

In the Name of Allah, Most Gracious, Most Merciful

Celebrating Non-Islaamic Festivals

By Irshad Mahmood – Director, Siraat-al-Mustaqeem Dawah Centre

We are lining in Global Village where we listen and watch what is going around the globe, including others festivals. We need to be very careful and must find the boundary limits about these. Any wrong doing may cause Allah's anger as in the beginning of 21st century, we already are seeing around Muslims world, probably due to openly disobeying Allah's command. One after another Muslim countries are falling down into traps of Shaitaan and Great Massacre of people is going on. We must know the limits, and keep asking Allah for his guidance. Due to misconception among Muslims, wastage of everything is going on, while many poor are facing Great Famine (Starvation).

A Muslim is not allowed to participate in any religious aspect of a celebration which is related to non-Muslims. However, we should not forget our role in society. We should be good examples to others. Islaam urges us to be kind to everyone without any kind of discrimination due to differences in faith or race, (Ref: Al_Quraan_060.008).

Muslims are forbidden to celebrate religious feasts, such as Christmas, Diwali, Hanukkah, etc. For other Non-Religious festivals like New Year, we must be very careful and make sure not to over expense, not crossing the boundary limits of the Quraan and instead help the needy. Keep in mind every day and night is made by Allah and it is for our counting. Even before the start of our counting of days there were days and night existed. However it is allowed to take part in the general, non-religious aspects of celebrations of other feasts, if living in non-Muslim countries. We already have Islamic celebrations of the two Eids, so we must avoid celebrating other festivals. Even in Eid festivals we must avoid over expense and showoffs etc., also keep in mind that it is not making difficult for others who cannot afford to celebrate like this or it is not making people to fall into race of showoffs.

If one is living in Non-Muslim countries, it is allowed for him/her to take part in non-religious aspects of the celebrations of other feasts in his/her workplaces/Institutions. Make sure not to do over expense or waste or crossing the boundary limit of the Quraan, instead help the needy.

Congratulating non-Muslims on their religious or non-religious feasts is part of the good relations that we are commanded to do so, as long as it comes under the boundary limit of the Quraan, e.g. we can say to Christian fellow Merry Christmas, or Hindu fellow Happy Diwali, or Jews fellow Happy Hanukkah etc., (Ref: Al_Quraan_060.008).

Allah does not forbid you respecting those who have not made war against you on account of (your) religion, and have not driven you forth from your homes, that you show them kindness and deal with them justly; surely Allah loves the doers of justice, (Al_Quraan_060.008).

O you who believe! Take not the Jews and Christians for Auliya (protectors and helpers). They are protectors one to another. **He among you who takes them for protectors is (one) of them.** Lo! Allah guides not wrongdoing folk, (Al_Quraan_005.051).

O you who believe! Choose not for Auliya (protectors and helpers) such of those who received the Scripture before you, and of the disbelievers, as make a jest and sport of your religion. But keep your duty to Allah if you are true believers, (Al_Quraan_005.057).

This day (all) the good (Clean/Halaal) things are allowed to you; and the food (Clean/Halaal) of those who have been given the Book is lawful for you and your food is lawful for them; and the **chaste** women from the believers and the **chaste** women (True Jews or True Christen Believer Women) from among those who have been given the Book before you (are lawful for you); when you have given them their dowries (Mahr), taking (them) in marriage, not fornicating nor taking them for paramours in secret; and whoever denies faith, his work indeed is of no account, and in the hereafter he shall be one of the losers, (Al_Quraan_005.005).

Muslims must NOT greet other fellow Muslims on other's Non-Muslim festivals, like saying Happy New Year, etc. We already have two Eids, and on this occasion we are supposed to say Eid Mubarak and Ramadaan Mubarak to each other etc. Allah Almighty knows best.