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### Bid`ahs

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### Meaning of good and bad Bid`ah

**The third question of Fatwa no. 948**

**Q 3: Scholars hold different opinions concerning Bid`ah (innovation in religion); some of them say that there is a good Bid`ah and a bad one. Is this true?**

**A: Bid`ah:** It can be defined as all things invented or acts done for which there is no precedent. It can be either related to the dealings and affairs of worldly life, such as inventing planes, cars, trains; and electrical devices, cooking utensils, air conditioners used for warming and cooling; and even war machines such as bombs, submarines, tanks, and other objects made to serve people in this world. Such things in themselves are permissible and there is no sin in inventing them. As to the purpose of its invention and use; if it is used in beneficial matters, then it is good; and if it is meant for evil purposes, such as sabotaging, destruction and corruption on earth, then it is evil and blight.

Bid`ah can also be in religion. It may fall under `Aqidah (creed), or `Ibadah (worship), whether in actions or words; such as denying Predestination,

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building Masjids (mosques) and shrines over graves, reciting the Qur'an over the dead, and celebrating the Mawlid (birthdays) to commemorate dead or renowned people, seeking the help of anyone other than Allah, and circumambulating around the shrines. All these acts and their likes are deviation from the right, because the Prophet (peace be upon him) said: **(Beware of newly-invented matters (in religion), for every newly-invented matter is a Bid'ah, and every Bid'ah is a Dalalah (deviation from the right).)** Nonetheless, some of these are acts of major Shirk (associating others with Allah in His Divinity or worship) which takes a person out of Islam, such as seeking help from a source other than Allah in things that only Allah is able to do, slaughtering sacrificial animals and vowing to other than Allah (Exalted be He), and other acts of worship which belong to Allah. Others may lead to Shirk, such as beseeching Allah by virtue of the status of righteous people, swearing by anything other than Allah, and the prohibited utterance: "What Allah wills and you will". It is worthy to mention that as far as acts of worship are concerned, Bid`ahs are not classed under the Five Rulings on Actions into (Wajib [obligatory], Mustahab [desirable], Mubah [permissible], Makruh

[reprehensible] and Haram [prohibited]) as some people have claimed, for the general meaning of the Hadith which says: [﴿Every Bid'ah is a Dalalah \(deviation from the right\).﴾](#)

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

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**Source: Fatwas of the Permanent Committee**