

Sunnah and Bid3a



1. Meaning of the word Bid3a in Islam.

- Bida3a is to invent new ways that would change the religion. Following Bid3a is haram. The Prophet^{SAW} said “Every Biad3a is misguidance and any misguidance would lead to the hell fire”. He also said “If anyone invents new things in our region, we reject them”
 - Changes to the form of prayers. For example, putting your hands behind your neck during prayers or facing the White House instead of Makkah.
 - Changes in 3bada. For example, fasting April instead of Ramadan, doing Haj to the White House instead of Ka3ba or modify the religion to be more coinvented to you, other than the allowed changes.
 - Mixing Islam with philosophy, redefine ideology or messing with the attributes of Allah^{SWT}. Think, ask or talk about the physical form of Allah^{SWT} and his movement. We can think about the physics of the creations of Allah^{SWT}, but not Allah^{SWT} himself. Allah^{SWT} is different than any and all physical descriptions of him.
- a. Can I put my hands behind my neck during the prayer? Why?

b. Can I go to the Masjid driving a car instead of riding a camel or horse?
Why?

c. Can I pay my Zakah using a check instead of cash? Why?

2. Pure sources of Islam

a. Why did Allah^{SWT} select the Arabs to establish his religion? Why did he select illiterate Prophet^{SAW} breaching to illiterate society in the middle of the deserts of Arabia?

b. Why didn't Allah^{SWT} select the Roman society to carry and deliver the message of Islam?

c. Why didn't Allah^{SWT} select the Jews of Arabia to carry and deliver the message of Islam?

3. Mixing Islam with Philosophy.

a. Can Allah^{SWT} create a rock that he can't carry? What is the proper answer to this question?

b. Who brought in the philosophy to the Muslim world and what was his intentions?

c. What is the concept of Unity of Existence defined by Ibn Arabi?

i. Islam says that the Creator is different than the creations and separate from Him, but Ibn Arabi said that The Creator and the creation are not separate. They are one connected unit of existence.

4. The Bid'as of the Mo3tazila's deviant group

- Claims that Quran is not the talk of Allah^{SWT}. Rather, Quran is created.
- Claims that Allah^{SWT} doesn't have eyes, hands or fingers. Allah^{SWT} can't speak, hear or see. Allah^{SWT} creates his speech. When Musa met Allah^{SWT}

- next to the Holy tree, Allah^{SWT} did not talk to Musa. He rather created the talk in the tree that delivered the voice to Musa.
- Reinterpretations of Allah^{SWT} statements in the Quran where he said that he has eyes and hands to mean vision and power.
 - The Prophet^{SAW} said that Allah^{SWT} has two hands and both are right hands. He also said that the hearts of people are located between two fingers of Allah^{SWT}'s fingers and he flips them as he wills.
 - The physical nature of "Allah^{SWT} rose over the throne" must not be discussed or considered.
 - Up to that time, no one asked these questions or had such thoughts about these issues. The Prophet^{SAW} and Muslims took these descriptions as is and refrained from any attempts to define the form or the physics of such descriptions. They took them as is.
 - Imam Ahmed Ibn Hunbal said that we affirm whatever Allah^{SWT} and his Messenger said regarding these issues and we take them as is without thinking about the physical form or physical nature. We say that Allah^{SWT} has hands, eyes, fingers, he talks, he sees in a manner that is appropriate for his majesty and known to him but unknown to us. Thinking and talking about these issues is Bid3a.
 - The Mo3tazila group argued that these descriptions of hand, eyes, hearing and seeing are associated with physical forms that we can see in ourselves. We reject them because we reject any assignment to a physical form to Allah^{SWT}.
 - In debating with Mo3tazila, Imam Ahmed asked them why didn't the Prophet^{SAW}, his companions and the Muslims before never raised such

issues and talked about them at all. Whatever was good for them must also be good for us. They were promised Jannah and they are in Jannah now, and we are looking forward to follow their footsteps to also go to Jannah and be with them.

