

Saint Valentine's Day: A celebration of the forbidden love!

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Version 1.1

Celebration in Islam

Dear children,

Allaah has completed the religion, perfected His Bounties upon us and chosen the religion of Islam for us. Alhamdulillah, we are Muslims. A Muslim should always try to please Allaah by following His commands in the Qur'an and the Sunnah of the Prophet Mohammad (Sallallahu 'alayhi wa sallam) as the companions practiced in their time.

Islam is a complete religion and has explained to us every matter that will bring us closer to Allaah (Subhanahu wata'aalaa).

Allaah (ta'aalaa) says in the Qur'an:

لِكُلِّ أُمَّةٍ جَعَلْنَا مَنْسَكًا هُمْ نَاسِكُوهُ

“To every people we have appointed rites (of sacrifice) that they must observe.” [Hajj: 67]

We know from the statement of the Messenger of Allaah, as was narrated by Anas (RadiAllaahu 'anhu), that the Messenger of Allaah said:

“When I came to al-Madīnah, its people had two days that they celebrated from the times of Jâhiliyyah [i.e. pre-Islamic days]; indeed, Allâh has substituted them for you with two better days: the day of Sacrifice and the day of Fitr.

[Saheeh narration :: Ahmed, Abu Dawud: see Saheeh Al-Jamee' #4381 of Sheikh Nasruddin Al-Albaani]

So, this ayah and hadith prove that the festivals are part of our religion and only Allaah and His Messenger have the right to legislate the days that should be part of our celebration. And it is not befitting (or allowed) for Muslims to believe in the holidays and festivals of other cultures, heritages, or religions. We must submit to the laws of Islam.

Dear children, don't think that we have only two days of celebration in a year. Yes, these two Eids are the major days of celebration, but the Messenger of Allaah (Sallallahu 'alayhi wa sallam) indicated some other days of the year as days of Eid, too.

Ibn 'Abbas reported that Allaah's Messenger (Saw) said:

This day is the day of 'Eid. Allaah made this day for the Muslim, so the one who goes for Jum'ah should take shower, and if he has perfume then use from it, and use siwak.

[Hadith is in Ibn Maajah (1098) and is saheeh, see Saheeh Al-Jamee 2258. This hadith is also recorded by Ash-Shafee and Maalik however the chain of Ibn Maajah is connected and saheeh, Allaah knows best.]

So, every week we have a day of Eid. Allaahu Akbar! Do you know which day that is! That is Friday! There are 52 weeks a year. So, do your math!

The Messenger of Allaah (Sallallahu 'alayhi wa sallam) also mentioned that the day of 'Arafah (the 9th day of Dhul-Hijjah) and the 3 days of Tashreeq (11th, 12th, 13th of Dhul Hijjah) are days of rejoicing.

“The day of ‘Arafah, the day of slaughtering and the days of Tashreeq are our days of Eid – the ahl of Islam. They are days of eating and drinking.” [Saheeh: see Saheeh Sunan Abee Dawud :: 2114]

Other than these days, Muslims are not allowed to celebrate any holidays, whether it is Halloween, New Year’s Day, Veteran’s Day, Valentine’s Day, Easter, Thanksgiving Day, The Fourth of July, Christmas, or any of the holidays of the non-Muslims (even if you think it’s not considered to be one of their “religious” holidays)

How to celebrate holidays in Islam:

Allaah (ta’alaa) not only instructed us with regard to the days of the festivals in Islam, but also sent Prophet Mohammad (Sallallaahu ‘alayhi wa sallam) to explain to us how to celebrate these days. That is why, dear children, we should pay attention to the Sunnah of Mohammad (Sallalallahu ‘alayhi wa sallam) if we want to see how he (Sallallaahu ‘alayhi wa sallam) celebrated the day of ‘Eid in his time. We should also learn how the sahabaah (RadiAllaahu ‘anhum), who should be our true heroes, obeyed Mohammad (Sallallaahu ‘alayhi wa sallam) in such matters of celebration.

