



Bid`ahs of Adhan

Fatwa No. 220

Q: What is the ruling if the Mu'adhin (caller to prayer) says: "Come to the best of actions"?

A: Adhan (call to Prayer) is an act of worship and all acts of worship are Tawqifiy (bound by a religious text and not amenable to personal opinion). It can not be said that this act is permissible except with proof from the Qur'an, Sunnah or Ijma` (consensus). On the other hand, saying that an act of worship is permissible without legal proof, is ignorantly telling lies against Allah. Allah (may He be Exalted) says: ﴿ Say (O Muhammad peace be upon him): "(But) the things that my Lord has indeed forbidden are Al-Fawâhish (great evil sins, and every kind of unlawful sexual intercourse) whether committed openly or secretly, sins (of all kinds), unrighteous oppression, joining partners (in worship) with Allâh for which He has given no authority, and saying things about Allâh of which you have no knowledge." ﴾

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He also says: ﴿ so ask not of Me that of which you have no knowledge... ﴾ The Prophet (peace be upon him) said: ﴿ If somebody innovates something which is not in harmony with the principles of our religion, that thing is rejected. ﴾ According to another narration: ﴿ He who does any act for which there is no sanction from our behalf, that is to be rejected. ﴾

Therefore, the legal Adhan reported from the Messenger of Allah (peace be upon him) is fifteen phrases as follows: Allahu Akbar (Allah is most great), Allahu Akbar (Allah is most great), Allahu Akbar (Allah is most great), Allahu Akbar (Allah is most great). Ash-hadu Alla Ilah Illa (I bear witness that there is no deity but Allah), Ash-hadu Alla Ilah Illa (I bear witness that there is no deity but Allah). Ash-hadu Anna Muhammadan Rasul Allah (I bear witness that Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah), Ash-hadu Anna Muhammadan Rasul Allah (I bear witness that Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah). Hayya `Ala Assalah (Come to prayer), Hayya `Ala Assalah (Come to prayer). Hayyah `Ala Al-Falah (Come to success), Hayyah `Ala Al-Falah (Come to success). Allahu Akbar (Allah is most great), Allahu Akbar (Allah is most great). La Ilah Illa Allah (There is no deity but Allah). This is the Adhan which the Messenger of Allah (peace be upon him) commanded Bilal to announce as was reported by the compilers of Sunan and Masanid (books of Hadiths) Books excluding the Adhan for Fajr (Dawn) Prayer. It is reported that the Mu'adhin of the Prophet (peace be upon him) used to add after saying Hayyah `Ala Al-Falah (come to prayer) the following phrase: Assalatu Khayrun Mina Al-Nawm (Performing Salah is better than sleep). The four Imams (i.e. Abu Hanifah, Malik, Al-Shafi'i and Ahmad) agreed that this phrase is part of the legal Adhan because of the Messenger's approval of saying it by Bilal indicates the permissibility of uttering it. As for the Mu'adhin's saying in the Fajr (Dawn) Prayer: Hayyah `Ala Khayr Al-`Amal (Come to the best of actions), it is not reported from the Prophet (peace be upon him) nor acted upon by Ahl-ul-Sunnah wal-Jama`ah (those adhering to the Sunnah and the Muslim community).

It is in fact an act of Bid`ha (rejected innovation in religion) originated by Al-Rafidah. So, whoever does it, will be rebuked by the minimum degree to prevent him from making such addition to Adhan.

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

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