

IDRAAK

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# — I D R A A K —

## Peace & Blessings

As we bid farewell to the blessed month of Rabi' al Awwal, we encourage our readers to take a moment and reflect upon their love for our Prophet Muhammad (SAW). Some critical questions we ought to ask ourselves are how we can increase our love for Rasool Allah (SAW), how we can express that love in our hearts in a way that will bring us into the good graces of Allah SWT and benefit us in this life and the akhirah. In this month's Issue of Idraak, we will explore the details behind the birth of Rasool Allah (SAW) and the importance of Salawat.

September 2024


*Did you know?*

A preferred sweet dish of Rasool Allah (SAW) was called Talbina. Talbina is a porridge made of barley, milk and honey. It is straightforward to make and requires one to simply boil roasted barley oats in milk until cooked and add honey. For medicinal benefits, pure raw honey is preferred. It was narrated by 'Urwa that the Prophet (SAW) said, "Talbina gives rest to the heart of the patient and makes it active and relieves some of his sorrow and grief" (Sahih al-Bukhari 5689).

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# A BLESSED BIRTH

What fills the heart of a Muslim if not the love of Allah SWT and His messenger, the Holy Prophet (SAW)? We strive to follow in the footsteps of our beloved Rasool (SAW) in our day-to-day lives by embodying the sunnah down to the most minute level, such as eating with the right hand or offering Tahajud in the late hours of the night. Of course, we can only hope to increase this love through acts of worship and obedience by submitting our will to the commandments of

Allah. But what else can we do to appreciate and express our love for Prophet Muhammad (SAW)? Does Rabi' al Awwal, being the birth month of the Holy Prophet, hold any extra significance that could impact our love for Nabi SAW? The short answer is no.

Many of us may be aware of the celebration of Mawlid (or Eid Milad un Nabi), which is<sup>1</sup> observed by certain groups on the 12th of Rabi' al Awwal to celebrate the birth of the Holy Prophet. The focus of this article is not on whether or not this

celebration is an innovation, as that subject has been highly discussed by our scholars. However, innovation or not, what exactly do we know about the birth of the Messenger of Allah (SAW)? There is no Ikhtilaaf on which the month and year Rasool Allah (SAW) was born; it was Rabi' al Awwal and the Year of the Elephant (570CE). However, do we know that it was the 12th, to be exact? Surprisingly, this is a topic on which scholars have differed. Varying sources have confirmed that we do not know the exact date on which the Prophet (SAW) was born. However, consensus states that it was between the 8th-12th of Rabbi' al Awwal. Where there is no Ikhtilaaf, however, is that our beloved Rasool (SAW) indeed passed

away on the 12th of Rabbi' al Awwal, and it was a Monday. We ought to consider this before turning to celebration and innovation upon such a day.

*Did you know?*

It is from the Sunnah of Rasool Allah (SAW) to perform Wuddu before going to bed. It was narrated by Ibn Abbas that Rasool Allah (SAW) said, **“There is no slave who goes to sleep in a state of wuddu, but an Angel spends the night with him, and every time he turns over, [the Angel] says, ‘O Allah! Forgive Your slave, for he went to bed in a state of wuddu’”** (Tabarani, Hadith: 5087).



# BORN ON A MONDAY

We know that there is categorically no evidence from the Quran and Sunnah of the Prophet (SAW) or his companions celebrating the birth of Rasool Allah (SAW) on a specific day. However, we do know (as stated earlier) that the Holy Prophet (SAW) was born on a Monday. It would be fair to say that the Prophet (SAW) did not celebrate his birth; however, it would be wrong to say that he did not recognize it. What is the difference between celebration

And recognition? The answer can be found in the hadith. When asked why he fasted on Mondays, the Prophet (SAW) answered that he did so because he was born on a Monday and first received revelation on a Monday.<sup>1</sup> So what, then, is the purpose of differentiating between celebration and recognition? One could argue that doing an act of worship prescribed through the Sunnah which

1: Sahih Muslim 1162

brings blessings and rewards from Allah, is indeed celebratory in itself. It is vital to understand that fasting on Mondays is an act of worship, not a day of lavish dinners and functions. Furthermore, this is a recurring act of prayer to follow in the footsteps of the Holy Prophet (SAW), not a specific day chosen out of the entire year to indulge in extravagance and innovation. A small act of worship done on a regular basis will no doubt bring more blessings and rewards from Allah (SWT) than any act of innovation, no matter how big or lavish.

