Verbally Expressing Intention For Salah Is This Bidah (An Innovation)?

Darulifta Ahlesunnat

(Dawateislami)

Question

What do the scholars of Islam say about the following matter: Zayd claims a spoken intention for salah is impermissible, as it is has been classified as bid^cah (innovation) in the relied-upon books of Ḥanafi jurisprudence. Is this correct? Please explain in detail, so others can be saved from misguidance.

Intention refers to the will of one's heart. If one has an intention for something in their heart and verbally expresses the same, this complements and strengthens the former. This is not just permissible, but also recommended (*mustaḥabb*). Usually, overwhelming thoughts affect the heart and concentrating upon intention can be difficult, but this can be resolved through verbally expressing it.

It is wrong of Zayd to say that a spoken intention for salah is impermissible. He has not understood the ruling for this. Authoritative Hanafi literature clearly describe how it is desirable for an intention to be verbally expressed. Scholars prefer this, as it strengthens the inner intention. Some books mention it (verbal intention) to be sunnah. However, this is interpreted as a sunnah of the saints, their way, or a good action in general.

As far as referring to this as bid^cah (innovation) is concerned; Ḥanafi books clarify that it is a bid^cah Ḥasanah (good innovation). It is bid^cah in the sense that it is not proven from the Prophet عَلَيْهِمُ الرِّضُوَاتُ, the Companions عَلَيْهِمُ الرِّضُواتُ, or the $T\bar{a}bi^c\bar{n}$. It is Ḥasanah as it does not contradict Islamic law, for there is no change in any element of the sunnah. The intention of the heart is instead supplemented.

Verbal intention strengthens the intention of the heart, making this action desirable and mustaḥabb. In this context, the following is found in the Mabṣūṭ of Imam al-Sarakhsī, Hidāyah, Irshād Fī al-Fiqh al-Ḥanafī Li al-Bābartī, Sharḥ Majmaʿ al-Baḥrayn Li Ibn al-Sāʿātī, Mukhtārāt al-Nawāzil Li Ṣāḥib al-Hidāyah, and Tabyīn al-Ḥaqāˈiq:¹

In Muḥīţ al-Burhāni and Munyat al-Muṣallī:2

¹ al-Mabṣūṭ,vol. 1, p. 11, Dār al-Maʿrifah; al-Hidāyah, vol. 1, p. 220; Tabyīn al-Ḥaqāʾiq, vol. 1, p. 262, Dār al-Kutub al-ʿIlmiyyah; al-Irshād Fī al-Fiqh al-Ḥanafī, p. 271, Dār al-Sammān, Turkiye; Sharḥ Majmaʿal-Baḥrayn Li Ibn al-Sāʿātī, vol. 1, p. 526; Mukhtārāt al-Nawāzil, p. 91, Maktabah al-Rashād, Istanbul

² al-Muḥīṭ al-Burhānī, vol. 1, p. 28, Idārah al-Turāth al-Islāmī, Lebanon; Munyat al-Muṣallī, p. 169, Dār al-Qalam, Damascus

والنظم للمحيط: هل يستحب أن يتكلم بلسانه و اختلف المشايخ فيه، بعضهم قالوا: لا، لأن الله تعالى مطلع على الضمائر، وبعضهم قالوا:

In Khulāṣat al-Fatāwā, Fatāwā Qāḍī Khān and Multaqa al-Abḥur:3

Some books contain mention of spoken intention being sunnah. This has been interpreted as the way of some scholars or any good practice.

In Al-Muḥīṭ al-Raḍawī, Jawharat al-Nayyirah, Al-Jawāhir min al-Fiqh al-Ḥanafīyyah Li al-Khawārizmi and Tuḥfat al-Mulūk:⁴

In Tanwīr al-Absār ma'a al-Durr al-Mukhtār:5

Allamah Shāmi رَحْبَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْه explains the meaning of sunnah in this context:

Imam Ibn Humām رَحْبَةُ اللّٰهِ عَلَيْهِ declares this verbal expression to be an innovation, but his words clearly show the reason he did so, is due to the act of verbal intention not being transmitted from the Prophet صَلَيْهِمُ الرِّضُوَاتُ, the Companions صَلَيْهِمُ الرِّضُوَاتُ or the Tābi ʿīn عَلَيْهِمُ الرِّضُوَاتُ. This is not proof of it being reprehensible, as it strengthens the intention of the heart. Imams after him clarified his opinion was in reference to a good innovation. In Fath al-Qadīr.6

