

*What the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) spoke of; has indeed come to pass and has become widespread in recent times, in many of the Muslim countries. Many Muslims follow the enemies of Allah in most of their customs and behavior, and imitate them in some of their rituals and in celebrating their holidays. Valentine's day is one of them.*

## **REALITY BEHIND VALENTINE**

### **Pagan origins of Valentine's Day:**

The first information about this day is found in pre-Christian Rome, when pagans would celebrate the "Feast of the Wolf" on February 15, also known as the "Feast of Lupercalis" in honour of Pastoral Gol Lupercalis (who had many love affairs with nymphs and goddesses), Februata Juno (the Roman goddess of women and marriage), and Pan (the Roman god of nature). On this day, young women would place their names in an urn, from which boys would randomly draw to discover their companion (without any moral restrictions) for the day, the year, and sometimes the rest of their lives. These partners exchanged gifts as a sign of affection and love for each other.

Likewise, virtually naked, arrow-shooting picture of Cupid on Valentine cards is a peculiar symbol of Valentine and according to Roman mythology, is the son of Venus (the goddess of love and beauty), who induces love in people by shooting his arrow at them.

### **Christian Influence:**

When Christianity came onto the scene in Rome, it wanted to replace this feast with something more in line with its ethics and morality. A number of Christians decided to use February 14; a day on which the Italian Bishop St. Valentine was executed by the Roman Emperor Claudius II for conducting secret marriages of military men (forbidden to marry) in the year 270 CE. According to the details, during the time of the

Roman Emperor Claudius II due to continuous infighting, Rome was the center point of wars. The declining figure of male fighters (as men would not want to leave their wives and go the battle front) in his army forced him to impose a ban on marriages. So that young men may be persuaded to go on the battlefield. St. Valentine started performing secret marriages at that time. When his actions were revealed, Claudius threw him in jail and sentenced him to execution. In prison, he (St. Valentine) fell in love with the jailer's daughter, who would visit him, but this was a secret because according to Christian laws, priests and monks were forbidden to marry or fall in love. But he is still regarded highly by the Christians because of his steadfastness in adhering to Christianity when the emperor offered to pardon him if he renounced Christianity and worshipped the Roman gods. He also offered him to be his closest confidantes and he would make him his son-in-law. However, Valentine refused this offer and preferred Christianity. He was executed on 14 February 270 CE, the eve of February 15 on the festival of Lupercalis. Before he died, he wrote a letter to jailor's daughter and the closing of the letter read as, 'From your Valentine'. These very words are used on most of the Valentine's greeting cards in commemoration of the same incident.

There are at least three different Saint Valentines, all of whom are Christian martyrs of February 14. It was in the year 496 CE that Pope Gelasius officially changed the February 15 Lupercalia festival to the February 14 St. Valentine's Day to give Christian meaning to a pagan festival. Pope Gelasius ordered a slight change in the lottery for young women during the pagan festival. Instead of the names of young women, the box would contain the names of saints, men and women were allowed to draw from the box, and whoever drew the name of the respective saint, he would copy his (saint's) ways for the rest of the year.

**(Source: Britannica / Catholic Encyclopedia)**

## **ISLAMIC PERSPECTIVE**

1. In Islam, the festivals are clearly defined. The Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him), while referring to Eid-ul-Fitr, said: "Every nation has its own Eid (festival) and this is our Eid" (Bukhari: 952, Muslim: 1892)
2. Celebrating Valentine's Day means resembling the pagan Romans and Christians. The Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said: "Whoever imitates a people (nation), he is one of them." (Ahmad: 2/50, Abu Dawood: 4021)
3. The purpose of Valentine's Day in these times is to spread love between all people, believers and disbelievers alike, which is undoubtedly prohibited. Allah says: "You (O Muhammad) will not find any people who believe in Allah and the Last Day, making friendship with those who oppose Allah and His Messenger, even though they were their fathers or their sons or their brothers or their kindred (people)." [al-Mujaadilah 58:22]
4. The love referred to in this festival ever since the Christians revived it is romantic love outside the bonding of marriage. Which results in spread of zinaa (fornication and adultery) and immorality. Allah says, "For those who like that indecency should spread among the believers, they deserve a painful punishment in this world and in the Hereafter." [an'Noor: 19]
5. The very foundation of the society established by the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) was laid on the purity of bashfulness, in which not only the commission of adultery but the reasons leading to its propagation was also a crime. However, it seems that now the Muslim Ummah feels "overburdened" by carrying this weight. Hence they would do whatsoever they would feel like. A quotation of the holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) befits the situation: "If you do not show the bashfulness, you are free to do what ever you feel like." (Bukhari)