- Imam Ahmed Ibn Hunbal defined Quran as the talk of Allah^{SWT} revealed to the Prophet^{SAW} Mohamed^{SAW}. If Quran was created, it means that someone can claim that the Quran died or expired, just like all other creations of Allah^{SWT}.
- Muslim scholars and historians unanimously agreed that without the struggle of two individuals, the Islam we have today would have been different from the Islam taught and practiced by the Prophet^{SAW} Mohamed^{SAW} and his companions. They identified these two as Imam Ahmed Ibn Hunbal and Abu Baker Al-Sidiq, the first Khalifa after the Prophet^{SAW} died.
- After the death of the Prophet^{SAW}, a very large segment of Muslims demanded that they don't want to pay Zakat. They said that they would accept only four pillars in Islam, not five because they wanted the Zakat out. They joined hands with the people who denounced Islam and followed false Prophet^{SAW}s to form an army that would fight Abu Baker Al-Sidiq, defeat him and establish their new version of Islam as the official version. Only three cities remained out of the entire Arabian Peninsula that followed Abu Baker Al-Sidiq. His army was so little compared to the army of the rest of Arabia. He was advised by the other companions of the Prophet^{SAW} to accept the proposed change in Islam because they can't fight such a huge army compared to theirs, but he

stood like a lion and insisted to fight to defend Islam. He prevailed and Islam remained unchanged.

- Leaders of the Mo3tazila group became very powerful and the Muslim Khalifa Al-Mamoon embraced their ideas. He used the power of the state to adopt their understanding as the official understanding of the government. Those who oppose or teach otherwise are severely punished. All scholars surrendered and the only one who did not surrender was Imam Ahmed Ibn Hunbal. He stood fast for fifteen years (833-848) until he was able to defeat the Bid3as introduced by the deviant Mo3tazila group. He was tortured beyond human abilities. He was jailed and was webbed in public so many times to accept and endorse the Mo3tazila's ideology. But he refused because he was the supreme Imam and the final authority, and the only one who did not surrender. If he would have surrendered, then the Mo3tazila's theology would have been the official theology of Islam. Khalifa Motawakil was the one who ended this crisis in the year 848. He realized that if Imam Ahmed was after power and wealth, then when he suffers from the torture, he would abandon his ideas because they are not bringing him the power and wealth that he was looking for. Rather, they were bringing him misery and humiliation. The steadfastness of Imam Ahmed for 15 years made the Khalifa realize that this man must be sincere and indeed he has been the most knowledgeable scholar at his time.
- At the end of the crisis, all other scholars of Islam came to ask for his forgiveness because they chose not to defend Islam. Their excuse was that they were scared from the Khalifa. They argued that Ummar Ibn

Yasir, who was one of the closest companions to the Prophet^{SAW}, cursed Islam and the Prophet^{SAW} while being under torture by the Arab lords to do so. When he was released, he went to the Prophet^{SAW} crying and asking for forgiveness. The Prophet^{SAW} asked him if he was saying it from his heart and Umar replied no, “my heart is full of love to Allah^{SWT} and his Prophet^{SAW}, and to Islam”. The Prophet^{SAW} then told him that he is not accountable for what he says under torture, and if the Arab lords repeat the torture again, he should repeat the cursing again without any feeling of guilt. The scholars argued that they were afraid of the punishment of Khalifa and they are forgiven under the same excuse. Imam Ahmed rejected this argument and replied that Umar was actually under torture when he did that, but they were not being tortured.

- At the end, the Mu'tazila's beliefs died and Imam Ahmed Ibn Hanbal's defense lasted. The funeral of Imam Ahmed was attended by more than half a million people and they all appreciated and love him, and have been praying for him. On the other hand, people don't know or even remember the founders of the deviant Mu'tazila group.
 - Mu'tazila's were not sincere in their proposed changes. They wanted to be leaders, have power and become the supreme authority of the religion of Islam. The idea was to establish a new theology and become the founding leaders for it. By convincing the Khalifa Mamoon to embrace the new theology and spread it using the power of the state.
- a. Imam Ahmed Ibn Hanbal define Quran as?
 - b. What is wrong in saying the Quran was created?

