

Dear Brothers and Respected Sisters
Salaamun Alaykum

The Bid'ah of Hanging Horseshoes on Doors For Barakah

In later times, some communities adopted the practice of hanging horseshoes or horses' hooves on the doors of houses and shops, thinking that such objects would bring Barakah (blessing) or protect them from harm. This act, however, is rooted in ignorance and superstition - Tatayyur and has no foundation in the Qur'an, the Sunnah of Rasūlullāh (S), or the Talim of the Ahl al-Bayt (as). This Bidah can be traced to one of the darkest events in Islamic history. After the Shahādah of Sayyid al-Shuhadā', Moula Abī 'Abdillāh al-Ḥusayn (as), the Mal'ūn 'Umar ibn Sa'd ordered his cavalry to trample the blessed bodies of the Shuhadā' of Karbalā'. The soldiers fitted new iron shoes on their horses and ran them across the Shuhadas' bodies, crushing their chests and backs. When those horses later entered Kūfa, Malun Umayyads people kissed their hooves and hung them on their doors, treating them as sacred. Thus, the very instruments of desecration were falsely transformed into supposed symbols of blessing. Centuries later, scholars such as Abū Rayḥān al-Bīrūnī (d. 440 AH) exposed the reality of this custom. Unfortunately, traces of it continued for centuries. By the grace of Allah and the efforts of responsible 'Ulamā', the spread of religious Talim, and public awareness, this ominous Bid'ah has decreased.

The Qur'an explicitly condemns attributing fortune, misfortune, or blessing to objects without divine sanction:

"They said: Your bad omen is with you. Do you call it an ill omen when you are admonished? Rather, you are a people who transgress." (Surah Yā-Sīn 36:19)

Here, Qur'an rejects the idea of Tiyyarah (omens) and condemns attributing spiritual power to meaningless signs. Similarly:

"Indeed, no disaster strikes except by permission of Allah. And whoever believes in Allah - He guides his heart. And Allah is Knowing of all things." (Surah al-Taghābun 64:11)

This Ayah teaches that true Barakah and protection come only from Allah, not from objects or omens. Al Imām Ja'far al-Ṣādiq (as) says:

*"There is no Tiyyarah (bad omen); rather, every matter is in the hand of Allah."
(al-Kāfī, vol. 8, p. 195)*

And he (as) further clarified:

“Bad omens affect only the one who believes in them. But if one ignores them and relies on Allah, nothing will harm him.” (al-Kāfī, vol. 8, p. 196)

Amir al-Mumineen ‘Alī (as) also warned against innovations:

“No Bidah (innovation) is introduced into religion except that a Sunnah is abandoned because of it.”

(Nahj al-Balāghah, Hikmah 164)

Rasūlullāh (S) on Bid‘ah says:

“When innovations appear in my Ummah, it is the duty of the scholar to manifest his knowledge. Whoever does not do so, upon him is the Laanah, curse of Allah, His Malaek, and all of mankind.” (Bihār al-Anwār, vol. 54, p. 234)

Thus, hanging horseshoes on doors is not a means of blessing, but a superstitious Bid‘ah rooted in one of the most tragic desecrations of Islamic history. To sanctify such an object is to dishonor the Shuhada of Karbalā’ and contradict the Qur’an and the Talim of the Ahl al-Bayt (as). True Barakah lies in ‘ibādah, Taqwā, Du‘ā’, the Qur’an, and Walayah for the Ahl al-Bayt (as), not in material objects associated with superstition.

With Respect

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