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Gathering people to recite the Qur'an with the intention of gaining more of Allah's provision

Fatwa No. (4028):

Q: In Uganda, when someone wants to supplicate Allah to bestow more provisions on him, he invites some learned people who come to him each carrying a Mushaf. They then start reciting; one of them recites Surah Yasin as it is the heart of the Qur'an, another recites Surah Al-Kahf and a third recites Surah Al-Waqi'ah, Al-Rahman, Al-Dukhan, Al-Ma'arij, Al-Qalam, Al-Mulk, Muhammad, Al-Fath or some other Surahs. However, they do not recite any verses of Surah Al-Baqarah and Surah Al-Nisa'. Is this Islamic? If not, please tell us about the correct Islamic behavior with evidence.

A: Reciting the Qur'an and reflecting on its meanings is one of the best deeds that draw a person close to Allah. Moreover, supplicating to Allah and resorting to Him to grant success to do more good, for provisions and for gaining other kinds of bounties is a permissible act of worship. However, reciting the Qur'an in the manner you have just described in your question, i.e. distributing certain Surahs to a number of persons so that each of them recites his respective Surah after which they supplicate Allah to bestow more provisions or the like, is a Bid'ah (rejected innovation in religion). In fact, neither the Prophet (peace be upon him), any of his Companions nor the imams of Salaf (righteous predecessors) (may Allah show mercy to them) is reported to have commanded or done so. Undoubtedly, all good is in following the way of the Salaf, and all evil is in the innovations of the Khalaf (later generations of Muslims). Moreover, the Prophet (peace be upon him) is authentically reported to have said:

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﴿ If somebody innovates something which is not in harmony with the principles of our religion, that thing is rejected. ﴾

However, supplicating to Allah at any time, in both good and bad circumstances is permissible. It is legally recommendable and urged that a person supplicate to Allah during Sujud (prostration) while offering Salah, at predawn and while one is concluding the Salah before saying the Taslim (salutation of peace ending the Prayer). In this regard, the Prophet (peace be upon him) is authentically reported to have said: ﴿ Our Lord descends every night to the world sky when the last third portion of the night begins. He says: Is there any supplicant to answer him? Is there any seeker for My Favor to give him? Is there any seeker for forgiveness to forgive him? ﴾ Recorded by Al-Bukhari and Muslim. It is also authentically reported on the authority of Ibn `Abbas (may Allah be pleased with both of them) that the Prophet (peace be upon him) said: ﴿ So far as Ruku` is concerned, extol in it the Great and

Glorious Lord, and while prostrating yourselves be earnest in supplication, for it is fitting that your supplications should be answered.)Recorded by Ahmad, Muslim, Al-Nasa'y, and Abu Dawud. Moreover, it is authentically reported on the authority of Abu Hurayrah (may Allah be pleased with him) that the Prophet (may peace be upon him) said: (The nearest a servant comes to his Lord is when he is prostrating himself, so make supplication (in this state).)Recorded by Muslim, Abu Dawud, and Al-Nasa'y. Furthermore, it is recorded in the Two Sahih (authentic) Books of Hadith (i.e. those composed by Al-Bukhari and Muslim) on the authority of Ibn Mas`ud (may Allah be pleased with him) that the Prophet (peace be upon him) said to him when teaching him Tashahhud (sitting to invoke Allah's peace upon the Prophet): (Then let him choose from supplication what he loves best and let him supplicate (with it))

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

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