6. Furthermore flagrant disregard of Allah's commandments such as music, dance and drinking is the core of this tradition, which in no way has any role in Islam.
7. Valentine promotes the reasons to illicit infatuations, which keeps involved the brain and heart faculties of a human being unnecessarily. This not only becomes the reason of diversion from the Straight Path but also distances us from the teachings of our Deen.
8. Islam does not encourage flirting or suggestions of romantic relationships before marriage. Love between families, friends and married people does not need to be celebrated on a day with such un-Islamic origins. The Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) has advised us that if we love (excluding forbidden relations) somebody we should let him know (Abu Dawood). For that very purpose he instructed to spread "Salam", the Islamic greetings (Muslim).

Alas! Those who believe in so pure and eminent teachings of Islam take the western culture as their ideal and derive a sense of superiority in celebrating their traditions. The Muslims everywhere are bathing in their own blood, however our insensitivity at times dips into the crimson color of Basant or whirls into the red whirlpool of Valentine. Kashmir, Palestine, Afghanistan and Iraq are colored in red of Muslim's blood but Muslims hands are colorful with the red of Valentine. More than half of Pakistanis are deprived of basic necessities, but a few rich brats spend millions on this pagan tradition for the sake of status and luxury.

*Hence, this tradition reflects on our insensitivity, indignity and ignorance of Deen*

### **FOR GOD SAKE! STOP NOW!**

***For those who are doing it out of ignorance try to make them aware of it, lest we fall prey to the wrath of Allah (swt) and our future generations might not be celebrating these days as the days of mourning.***

## **Aims & Objectives**

1. Teaching and promoting Arabic Language;
2. General encouragement of the masses for learning and comprehending the Quran;
3. Promotion of the Quranic Sciences;
4. Education and training of educated minds for spreading message of Quran; and
5. Establishing Quran Academies for spreading the philosophy and wisdom of the Quran at the highest level of intelligentsia.

## **Contact Offices**

1. Quran Academy, Khayaban-e-Rahat, Darakhshan, Phase-VI, DHA. ☎ 5340022-3
2. 11-Dau'd Manzil, Near Fresco Sweets, Aaraam Bagh. ☎ 2620496 - 2216586
3. 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Haq Chamber, Opp. Bismillah Taqi Hospital, Karachi Administration Society. ☎ 4382640
4. Quran Markaz, Near Masjid-e-Tayyaba, Sector 35/A, Zaman Town, Korangi # 4. ☎ 5078600
5. Flat # 2, Muhammadi Manzil, Block-K, North Nazimabad. ☎ 6674474
6. C-113, Madaam Apartments, Shara-e-Faisal, Near Chhota Gate, Airport. ☎ 4591442
7. Quran Academy Yaseenabad, Federal 'B' Area, Block-9. ☎ 6337361
8. Adj. Muhammad Autos, Islam Chowk, Sector 11½, Orangi Town. ☎ 0300-2685340
9. As'Sayyad Arcade, Shop # 7, Near Gulshan Chowrangi, Gulshan-e-Iqbal.
10. Quran Markaz Landhi, House # 861, Sector 37-D, Landhi # 2, Near Rizwan Sweets.
11. Flat # A-104, Iqra Complex, Block-17, Perfume Chowk, Gulistan-e-Jauhar. ☎ 8268184

Abu Sa'eed al-Khudri (may Allah be pleased with him), narrated that the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said: "You will certainly follow the ways of those who came before you, span by span, cubit by cubit, until even if they were to enter a lizard's hole, you would follow them." We said, "O Messenger of Allaah, (do you mean) the Jews and Christians?" He said, "Who else?!"

(Bukhari: 8/151; Muslim: 4/ 2054)

# **VALENTINE**

## ***A pagan and Christian ritual***

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