- c. Who is the Mo3tazila group? What did they do to make themselves different than the rest of the Muslims? What was the conflict between Imam Ahmed Ibn Hunbal and them?
 - d. What was the conflict between Imam Ahmed Ibn Hunbal and the Mo3tazila group regarding the Quran? Why was it so important to stop these clowns from messing with the Quran or the names of Allah^{SWT}?
 - e. For what purpose Imam Ahmed Ibn Hunbal was tortured beyond imagination for years? They tried to force him to admit what?
 - f. What was the argument of Imam Ahmed Ibn Hunbal against raising the issues of the Quran is the creation of Allah^{SWT}, Allah^{SWT} has hands, Allah^{SWT}'s eyes, Allah^{SWT} hears, Allah^{SWT} sees, Allah^{SWT}'s rose over the throne, Allah^{SWT} established himself on the throne, ...etc? Do we need to discuss these issues?
 - g. What did Imam Ahmed Ibn Hunbal define Quran as?
 - h. What is wrong in saying the Quran was created?
 - i. Who is Ummar Ibn Yasir and what happened to him?
 - j. About the scholars who didn't stand up with Imam and defend the Islamic theology against Mo3tazila's ideology, Ahmed, what was their excuse and why did Imam Ahmed reject it?
5. Meanings of the word Sunnah in the Islamic terminology.
- a. Sunnah is the opposite of Bid3a.
 - b. Sunnah is the sayings and actions of the Prophet^{SAW}. Also called Hadith.
 - c. Sunnah in terms of the classification of deeds. Deeds are classified into four categories; Halal is Allowed, Haram is not allowed, Sunnah is a voluntarily deed to get extra rewards, and Makrooh is the deed that you

earn reward if you don't do it but no harm if you do it. In this classification system, Sunnah is opposite to Makrooh, because you earn extra reward by doing a Sunnah deed but no harm if you don't. On the other hand, you earn extra reward by staying away from a Makrooh deed but no harm if you do it

d. Sunni Islam opposite to Shia Islam.

6. How does Bid3a divide the Muslims? How did it divide the Christian faith?

a. Bid3a will divide the Muslims into two groups; one group would accept the Bid3a and another group that wouldn't accept it. The following Bid3as will further divided the already divided subgroups to further divisions based on who accept the Bid3a and who wouldn't.

b. The problem is worse in Christianity because, unlike Islam, Bid3a is not strictly prohibited. This is why we can see so many groups with major differences between them. There is no agreed upon form for formal prayers. No one knows how Jesus prayed. No Christian Jurisprudence Science exists (similar to the Islamic Jurisprudence, also called Fqih).

c. Example of different Christian denominations; 1. Roman Catholicism, 2. Eastern Orthodoxy, 3. Lutheranism, 4. Mormonism, 5. Anabaptism, 6. Pentecostal, 7. Baptist, 8. Orthodoxy, 9. Methodist, 10. Lutheran, 11. Evangelical, 12. Church of Christ, 13. Anglican (Episcopalian), 14. Seventh Day Adventist, 15. Church of God, 16. Presbyterian, 17. Quakers, 18. Anabaptist, 19. Calvinism, 20. Jehovah's Witness, 21. Salvation Army, 22. Rastafari Movement, 23. Iglesia ni Cristo, 24. Church of England, 25. Amish, 26. The United Church, 27. Universalism, 28. Coptic, 29. Reformed Orthodox, 30. Episcopalian, 31. Ethiopian

Orthodox, 32. Waldensians, 33. Christian Science, 34. Unitarian, 35.
Reformed Presbyterian, 36. Independent Baptist, 37.
Nondenominational.

- d. The divisions between Shia Islam and Sunny Islam are mainly political difference and little religious ones, for example, do you agree that Imam Ali should have been the first Khalifa instead of the fourth Khalifa, do you dislike the Umayyad dynasty and the Umayyad family, do you dislike Khalifa Abu Baker and Khalifa Omer and do you dislike mother Aisha. The division came as a backlash of the murder of Imam Al-Husain in Karbala, see [this link](#) for more details.
- e. Shia Muslims and Sunny Muslims read the same Quran, pray five times a day, fast Ramadan, go for Haj, pay Zakah, ...etc. Religious differences are few, such as a Shia Muslim must be under the care of a sheikh or Imam (breast), just like being under the care of a primary care physician. This concept is practiced by Sofi Muslims. Sofi Muslims practice Sunny Islam but they also believe that they need to be under the care of a wise knowledgeable Sheikh or Imam. In addition, Shia Muslims believe that the head of the state should be a scholar of Islam, which is called theocracy. Some of the theological differences are; do we need to know God mainly by our brains (logic) or by our hearts (emotions), and are we going to be able to see God in the afterlife or not.