For example: we see in the Sunnah, that the Prophet (sallallahahu ‘alayhi wa sallam) used go out in the morning of the two celebrations (Eid al Fitr and Eid Al-Adha) wearing his best dress and commanding all the companions- men, women, and children- to come out on that day making takbeer, tahleel. When he would reach the Musallah (i.e. the field where they prayed the ‘Eid prayer), the first thing he would do (Sallallaahu ‘alayhi wa sallam) is to establish the prayer. The companions would put a stick in front him as “sutraah”. There would be no adhaan or iqamah for this prayer. He (Sallallaahu ‘alyhi wa sallam) would pray two rakah and then after the prayer he would give a khutbah, reminding the companions to fear Allaah and to encourage them to give charity.

The sahaabah would sit down in rows, quietly listening to the amazing khutbah of the Messenger of Allaah (Sallallaahu ‘alayhi wa sallam), very eager to learn from him and implement his Sunnah in their lives. After the prayer, the Prophet (sallallaahu ‘alayhi wa sallam) would go back home and enjoy his time with his family and companions. Of course, in Eid Al-Adha, they used to do one more thing – and that is to slaughter their sacrificial animals for the sake of Allaah (subhaanahu wata’alaa).

This is how the Messenger of Allaah (Sallallaahu ‘alayhi wa sallam) celebrated the two major ‘Eids with the companions in Medinah. And after he left the world, the companions continued to be upon his Sunnah and teach their children and students about the Sunan of the celebration in Islam. If we want to be successful, we must submit to this path that is the path of the companions, the path of the true believers of Islam.

Follow the Muslims and be like them!

Dear children, Prophet Mohammad (Sallallaahu ‘alayhi wa sallam) told us to be different from the followers of other religions. He (Sallallaahu ‘alayhi wa sallam) said:

“Differ from the Jews and the Christians.” [Bukhari and Muslim]

“Differ from the disbelievers” [Bukhari and Muslim]

“Whoever imitates a people is one of them” [hadith Ibn ‘Umar :: Saheeh, See Saheeh Al-Jamee’ 4381]

So, the Muslims must not follow the traditions of the people of other religions, but rather must stick to the teachings of the Qur’an and the Sunnah.

Celebrating Saint Valentine’s Day:

Each year, on the 14th of February, hundreds of young men and women exchange flowers, candies, gifts and spend millions of dollars to celebrate what is known as Saint Valentine's day. Even the children in the school of all levels are encouraged to write a card or exchange tokens of gifts to celebrate this day.

Let's learn the history of Valentine and try to understand why our scholars and imams forbid us to celebrate Saint Valentine's day. This celebration has ties to ancient Roman pagan practices and Christian myths.

Ancient Roman pagan practices: On the 15th of February, the ancient Romans used to celebrate a day called Lupercalia. They used to dedicate this day to their god of Agriculture called Faunus. On this day, the priests used to gather and slaughter an animal. Then they would take pieces of the animal skin, dip them in blood. Then, they would go out and start hitting the women with these nasty things. All of these and other practices of theirs are forbidden in Islam.

Christianizing the Roman practice:

Many historians argue that to Christianize this Roman pagan practice, the priests added the celebration of the 14th of February as the death of Saint Valentine who sacrificed his life for a noble cause (?!?)

Now, who was this Saint Valentine? The Christians themselves are not sure who this Saint Valentine was! They mention three different names. What is most popular is that he was a bishop and was killed by the Roman Emperor. It is said that the Roman Emperor Claudius II wanted to grow the number of his army and ordered his soldiers not to get married. Saint Valentine didn't agree to that and as a result he was imprisoned and finally killed. The legend also says the Emperor wanted the Saint to convert to paganism (i.e. worshipping idol) and the saint wanted to convert the Emperor to Christianity (i.e. the religion that promotes worshipping Prophet 'Isaa and all sorts of saints). All these stories have no basis in the religion of Islam and there is no reason for us to believe such fairy tales and folklores.

