Ringdom of Saudi Arabia Portal of the General Presidency of Scholarly Research and Ifta'

Fatwa no. 6378

Q: You requested of me to describe the kinds of Bid'ah (innovation in religion) that take place in Masjids (Mosques) when celebrating the Mawlid (the Prophet's birthday). They are many, may Allah grant us help! These newly-invented matters are like holding ceremonies, where voices are raised, without paying regard to worshippers offering Salah (Prayer) or Qur'an reciters. This is in addition to chanting a poem after performing Salah. Once the Imam utters Takbir (saying: "Allahu Akbar [Allah is the Greatest]"), the chanter says:

O Allah! Send peace and blessings upon my beloved Muhammad

The people then repeat together after him. The chanter then says: "O Allah! By the honor of Muhammad (peace be upon him), make our affairs easy." This poem is recited for almost seven minutes. If anyone of Ahl-ul-Sunnah (Adherents to Sunnah) asks them to abandon this Bid'ah, they accuse him of being a Wahhaby who denies asking Allah to send peace and blessings upon the Prophet (peace be upon him). Among these acts of Bid'ah is that people, after finishing Fajr (Dawn) Prayer, meet each other and invoke Allah one after another.

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This happens in a Masjid called Al-Quby, in Harat Medinah. They also bury whoever they venerate inside the Masjid, probably in the direction of the Qiblah (Ka'bah-direction faced for Prayer). In addition to many other Bid'ahs, may Allah guide us to whatever pleases him! Amen!

A: First: All that you have mentioned in your question are newly-invented practices introduced into Islam, which are not permissible to be done. It is authentically reported that the Prophet (peace be upon him) said: (Anyone who introduces anything into this matter of ours (Islam) that is not part of it will have it rejected.) Second: It is not permissible to bury the dead in Masjids for the Prophet (peace be upon him) warned saying: (May Allah curse the Jews and the Christians; they have taken the graves of their prophets as places of worship.) (Agreed upon its authenticity)

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

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