قال بعض الحفاظ: لم يثبت عن رسول الله صلى الله تعالى عليه وآله وسلم بطيق صحيح ولاضعيف أنه كان يقول عند الافتتاح أصلى كذا، ولا عن أحد من الصحابة والتابعين، بل المنقول أنه كان صلى الله تعالى عليه وآله وسلم إذا قام إلى الصلاة كبروهذ لا بدعة

³ Khulāṣat al-Fatāwā, vol. 1, p. 79; Fatāwā Qāḍī Khan, vol. 1, p. 78; Multaqā al-Abḥur maʿ Majmaʿ al-Ahhur, vol. 1, p. 127, Quetta ⁴ al-Muḥīṭ al-Raḍawī, vol. 1, p. 219, Dār al-Kutub al-ʿIlmiyyah; al-Jawharat al-Nayyirah, vol. 1, p. 48, Egypt; al-Jawāhir min al-Fiqh al-Hanafīyyah Li al-Khawārizmī, p. 199, Dār al-Sammān ; Tuḥfat al-Mulūk, p. 82, Dār al-Bashāʾir al-Islāmiyyah, Beirut

⁵ Imdād al-Fattāh Sharḥ Nūr al-Īḍāḥ, p. 237, Quetta

⁶ Radd al-Muḥtār ma'a al-Durr al-Mukhtār, vol. 2, p. 114, Quetta

In Durr al-Mukhtār, قيل بدعة – "It has been said; verbally expressing intention is an innovation." Explaining this, it is written in Ṭahṭāwī 'alā al-Durr al-Mukhtār, قائله ابن الههام ولكنها .8

Allamah Shāmi دَحْبَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْه expands on the former statement found in *Durr al-Mukhtār*.9

نقله في الفتح، وقال في الحلبة: ولعل الأشبه أنه بدعة حسنة عند قصد جمع العزيمة لأن الإنسان قديغلب عليه تفى ق خاطى لا ، وقد استفاض ظهور العمل به في كثير من الأعصار في عامة الأمصار فلا جرم أنه ذهب في المبسوط والهداية والكافي إلى أنه إن فعله ليجمع عزيمة قلبه فحسن ، فيند فع ما قيل إنه يكر لا

In Ghunyah Dhawī al-Ahkām:10

﴿قوله والتلفظ بها مستحب﴾ يعنى طريق حسن أحبه البشائخ لاإنه من السنة ، لأنه لم يثبت عن رسول الله صلى الله تعالى عليه وآله و سلم من طريق صحيح ولاضعيف ولاعن أحد من الصحابة والتابعين ولاعن أحد عن الأئبة الأربعة ، بل المنقول أنه صلى الله تعالى عليه وآله وسلم كان إذا قام إلى الصلاة كبر ، فهذه بدعة حسنة عند قصد جمع العزيمة

allamah 'Ali Qāri' رَحْبَةُ اللّٰهِ عَلَيْه said:١١ دَحْبَةُ

وهناه بدعة حسنة استحسنها البشائخ للتقوية أولدفع الوسوسة

وَ اللَّهُ أَعْلَمُ عَزَّدَ جَلَّ وَ رَسُولُ لَ أَعْلَم صَلَّى اللهُ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ وَالِهِ وَسَلَّم

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⁷ Fatḥ al-Qadīr, vol. 1, p. 266, Dār al-Fikr, Beirut

⁸ Hāshiyat Ṭahṭāwī 'alā al-Durr al-Mukhtār, vol. 2, p. 90, Dār al-Kutub al-Ilmiyyah

⁹ Al-Durr al-Mukhtār ma'a Radd al-Muḥtār vol. 2, pp. 113,114, Quetta

¹⁰ Al-Durar wa al-Ghurar,vol. 1, p. 62, Dār Iḥyā al-Kutub al-'Arabiyyah, Beirut

¹¹ Fath Bāb al-Ināyah,vol. 1, p. 214, Dār Ihyā 'al-Turāth, Beirut