Now-a-days, in America, they celebrate this day to exchange greetings between boys and girls as a form of love which is not allowed in Islam. They distribute cards with cupids (i.e. the Greek god of love) with bows and arrows. Some of them have the figure of cherubs (i.e. the baby angel). It is estimated that 1 billion cards are distributed on this day. And so much money is wasted on gifts, drinks, dinners and other things. Not to mention, music and all sorts of haram relationship are also permitted on this day and deemed to be something normal.

Muslims shouldn't celebrate Saint Valentine's Day- Why?
Because:

- It is connected to pagan holidays, and we, Muslims are far away from paganism. Allaah (ta'aalaa) says:
وَلَقَدْ بَعَثْنَا فِي كُلِّ أُمَّةٍ رَسُولًا أَنِ اعْبُدُوا اللَّهَ وَاجْتَنِبُوا الطَّاغُوتَ

And verily we have sent among every Ummah, a Messenger (proclaiming): Worship Allaah (alone), and avoid (or keep away from) taaguut (all false deities etc...)

[Sura Nahl: 36]

How can we Muslim forget about this and start following celebrations which are based upon pagan gods, idols, forbidden practices and their stories!

- It is not allowed to celebrate the celebration of the non-Muslims. The Prophet (Sallallaahu 'alayhi wa sallam) forbade the practices of non-Muslims celebration when he migrated to Al-Medinah.
- On this day, boys and girls mix improperly. This is the kind of love that is forbidden. In Islam, free mixing is not allowed between boys and girls. That is why, when we come to the Masjid, boys and men go in one section and women and girls go in another section.
- We don't have saints in our religion. We have the Prophets and the Messengers (Peace be upon them) and the sahaabah. However, we don't worship any single one of them.
- Muslims don't believe in gods of agriculture, god of love etc... We believe in only one Allaah. He is the Robb of everything – the sun, the moon, the agriculture, the fire, the food, the people, the jinn, the angels, shaytan – Allaah is the Robb (i.e. God) of everything. That is we say in Surah Fatiha:

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ

All Praise be to Allaah, the Robb of Al-'Alaameen. [Sura Fatiha]

- Muslims slaughter animals in the name of Allaah to eat, not to hit women with the skin of the dead animal.
- Muslims love each other but they don't express their love by sending each other greeting cards that is full of shirk, strange pictures of "cupids", "heart signs with arrows" etc...
- Muslims don't believe in cupids, cherubs. Cupid is from Greek mythology and Christians got the idea of cherubs (i.e. baby angels) from the Greek cupids. Islam is far away from drawing, painting pictures of angels.
- Muslims don't waste money in a haram way. On Valentines day, people spend millions on dollars on cards, chocolates, cakes, gifts, dinner, drinks etc...
- Muslims don't have boyfriends and girlfriend. Muslim sisters have only friends who are girls and are allowed to be with men who are their mahram. Muslim boys have only friends who are boys and are allowed to be with women who they are mahram to.
- Muslims don't buy, sell any of the products of valentine. Those disobedient Muslims who do that, they do nothing but celebrate this celebration, may Allaah guide them and all of us.

What should a Muslim child say to his non-Muslim class-mates and teachers on this day:

Many Muslim children and parents think if we say to our non-Muslim friends that we don't celebrate Saint Valentine's day, they will be upset. They will think that Muslims are rude and harsh people. They will think that Muslims hate the non-Muslims. But this is not true. Our best example, Mohammad (Sallallaahu 'alayhi wa sallam) when he came to Medinah commanded the companions not to celebrate the non-Muslim celebration and commanded them to celebrate 'Eid al-Fitr and 'Eid al-Adha.

So, following our Prophet's footsteps, we can nicely write a note to our teachers that we are Muslims and in our religion, it is not allowed to celebrate the celebration of the other religions. So, we can't participate in any class projects, activities regarding the Valentine's Day. If the teachers wish, they can give us some other projects not related to these celebrations in any way shape or form.

This way, we will be able to please Allaah (Subhaanahu wata'aala) and at the same time be nice to our non-Muslim teacher and class-mates. May Allaah guide all of them to the truth!

May Allaah guide all of us and direct to us deeds that will please Him even it requires the displeasure of the creation.

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Safar 1, 1429 H which coincides with

February 8th, 2008