

‘Eid Moon Trees: A Muslim Imitation of a Christian Innovation

Written by Rasheed ibn Estes Barbee

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

All praises belong to Allāh, the Lord of all that exists, and may Allāh exalt the mention of His slave and messenger Muḥammad ibn ‘Abdullah.

Pagan Origins of the Christmas Tree:

The ancient Egyptians worshipped a false god called Ra. At the solstice, when Ra began to recover from illness, the Egyptians filled their homes with green palm rushes; which symbolized for them the triumph of life over death.

Early Romans marked the solstice with a feast called the Saturnalia in honor of Saturn, the false god of agriculture. To mark the occasion, they decorated their homes and temples with evergreen boughs.

In Northern Europe, the Druids—priests of the ancient Celts—also decorated their temples with evergreen boughs as a symbol of everlasting life.

The Vikings in Scandinavia thought that evergreens were the special plant of the false sun god, Balder.

Germany is credited with starting the Christmas tree tradition, as we now know it, in the 16th century when devout Christians brought decorated trees into their homes.

The Christian Bible Prohibits Christmas Trees:

Thus, says the Lord, “Learn not the way of the heathen, nor be dismayed at the signs of the heavens because the heathens are dismayed at them, for the customs of the people are vanity. A tree from the forest is cut down and worked with an axe by the hands of a craftsman. They decorate it with silver and gold; they fasten it with hammer and nails so that it cannot move. Their idols are like scarecrows in a cucumber field, and they cannot speak; they have to be carried, for they cannot walk. Do not be afraid of them, for they cannot do evil, neither is it in them to do good.” (Jeremiah 10)

Origin of the ‘Eid Moon Tree:

As a child, Dearborn resident Samar Baydoun Bazzi felt there were not any decorations for the ‘Eid, and she wanted something exciting. When she became a mother, she began decorating her home with Islāmic-themed art, like acrylic paintings of Arabic calligraphy and a cardboard model of a mosque. In 2014, she felt it wasn’t enough; so she put up a Christmas tree. Realizing this was a mistake, she took down the Christmas tree and came up with the idea of the ‘Eid tree. Samar Baydoun Bazzi now sells ‘Eid Moon Trees online, receiving an increase in orders as Ramaḍān approaches, such that there is a waiting list for her product. Others have followed suit and began crafting trees for Ramaḍān, ‘Eid al-Adha, and Mawlid al-Nabī.¹

The Crescent Moon is not a Symbol of Islām:

The crescent moon was never a symbol of Islām during the life the Prophet ﷺ, his companions, or the first three generations of Muslims.

Exaggeration Toward the Crescent Symbol:

Shaykh ‘Uthaymīn said that Shaykh ‘Abdul Latīf ibn ‘Abdur Raḥmān (born 1810) said Shaykh al-Islām ibn Taymiyyah said, “In the cemetery, scenes have been witnessed from those who fear other than Allāh, and place their hope in other than Allāh; such that one of them who engages in major sins and does not avoid indecencies will see a crescent moon engraved on the dome of a grave and will be afraid to commit sins. One of them will say to his companion, ‘Woe be to you, this is a crescent dome.’ Thus, they will fear the person buried beneath the crescent; while they will not fear the One who created the heavens and the earth and made the crescent as a sign to mark fixed periods of time for mankind and for Ḥajj.²”

The Crescent Moon is Imitation of the Cross:

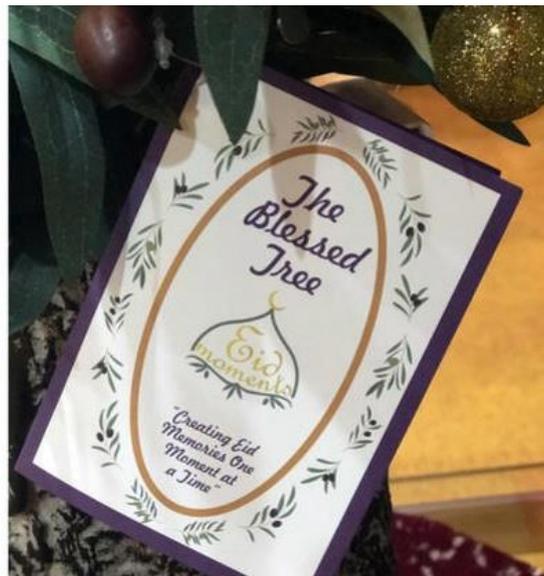
Shaykh ‘Uthaymīn said, “It has been said that some of the Muslims who imitate others in how they adorn their places of worship, placed the crescent to compete with the Christians who place the cross on the places of worship. Just as the relief organization,

¹ Hasan Dudar, Detroit Free Press

² *Fatāwa’ and Treatises of Shaykh ‘Uthaymīn*, volume sixteen

“The Red Crescent,” adopted their name to compete with the Christians naming their organization “The Red Cross”.³

The Prophet ﷺ said, “*You will surely follow the path of those who came before you step by step, so that even if they entered a lizard hole, you will enter it too.*” They said, “*O Messenger of Allāh, do you mean the Jews and Christians?*” He ﷺ said, “*Who else?*”⁴



³ *Fatāwa' and Treatises of Shaykh 'Uthaymīn*, volume sixteen

⁴ Sunan Ibn Mājah, 3994