7. The Question of Sufism?

- a. What is the origin of Sufism and the name Sufi? Is it Bid3a?
- b. What the intent of the funny expression “Goofy Sofi”
 - i. To distinguish between true Sufiism and Bid3a Sufism

- c. Were the Prophet^{SAW} and his companions Sufis?
 - d. No. They never participated in Hadra Zikr
 - e. Is Sufi dancing and singing form of Zikr (Hadra) considered to be Bid3a? Was it practiced by the Prophet Mohamed^{SAW} and his companions?
 - i. See https://youtu.be/bjZgvy_aMRU, <https://youtu.be/1bSc7hCNRfl>, <https://youtu.be/4lRWJLxZ0ms>, <https://youtu.be/MG7U1ZO7yeQ>
 - ii. [See comments of scholars about Sufi's Hadra Zikr](#)
 - f. What are the secret formulas? Are they allowed in Islam? Make up an example of secret formula. How do you reply to the ones who argue that it is part of the religion?
 - g. Reply to secret formula issue. Did the Prophet^{SAW} know it? Yes, then did he hide it from us. No, then who are you to know something the Prophet^{SAW} did not know.
 - h. Some of the Sofi schools teach making Zikr by singing and sometimes dancing? Is this Bid3a or not? Why or Why not? How do you reply to someone who says it is okay?
 - i. Give two jokes about Sheikhs who pretend to have special powers?
 - j. In the Sofi tradition, can you question the Sheik about his decrees? Is this Sunnah or Bid3a? Explain.
8. Differences of opinion are allowed but Bid3as are not allowed.
- a. How many Sunni schools of Fiqh (Madhab or Tradition) exist? Name them and mention their locations.
 - i. Imam Abo Hanifa, Imam Malik, Imam Ahmed bin Hanbul and Imam Al-Shaf3i.
 - ii. The most strict is the Hanbuli School. In Saudi Arabia.

- iii. The Malki School is in the western side of the Muslim world, such as Andalusia (Spain), Algeria and Morocco.
 - iv. The Hanafi School is in the eastern side of the Muslim world, such as Pakistan, India and Afghanistan.
 - v. The Shaf3i School is spread in Egypt and Syria.
- b. Give examples of differences between them?
- i. Covering the face, saying Amin after reading, the call for prayer, Iqama, your hand position while standing in prayer, resting before standing, saying Amin after reading the Fatiha.
- c. Differences are divided into legal and illegal. Explain what makes a difference legal and what makes in illegal and give couple of examples of legal and illegal differences.
- i. Differences between schools of Fiqh are legal. You can follow either. Example 1 is can we hold the Quran in our hands to read from during prayer? Hanafi school says no. Others say yes. Example 2 Is Ramadan Tarawih prayer 8 Rakas or 20 Raka.
 - ii. Differences in the issues agreed upon in the four schools are not legal. Example: How many times do we pray every day? They must be five. Do we need to make Wudu before we pray? Yes.
 - iii. Differences in issues mentioned in the Quran in a perfectly understandable clear Arabic language text are illegal.
 - iv. Differences in the pillars of Islam or pillars of worship are illegal.
- d. What are the conditions of wiping on your socks? How long can you do this?

- e. Is Tahara and cleanness the same? Can you be Tahir but unclean? Give examples.
- f. Is saying Amin after Fatiha loudly correct? Is saying it quietly correct? Is the difference here legal or illegal, if any? Explain?
- g. Mention the story when the Prophet^{SAW} Said “Whom believes in Allah^{SWT} and his Prophet^{SAW} shouldn’t pray Asr except in Bani Qoryza”. What was the comment of the Prophet^{SAW} on both interpretations?
- h. Is praying with you shoes on Sunnah or Bid3a, mention the story of the guy who wanted to do this? How about praying without Hijab for girls? How about for boys who pray with shorts above the knee? Explain.
- i. How many ways we can recite Quran, see ? Give an example from Surat Al-Fatiha. Compare the meanings to each other to see if they complement or oppose each other.
- j. Mention the event of Standardizing Quran by Khalifa Othman.
- k. Do the different ways of reading Quran give you meanings that complement each other or oppose each other? Give examples from Surat Al-Shams?