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First question from Fatwa No. 4276

Q 1: Is it permissible during Salah (Prayer) to recite one Ayah (verse) of the Qur'an in the different standard modes of recitation? For example, is it permissible to change the deverbative 'malik' (owner) in the Ayah: ('malik yawm ad-din' (i.e. Owner of the Day of Judgment)) into the past verb 'malaka' (owned)? What is the ruling if this is not permissible?

A: It is authentically established that the Prophet (peace be upon him) did not recite one word of the Qur'an in two different modes of recitation while in Salah. No one of his Sahabah (Companions, may Allah be pleased with them all) or the Rightly Guided Caliphs is reported to have done this. This practice should be avoided as it constitutes a disapproved act of Bid`ah (rejected innovation in religion). Besides, this practice opposes the Hadith in which the Prophet (peace be upon him) said: (He who innovates things in our affairs for which there is no valid (reason) (commits sin) and these are to be rejected.) In another narration, it is stated: (He who does any act for which there is no sanction from our behalf, that is to be rejected.) Salah is, however, valid.

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

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