



The second question of Fatwa No. 7721

Q 2: How many types of Bid`ah (rejected innovation in religion) are there? Is every Bid`ah misguidance? If yes, are the diacritical marks used in the writing of the Qur'an, such as Dammah (a small curl-like diacritic standing for the short vowel /u/), Fathah (a small diagonal line placed above a letter to stand for the short vowel /a/), kasrah (a small diagonal line placed below a letter to represent the short vowel /i/), Sukun (a circle-shaped diacritic placed above a letter with no vowel), Nuqtah (dots and diereses placed above and below Arabic letters to distinguish between them) or Nabrah (a carrier on which the letter Hamzah is placed in cases of Kasr) an act of Bid`ah. The Qur'an was written during the lifetime of the Messenger of Allah (peace be upon him) without any diacritical marks? Is the writing of these marks an act of Bid`ah? Is this Bid`ah misguidance?

A 2: Bid`ah (rejected innovation in religion) is divided into Bid`ah in religion and ordinary Bid`ah. The ordinary Bid`ah includes all newly manufactured products and inventions. The basic rule regarding ordinary Bid`ah is that everything is by default permissible unless otherwise stipulated by legal evidence.

As for Bid`ah in religion, it includes anything that is innovated and contradicts

(Part No : 2, Page No: 464)

Allah's legislation, such as offering collective Dhikr (Remembrance of Allah) in unison, acts of Bid`ah in birthday celebrations, midnight worship in Sha`ban and the twenty seventh of Rajab, the mourning ceremony held forty days after the death of a person, recitation of the Qur'an for the dead in front of the grave, etc. However, there are no classifications of Bid`ahs in religion with regard to its ruling. In general, every Bid`ah in religion is misguidance, for it is authentically reported from the Prophet (peace be upon him) that he stated: [\(Whoever introduces something into this affair of ours which is not of it, it is to be rejected. \)](#) [Narrated by Al-Bukhari and Muslim], in another narration it is reported that he stated: [\(Whoever performs an action not in accordance with our command, it is to be rejected. \)](#) [Narrated by Muslim]. There is another narration on the authority of Al-`Irbad ibn Sariyah (may Allah be pleased with him) who said: [\(The Prophet \(peace be upon him\) delivered a very eloquent exhortation to his Companions, on account of which eyes shed tears and hearts were filled with awe. A man said, "O, Prophet of Allah! It seems as if this is the last exhortation, so advise us." He \(peace be upon him\) said, "I enjoin you to fear Allah, to listen and obey even if an Abyssinian slave is appointed as your leader. Those among you who shall live after me, will see much discord, so hold fast to my Sunnah and the way of the Rightly-Guided Caliphs \(who will come after me\). Abide](#)

by it and beware of novelties (in religion), as every innovation is misguidance.") [Narrated by Ahmad, Abu Dawud, Al-Tirmidhy and Ibn Majah].

Regarding the dots and diacritical marks used in the Qur'an, they are not considered Bid`ah, even though they did not exist during the lifetime of the Prophet (peace be upon him). This is regarded as a Maslahah Mursalah (matter of public benefit) denoted by legal evidence providing for the preservation of the Qur'an in general.

(Part No : 2, Page No: 465)

We recommend you to read Al-I`tisam, a book written by Al-Shatiby who discussed this issue at length.

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

Permanent Committee for Scholarly Research and Ifta'

Member	Member	The Chairman
`Abdullah ibn Qa`ud	`Abdullah ibn Ghudayyan	`Abdul-`Aziz ibn `Abdullah ibn Baz