*Did you know?*

It was narrated in a sahih hadith from Anas ibn Malik (may Allah be pleased with him), who said: the Prophet (blessings and peace of Allah be upon him) said to Fatimah: “What could prevent you from listening to the advice I give you? You should say when morning comes and when evening comes: **Ya Hayyu ya Qayyum, bi rahmatika astaghith, aslih li shani kullahu, wa la takilni ila nafsi tarfat ‘ayn** (O Ever-Living, O Self-Sustaining and All-Sustaining, by Your mercy I seek help; rectify all my affairs and do not leave me in charge of my affairs even for the blink of an eye).” (Narrated by an-Nasai in as-Sunan al-Kubra 6/147)





Spanish Masjid, Chefchaouen, Morocco. (By Al Mahmud @theihsanway)





# LOVE AND BLESSINGS

Photo By Al Mahmud @theihsanway

For those of us who have truly felt love for Rasool Allah (SAW) fill the valves of our hearts, how do we express gratitude and recognition of this love? Allah states in the Holy Quran that “Indeed, Allah showers His blessings upon the Prophet, and His angels pray for him. O believers! Invoke Allah’s blessings upon him, and salute him with worthy greetings of peace.”<sup>1</sup> From this verse it is clear that Allah has commanded us to send peace and blessings upon his beloved Rasool (SAW).

The act of sending peace and blessings upon the Prophet is known as Salawaat. Every Muslim is accustomed to saying “salli Allahu Alayhi Wasalam” at the end of the Prophet’s name, but what exactly does this mean? The phrase is best translated to mean “may the peace and blessings of Allah be upon him.” We say this out of love and respect for our beloved Rasool (SAW) and should repeat this phrase whenever his name is mentioned.



We should understand now that sending Salawat is one of the best deeds in Islam. One of the best ways to send Salawat upon the Prophet (SAW) is to recite the Durood. The Durood is the act of sending blessings upon the Prophet (SAW) and his household, as narrated by Abdullah ibn Zaid in a Sahih hadith.<sup>2</sup> According to the hadith, when Rashool Allah (SAW) was asked how to send blessings upon him according to the command of Allah, he replied by teaching the Sahaba the following phrase:

Allaahumma salli 'alaa Muhammadin wa 'alaa 'aali Muhammad; kamaa sallayta 'alaa 'Ibraaheema wa 'alaa 'aali 'Ibraaheem, 'innaka Hameedum Majeed.  
Allaahumma baarik 'alaa Muhammadinw wa 'alaa 'aali Muhammad;

kamaa baarakta 'alaa 'Ibraaheema wa 'alaa 'aali 'Ibraaheem, 'innaka Hameedum Majeed.<sup>3</sup>

اَللّٰهُمَّ صَلِّ عَلٰى مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلٰى آلِ  
مُحَمَّدٍ كَمَا صَلَّيْتَ عَلٰى اِبْرَاهِيْمَ  
وَعَلٰى آلِ اِبْرَاهِيْمَ اِنَّكَ حَمِيْدٌ مَّجِيْدٌ  
اَللّٰهُمَّ بَارِكْ عَلٰى مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلٰى آلِ  
مُحَمَّدٍ كَمَا بَارَكْتَ عَلٰى اِبْرَاهِيْمَ  
وَعَلٰى آلِ اِبْرَاهِيْمَ اِنَّكَ حَمِيْدٌ مَّجِيْدٌ

This supplication, known as **Durood-e-Ibrahimi**, is a vital part of our daily worship as it is recited in all five of our daily prayers. Furthermore, it was narrated by Anas ibn Malik (RA) that Rashool Allah (SAW) said: Whoever sends salah upon me once, Allah (SWT) will send salah upon him tenfold and will erase ten sins from him, and will raise him ten degrees in status.”<sup>4</sup>

Ultimately, there is no need to celebrate a birthday with strange customs such as cake cutting and innovated acts of worship on a specific day to express our love and gratitude for the Prophet of Allah (SAW). Instead, when we send peace and blessings upon our Prophet (SAW), we please Allah (SWT) and bring ourselves a great reward while showing our Lord that we truly love and respect His most beloved Nabi (SAW).

We ought to remind ourselves as often as we can that the best way to show our love and respect for our beloved Rasool (SAW) is to embody the Sunnah and engage in acts of worship that the Quran and Sunnah have prescribed; only then, by the will of The One in Whose Hand rest our souls will we enter the good graces of

Allah and be able to enter Paradise. May Allah make us amongst those who stay true to the Quran and Sunnah and allow us to drink the waters of Al-Kawther from the hands of Rasool Allah (SAW). Ameen.

**1: Quran 33:56**

**2: Sahih Muslim: 405**

**3: Quran 9:37**

**4: An-Nasa'i 1297**

*Did you know?*

Rasool Allah (SAW) would pray tahajud until his feet would swell. When asked why he did so, RasoolAllah replied, "Should I not be a thankful slave of Allah? (Sahih Al Bukhari 4836). We ought to do our best and pray tahajud as often as we can to follow in the footsteps of Nabi (SAW) and gain the immense reward offering the tahajud prayer.





Palais El Mokri, Fez, Morocco. (By Al Mahmud @theihsanway)





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