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

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Fatwa no. 4755

Q: What is your opinion regarding a group of Muslims who are accustomed to reading and revering a book entitled "Mawlid Al-Naby (the Prophet's Birth)" on the twelfth of Rabi` Al-Awwal of each Hijri year, and on such occasions as wedding ceremonies or delivery of a child. The book is written by Shaykh Muhammad `Uthman Al-Mirghany. The main theme of the book revolves around Prophet Muhammad's biography. The author claims that the Prophet (peace be upon him) attends in person during recitation of the book. The book falls in two chapters. According to custom, the first chapter is read by the oldest person in the group while standing. The second chapter teaches communication with spirits of unknown people. The opening words of this chapter read: "O Lord, we ask you by their noble status and that of their families to hasten our victory and to relieve us of our distress." Since this chapter opens with these words, we have no idea to whom these two pronouns refer. Kindly tell me whether it is permissible to pray led by any of these people. I told people that it is prohibited to revere this book to such an extent. I also told them that there is nothing wrong with reading it alone as a biography book without committing these things we see and hear about. Please keep broadcasting the answer for many days so that we can listen to it. May Allah make you a constant source of benefit to Islam and Muslims!

All praise be to Allah Alone, and peace and blessings be upon the Messenger of Allah, his family and Companions. To proceed:

A: Celebrating the Prophet's birthday in Rabi` Al-Awwal or any other month is a prohibited Bid`ah (innovation in religion). The same applies to reading books on the Prophet's birth in Rabi` Al-Awwal or on such occasions as wedding ceremonies, delivery of a child, holding Aqiqah (sacrifice for a newborn) or any occasion of the sort.

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Neither the Prophet (peace be upon him), nor any of his Sahabah (Companions), nor the succeeding Imams of guidance in the first and best three generations of Islam, may Allah be pleased with them all, are reported to have practiced this custom. Therefore, such practices are considered as newly-invented Bid`ah. The Prophet (peace be upon him) was authentically reported to have said: (Anyone who introduces anything into this matter of ours (Islam) which does not belong to it will have it rejected.)

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

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`Abdullah ibn	`Abdullah ibn	`Abdul-Razzaq	`Abdul-`Aziz ibn `Abdullah ibn
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Source: Islamic Research Journal

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