

Mawlid al-Nabi

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The 12th of Rabi al Awwal marks the birthday of the holy messenger of Allah (swt), Prophet Muhammad (saaw) which falls this year on Saturday the 26th of June. Although, many so called reformers of Muslim society who have sought to "sanitize" Islam decry the practice of the solemn remembrance and recounting of the blessed Prophet's birth, it is a practice that has its roots in 1400 years of Islamic tradition whose source is the indelible Qur'an and Sunnah.

قُلْ إِنْ كُنْتُمْ تُحِبُّونَ اللَّهَ
فَاتَّبِعُونِي يُحِبَّبِكُمْ اللَّهُ وَيَغْفِرْ لَكُمْ ذُنُوبَكُمْ وَاللَّهُ غَفُورٌ رَحِيمٌ

Say: "If ye love Allah follow me: Allah will love you and forgive you your sins for Allah is Oft-Forgiving Most Merciful." (Al `Imran, 3:31)

The Celebration of the Holy Prophet's (s) birth is motivated by this obligation to love the Prophet, Peace be upon him, to obey him, to remember him, to follow his example and be proud of him as Allah is proud of him, since Allah has boasted about him in his Holy Book by saying,

وَإِنَّكَ لَعَلَىٰ خُلُقٍ عَظِيمٍ

"Truly, (Oh Muhammad saaw) you are of a magnificent character." (Al Qalam, 68,4)

Love of the Prophet (saaw) is what differentiates the believers in the perfection of their Iman. In an authentic hadith related in Bukhari and Muslim, the Prophet (saaw) said; "None of you believes until he loves me more than he loves his children, his parents and all people."

The day of the Prophet's birth, therefore, is considered by Muslims all over the world as an important day to be remembered and celebrated.

وَمَا أَرْسَلْنَاكَ إِلَّا رَحْمَةً لِّلْعَالَمِينَ

Allah (swt) revealed:

"And we have not sent thee but as a Mercy to the nations." (Al-Anbiya', 21:107)

Muslims everywhere celebrate this day with great rejoicing. This occasion is not for frivolity or pleasure seeking, but an event of inner joy and happiness. Assemblies and conferences are held throughout the Muslim world to narrate the stories of the Prophet's birth, childhood, manhood, and his preaching, his character, his sufferings and his forgiveness for even his bitterest enemies, and about his leadership, his triumphs through Allah's mercy over the hearts of men. The 12th of Rabi al Awwal is not the only day on which the birthday of the Prophet is celebrated, rather the whole month of Rabi al Awwal is commemorated as the "birth month" of the Prophet.

The Holy Prophet's Sunnah, does not forbid the remembrance of the Prophet's birth and the recounting of the story of the Prophet's life on the day of the 12th of Rabi al Awwal. Rather, it is a praiseworthy act to remember Allah (swt)

and his prophet (saaw) and out of love for them both strive to emulate their sunan -- that is the Sunnat Allah and the Sunnat Rasul. The praise of the Prophet is Sunat Allah as He said:

ءَامِنُوا صَلُّوا عَلَيْهِ وَسَلِّمُوا تَسْلِيمًا
إِنَّ اللَّهَ وَمَلَائِكَتَهُ يُصَلُّونَ عَلَى النَّبِيِّ يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ

Verily, Allah and his angels send peace and blessings upon his messenger, Believers, bless him and send salutations to him. (Al Ahzab, 33:56)

Perfection of faith is dependent on love of the Prophet (saaw) because Allah and his angels are constantly raising his honor as is quoted by the aforementioned verse. The Quality of being a believer is dependent and manifested by praying for the prophet.

Oh Allah, send peace and blessings on the Prophet, his family, and companions.