it were the Fātimids, a Shī'ah Dynasty that ruled Egypt at that time. The rulers introduced the practice of celebrating the

Prophet's birthday to the Muslim world. Because the practice was supported by the dynasty, it was widely received and later spread to Sunnī Muslim civilizations as well. Because the Fātimids adopted the 12th of Rabī' al-Awwal to celebrate it, it became the popular opinion.

THE PROPHET (ﷺ) TAUGHT US WHAT IS GOOD AND WHAT IS BAD

As Muslims we know that our Prophet Muḥammad was sent to teach us how to attain Allāh's Pleasure. We believe the Prophet has conveyed to us every possible good deed that can earn Allāh's Pleasure; likewise, he has outlined every sin that can invoke our Lord's Anger.

Our Prophet (ﷺ) said:

«إِنَّهُ لَمْ يَكُنْ نَبِيَّ قَبْلِي إِلَّا كَانَ حَقًّا عَلَيْهِ أَنْ يَدُلَّ أُمَّتَهُ عَلَى خَيْرٍ مَا يَعْلَمُهُ لَهُمْ وَيُنْذِرَهُمْ شَرًّا مَا يَعْلَمُهُ لَهُمْ»

“It was the duty of every Prophet that has gone before me to guide his followers to what he knew was good for them and warn them against what he knew was bad for them.”

[Ṣaḥīḥ Muslim]

Innovations (Bid'ah) are defined as “a deed done to attain the Pleasure of Allāh whilst not being supported by any religious text (Qur'ān or Sunnah) that legitimizes such deed”. There is absolutely no evidence that supports the permissibility of celebrating the Prophet's birthday. Thus, it is considered a clear innovation in Islām.

The Prophet (ﷺ) said:

«... فَإِنَّهُ مَنْ يَعِشْ مِنْكُمْ بَعْدِي فَسِيرِكُمْ خَيْرٌ مِنْكُمْ بِسُنَّتِي وَسُنَّةِ الْخُلَفَاءِ الرَّاشِدِينَ الْمَهْدِيِّينَ، عَضُوا عَلَيْهَا بِالنَّوَاجِذِ، وَإِيَّاكُمْ وَمُحَدَّثَاتِ الْأُمُورِ؛ فَإِنَّ كُلَّ بِدْعَةٍ ضَلَالَةٌ...»

“Whosoever among you shall live after me, will see much discord. So hold firmly unto my Sunnah and the Sunnah of the rightly-guided khulafā'. Cling to it tightly, even with your molar teeth. Beware of newly invented matters in the religion, for verily every innovation is a misguidance.”

[Abū Dāwūd & Ibn Mājah]

The Prophet (ﷺ) said:

عَنْ عَبْدِ اللَّهِ بْنِ مَسْعُودٍ (رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ)، قَالَ: قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ (ﷺ):

«خَيْرُ النَّاسِ قُرْبِي، ثُمَّ الَّذِينَ يَلُونَهُمْ، ثُمَّ الَّذِينَ يَلُونَهُمْ، ثُمَّ يَجِيءُ مِنْ بَعْدِهِمْ قَوْمٌ تَسْبِقُ شَهَادَتُهُمْ أَيْمَانُهُمْ وَأَيْمَانُهُمْ شَهَادَتُهُمْ»

Narrated 'Abdullāh ibn Mas'ūd (رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ) that the Prophet (ﷺ) said:

“The best of mankind are my generation (or my century), then those who come after them, then those who come after them. Then there will come a people who will not care if their testimony comes before their oath or vice versa (i.e., they will not take such matter seriously).”

[al-Bukhārī, Muslim and at-Tirmidhī]

عَنْ ابْنِ عُمَرَ (رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُمَا) قَالَ: «كُلُّ بِدْعَةٍ ضَلَالَةٌ وَإِنْ رَأَاهَا النَّاسُ حَسَنَةً»

'Abdullāh ibn 'Umar (رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُمَا) said:

“Every innovation is a misguidance, even if the people consider it something good.”

THE PROPHET (ﷺ) FORBADE EXAGGERATING HIS STATUS AND IMITATING THE DISBELIEVERS

عَنْ عُمَرَ (رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ)، قَالَ:

قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ (ﷺ):

«لَا تُطَرُّوْنِي كَمَا أَطَرَّتِ النَّصَارَى ابْنَ مَرْيَمَ، فَإِنَّمَا أَنَا عَبْدُهُ، فَقُولُوا عَبْدُ اللَّهِ وَرَسُولُهُ»

Narrated 'Umar ibn al-Khaṭṭāb (رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ) the Prophet (ﷺ) said:

“Do not exaggerate about me as the Christians exaggerated about the son of Maryam (ʿĪsā [عليه السلام]). I am only a slave, so say, ‘The slave of Allāh and His Messenger.’” [Ṣaḥīḥ al-Bukhārī]

It should be clear to anyone with a sound mind that celebrating the birth of the Prophet (ﷺ) is a