
On an Innovation People Fall into when Giving Salaam to a Large Gathering

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of Allaah, the Most Merciful, the Bestower of Mercy

The Imaam said, “I want to remind some of our brothers present here that when they came in they would give salaam to every person sitting down individually or to a lot of them, so when they would shake hands they would say, ‘As-salaamu alaikum, as-salaamu alaikum ...’ and so on. What I wanted to remind you of, and reminders benefit the believers, is that when someone comes to a gathering the Sunnah is for him to give salaam in general to all present, saying, ‘As-salaamu alaikum wa rahmatullaah,’ and if he is able to shake everyone’s hand individually, then without doubt that is more perfect a thing for him to do and more complete, and if he can’t, because there are too many people, then in such a case it’s enough for him to give salaam [in general to all].

If he were to follow up on his salaam by shaking everyone’s hands then it is not part of the Sunnah whatsoever for him to [then go and say] say, ‘As-salaamu alaikum, as-salaamu alaikum, as-salaamu alaikum ...’—this is an innovation [Bid’ah] of this era which the past generations never knew, and I’m not saying just the Salafee generations but rather the Salafee and the Khalafee [the generations who came after the first three] ones. This kind of handshaking was not known except in this present generation.

And this is a reminder and reminders benefit the believers, this was something [I wanted to say] before any questions you might have ...”

[Silsilatul-Hudaa wan-Noor, no. 0836.]