

No Fun Being a Wahabi

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February 26, 2010 (Rabi-ul-Awwal 12, 1431)

'Let's all celebrate and have a good time' (Kool and the Gang)

I am a Wahabi by birth. I still recall vividly when everybody else would be making *halwah* on 15th of Shaban (*Shabb-e-Barat*), we would be getting a lecture why making and eating *halwah* on that day was *bida'* and then the famous Hadeeth: "*Wa sharrul Umoori Muhdathaatuhaa, Wa kulla Bid'atin dhaialah, wa kulla dhalatin fin-naar*" (Every innovation is a misguidance and every misguidance leads to Hell fire.)¹ We could have *halwah* any day, but not on the 15th of Sha'ban. I could not figure out why making and eating *halwah* on 15th of Shaban will take you straight to hell, especially if you share some of that *halwah* with poor and needy. As if that was not enough, we went through the same motion around *koondah*² time. While everybody else would be enjoying *kheer* and *poori*, we would be dealt a full bowl of lecture on why *koondah* is a *bida'*. So what if they all have to eat in one place from the same pot in the same plate in a house decorated, furnished, and scented. Isn't it a good practice anyway? Yes, they do not allow doggy bags. Why do you need a doggy bag if you are satiated? Oh, I mean it is for your spouse. If your spouse is lazy and does not like to socialize, she does not deserve that delicious *kheer* and *poori*. As if we had not missed enough fun, there came the month of Rabi-ul-Awwal. The whole country would be in a festive mood. While everybody would be singing and enjoying sweets, we would be sighing for sweets and would be getting a lecture that our Prophet^{SAW} never celebrated his birthday, why should we. It is a *bida'* too.

I have come to the conclusion that we, the Wahabis, do not like parties. Take the case of Mauloodis, those who celebrate the birthday of our Prophet^{SAW}. They don't just celebrate his birthday; they celebrate it with a great enthusiasm. The mood is festive. Who does not like this party: the Wahabis. Mauloodis not only celebrate *Eid Milad-un-Nabi*, they also arrange for *Urs* for hundreds of saints, thus hundreds of occasions for singing eating and sometimes dancing. Tell me honestly, who does not like Dhamal on the *Urs* of La'l Shahbaz Qalandar, especially if it is lead by one of our famous and beautiful film stars. I still miss film actress Rani, May Allah bless her soul. They even have parties, though somber one, when some one dies in the family. They will arrange for a *Quran Khawani* on the third day (*Soyem*) and 40th day (*Chahallum*) after the death of the deceased. As if *Soyem and Chahallum* was not enough, they also celebrate death anniversary (*Barsi*) of the deceased. Since every family could at any time have four recent deceased family members (two each from father and mother side), that gives them four more excuses for party. You would think that you would have been partied out by now. No, Mauloodis have been so ingenious, they have invented eight more ways to have party. After all we have four Khalifas and they all were born and died or were martyred. Too bad we did not have twelve Khalifas, as foretold by the Prophet^{SAW},

¹ Sahih Muslim.

² Ali, Syed Ameer, "The Moslem Festivities," Gangooly & Co., Calcutta, 1892, pp. 49-50; Indian Daily News, Tuesday, June 2, 1891.

http://books.google.com/books?id=iHQJAAAAIAAJ&pg=PA49&lpg=PA49&dq=koonda+ceremony&source=bl&ots=vhdH5WA35J&sig=1oYXO2dLSGc2c9AGWTIYc7j0wOA&hl=en&ei=AnKIS4aVMMvRIAFUtLnRAQ&sa=X&oi=book_result&ct=result&resnum=2&ved=0CAgQ6AEwAQ#v=onepage&q=koonda%20ceremony&f=false

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Mauloodis could have given us sixteen more days of celebration. Add to this twenty five Prophets, had we known their birthdays, Mauloodis could have given us twenty more *Milads*.

The ingenuity of Mauloodis does not stop here. Who would have thought of having a picnic in cemetery? It just happened to be that our Prophet^{SAW} took a stroll to *Jannat-ul-Baqee'* (the cemetery in Madinah) in the middle of night in the middle (15th) of the month of Sha'ban. Following into his footsteps, bus loads of Mauloodis visit cemeteries in the middle of the night. The cemeteries in this night look more like a place of festival. I bet if any one can beat this.

Even Shias, who are famous for mourning, find plenty of excuses to have parties. Since they revere our Prophet^{SAW}, his daughter Fatimah^{RA}, and the twelve Imams, and since all of them were born and all but one died (mostly martyred or poisoned), they have twenty seven excuses to have parties. This is in addition to *Soyem, Chahallum, Barsi, and* the Day of *Ghadeer*, when according to them, our Prophet^{SAW} anointed Ali^{RA} as Khalifah.

As if skipping *halwah* on *Shabb-e-Barat*, *kheer* and *poori* on *Koonda*, sweets on *Milad*, and music, dinner and dance on *Urs* was not sufficient, Wahabis do not even have Quran Khawani. There goes three occasions for having a party. The most you will get is a cup of tea on the day of funeral. The only party you can expect from them is on the birth of a baby or on marriage. Even then you will be bored with a lecture before the dinner is served. No wonder Talibans are rushing to martyrdom, they are not having any fun here.

Let us face it. Our Prophet^{SAW} gave us only two Eids, Eid-ul-Fitr and Eid-ul-Adha. Mauloodis have given us *Eid-Milad-un-Nabi, Shabb-e-Barat, Koonda*, hundreds of *Urs, Soyem, Chahallum, Barsi*, eight days of *Khulafa*, and picnic in the cemetery. Shias have given us Eid Ghadeer, twenty seven days of Imams, *Soyem, Chahallum, and Barsi*. What have Wahabis given us – nothing, zilch, nada.

I am the type of guy who likes parties in any form, of any color, at any time, and at any place. You want me to read Quran in Quran Khawani, I will read. I may skip quite a few pages though; I will at least go through the motion. You want me to cry in Muharram and flog myself, I will cry and flog. You want me to sing and dance in *Urs*, I will sing and dance. You want me to be in the cemetery in the middle of night, I will be there. I am Wahabi no more, there is no fun being a Wahabi.

About the Writer:

The writer has authored "Secrets of Angels, Demons, Satan, and Jinns – Decoding their Nature through Quran and Science," and "Atom to Adam – How, When and Where in the Light of Quran, Bible and Science (A Study of Human Origin)," both published by InstantPublishers.com (<http://instantpublisher.com/>) and "Lessons from the Qur'an," published by Ta-Ha Publishers (<http://www.taha.co.uk/>). These books are available from Amazon.com (<http://www.amazon.com/>) and Ta-Ha Publishers (<http://www.taha.co.uk/>), respectively. He has also published many essays on religious issues in the Charleston Gazette, West Virginia and written quite a few Islamic satires. He is a Chemical Engineer and possesses Master of Science degrees in Chemical Engineering and Chemistry and has Professional Engineers license from the State of Texas. His e-mail address is mnajawaid@yahoo.com. Many of his writings can be viewed at MahmoodJawaid.com.