

Santa Claus (Daddy Christmas) & His Evil Effect on the Belief of the Child

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

إِنَّ الْحَمْدَ لِلَّهِ نَحْمَدُهُ وَنُسْتَعِينُهُ وَنَسْتَغْفِرُهُ وَنَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنْ شُرُورِ أَنْفُسِنَا وَمِنْ سَيِّئَاتِ أَعْمَالِنَا مَنْ يَهْدِهِ اللَّهُ فَلَا مُضِلَّ لَهُ وَمَنْ يَضِلَّ فَلَا هَادِيَ لَهُ وَأَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ وَأَنَّ مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ

أَمَّا بَعْدُ

Every year the Christians celebrate Christmas with the buying of gifts, decorating of the houses, erecting of the Christmas trees, retelling of the nativity story, and the abundant mention of Santa Claus. This fictitious character is ubiquitous during this season, such that his image fills the billboards, media outlets, product packaging, and the minds of the common folk. Despite his jovial appearance, Santa Claus-Papa Noel (Daddy Christmas) as he is referred to in the French speaking world- has an evil effect on the belief of children. The disbelievers tell their children that he keeps account of each child's actions and depending on whether they are nice or naughty, he will bring them special gifts. The children send him their wish list and he promises to fulfill them. He is believed to come from the North Pole on Christmas eve, sailing through the air with the help of his Reindeer. To make things worse, he is believed to pass every house in one night, dropping the promised gifts in each person's stocking!! Such nonsense is sure to spoil the mind and heart of a young child. Instead of asking and relying upon Allah, the Creator, for his/her needs, the child is taught to ask Santa Claus, to anticipate his arrival, and to be obedient for his sake throughout the year in order to receive his gifts.



In the *Majallah Buthooth al-Islami*, supervised by Shaikh Bin Baz rahimahullah, there was a brief research written to warn against Santa Claus or Papa Noel. They placed this research in the section: *Imported Customs that Must be Warned against*. To help fight against this nonsense, I present a brief translation of their research.

The Permanent Committee of Islamic Research and Verdicts wrote:

Santa Claus and what he Symbolizes

“... increased in their environments is the act of connecting the hearts of the young to the belief in Papa Noel (Santa Claus), in the name of the supernatural and the arrival of miracles. His form in front of the children is like a puppet that the children can play with and he is present at the beginning of the Gregorian year. The arrival of this visitor is like that of a significant person, he does not come except at the New Year carrying gifts. He gives everything he promised to this young child. If children are promised something they associated it with him. They establish in their hearts what they want and when the promised time comes [i.e. Christmas] the happy one is the one who sees what he was promised. That which the disbelievers imagine to be from his characteristics is that he appears like an old man with a thick, white beard which symbolizes the cold weather. This is [known] because he comes wrapped in heavy clothing. He comes in January of every year at the beginning of the New Year. This date is linked with the supposed birthdate of ‘Isa ibn Maryam may peace and blessings be upon him (i.e. December 25). The beginning of the New Year, January 1st, is severely cold during the winter season, in which ice falls from the houses. **Since everything has sanctity in the heart of the child, they name him Papa, like the father, or elderly man, or Archbishop in the Church. Papa Noel (Santa Claus) is a legendary character. The children are surrounded by him as a way to humour them and narrate to them imaginative stories about the birth [of Jesus] and what is associated with that of filthy aqeedah.** Allah has clarified in his Noble Book the disbelief of the one who believes in that. This is due to what they say about Allah without knowledge, may his Names and Attributes be sanctified from the hideous matters the oppressors say about Allah. High above is He from that. Papa Noel (Santa Claus) does not go to just one place. Rather he is present in

every place, whether it be by the monks of the church who prepare preachers [to educate about him], or his presence on clothing and shapes to impress his image in the minds of the children, either directly or by way of established media...”

[Taken from:

<http://www.alifta.net/Fatawa/fatawaDetails.aspx?BookID=2&View=Page&PageNo=3&PageID=5348>]

Written by

Faisal Ibn Abdul Qadir Ibn Hassan

Abu Sulaymaan