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Bid`ah (rejected innovation in religion)

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The meaning of a bad Bid`ah and a good Bid'ah

Third question from Fatwa No. (948) :

Q 3: Scholars differ concerning Bid`ah; some of them said that there is a good Bid`ah and a bad one. Is this true?

A: Bid`ah can be defined as things invented or acts done for which there is no precedent. It can be either related to the dealings and affairs of the 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 the like objects which are in the best interests of people in this world. Such things are permissible and there is no harm in inventing them. As to the purpose of its use; if it is used in beneficial matters, then it is good; and if it is meant for dangerous matters, such as sabotaging, destruction and spoil in earth, then it is evil.

Bid`ah can also be in religion, and as such, it relates to `Aqidah (creed), or acts of worship, whether 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 the memory of dead pious people, seeking the help of anyone other than Allah, and circumambulating around the shrines. All these acts and their likes are Batil (null and void), for the Prophet (peace be upon him) said: [\(Avoid novelties, for every novelty is an innovation, and every innovation is an error. \)](#) Notwithstanding, some of these are acts of major Shirk which takes a person out of Islam, such as seeking help from anyone other than Allah, slaughtering sacrificial animals and vowing for the sake of people other than Allah (may He be Exalted), and other acts of worship which are only befitting for Allah. Others may lead to Shirk, such as beseeching Allah by virtue of the status of the righteous people, swearing by anything other than Allah, and the prohibited utterance "what Allah and I will". It is worthy to mention that as far as acts of worship are concerned, innovations are not divided into the five Ahkam (rulings) as some people have stated, for the general meaning of the Hadith which reads: [\(Every Bid`ah \(rejected innovation\) is a strayer \)](#)

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

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