

Engaging in Maatam Celebration during the month of Muharram

Q: Imaan-60: What is the ruling of the Shari'ah concerning the Maatam celebration that take place every year in the name of Imaam Husayn RAH. during the ten days of Muharram?

Answer: The customary Maatam feast celebration festivities that take place in the name of Imaam Husayn RAH. is Makrooh and strictly prohibited. Sheikh Abdul Qadir Jaylaani RAH. if it was permissible to make the day of death a day of calamity and mourning for anyone, Tuesdays would be more worthy of this because this was the day in which Muhammad Rasulullaah SAW. passed away as well as Hadhrat Abu Bakr RADI. (whereas no one does this)."

Allaama Ibn Hajar RAH. writes, "Beware! Beware of ever getting involved in the acts of Bid'ah that the Rawaafidh and others engage in when they sing accolades, wail and express great sorrow because such behaviour is not becoming of a Muslim, otherwise the day in which Rasulullaah SAW. passed away would have been more deserving of such behaviour.?"

Allaama Sheikh Roomi RAH. "As for the Maatam celebration that is carried out in memory of the martyrdom of Hadhrat Husayn RAH. as the Rawaafidh do, this is amongst the practices of those people whose efforts are all wasted in this worldly life, whereas they are under the misconception that they are doing something good. This is because neither Allaah nor His Rasool SAW. ever instructed that days of Maatam be observed in memory of calamities or deaths of the Ambiyaa ALY. This being the case, how can such observances be carried out in memory of people lower in the status than the Ambiyaa. ALY.

Allaama Muhammad Taahir RAH. writes, "The Maatam celebration that is observed every year in memory of the martyrdom of Hadhrat Husayn bin Ali RADI. has been declared Makrooh Tahreemi by the Ulema. It is a practice that has never been in vogue in any of the principal Muslim cities."

The same has been echoed by Hadhrat Shah Ahmad Berelwi RAH. in his book Siraatul Mustaqeem

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