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Historical Origins of Celebration of Valentine's Day (*Yawm al-Hubb/ 'Eid ul-Hubb*) and the Verdict of Islam

ABSTRACT: Many people are alleging Islam that is against love and because Muslims don't celebrate Valentine's Day. This article, therefore, intends to take a look at the historical background of the Valentine's Day and examines the verdict of Islam on the reasons why Muslims are not celebrating Valentine Day and whether the it truly a day of love in the verdict of Islam. This research work is historical and analytical in nature. The existing available literatures on Islamic books, journals, Al-Hadith, the Glorious Qur'an, and research work related to the topic will be equally reviewed. The study revealed that Valentine's Day is a pagan Roman festival, which continued to be celebrated until after the Romans became Christian. Therefore, celebrating this Day means resembling or imitating the pagan Romans, which is strictly forbidden in Islam. In Islam, the festivals are clearly defined and well established, and no additions or subtractions may be accepted. Also the festival promotes infatuation and sexual immorality. It also observes that the expression of feelings and emotions is not a justification for the Muslim to allocate a day for celebration in Islam. It concluded that in Islam, a husband loves his wife throughout the year, and he expresses that love towards her with gifts, in verse and in prose, in letters and in other ways.

KEY WORD: Celebration; Valentine's Day; Islamic Verdict; Love; Festival.

IKHTISAR: "Asal-Usul Sejarah Perayaan Hari Valentine (*Yawm al-Hubb/'Eid ul-Hubb*) dan Pandangan Hukum Islam". Banyak pihak menuduh Islam menentang cinta karena umat Muslim tidak merayakan Hari Valentine. Oleh karena itu, artikel ini bertujuan untuk meninjau latar belakang sejarah Hari Valentine serta mengkaji pandangan hukum Islam mengenai alasan mengapa umat Muslim tidak merayakannya, dan apakah perayaan tersebut benar-benar merupakan hari kasih-sayang menurut perspektif Islam. Penelitian ini bersifat historis dan analitis. Berbagai literatur yang tersedia—meliputi buku-buku ke-Islam-an, jurnal, Hadis, Al-Qur'an, serta karya penelitian terkait topik ini—akan ditelaah secara menyeluruh. Studi ini mengungkapkan bahwa Hari Valentine merupakan festival pagan Romawi, yang terus dirayakan bahkan setelah bangsa Romawi memeluk agama Kristen. Dengan demikian, merayakan hal ini berarti menyerupai atau meniru kaum pagan Romawi, suatu tindakan yang dilarang keras dalam Islam. Dalam Islam, perayaan-perayaan telah ditetapkan secara jelas dan baku, sehingga tidak diperbolehkan adanya penambahan maupun pengurangan. Selain itu, festival ini mendorong munculnya rasa tergila-gila dan perilaku amoral seksual. Studi ini juga mencatat bahwa ekspresi perasaan dan emosi bukanlah alasan yang sah bagi seorang Muslim untuk mengkhususkan satu hari tertentu sebagai perayaan dalam Islam. Kesimpulannya, dalam Islam, seorang suami mencintai istrinya sepanjang tahun dan mengungkapkan cinta tersebut melalui pemberian hadiah, bait-bait puisi maupun prosa, surat-surat, serta berbagai cara lainnya.

KATA KUNCI: Perayaan; Hari Valentine; Pandangan Hukum Islam; Cinta; Festival.

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Suggested Citation: Sulaiman, Kamal-deen Olawale. (2026). "Historical Origins of Celebration of Valentine's Day (*Yawm al-Hubb/'Eid ul-Hubb*) and the Verdict of Islam" in *SUSURGALUR: Jurnal Kajian Sejarah & Pendidikan Sejarah*, Volume 14(2), September, pp.1-18. Bandung, Indonesia and Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam: MINDAMAS Foundation, ASPENSI, and PERSEBAR with ISSN 2302-5808 (print) and ISSN 2684-7388 (online).

Article Timeline: Accepted (July 10, 2026); Revised (August 24, 2026); and Published (September 15, 2026).

INTRODUCTION

In recent times, the celebration of Valentine's Day (*Yawm ul-Hubb* or '*Eid ul-Hubb*') has become widespread with the arrival of 14th February. It is a Day or the Day of Love is celebrated all across the world with full enthusiasm and joy. The celebration began to influence the contemporary society's culture, especially among the youngsters, around the end of the 1980s along with the emergence of television broadcasts showing advertisements or films with the celebration as the theme. It also becomes more popular among the younger generations, due to the influx of foreign culture through various media channels either electronic or print. This celebration is known to them as a day to celebrate love, which according to them, is the most appropriate moment to express the feeling of love and affection towards their dearest or loved ones. Many schools, universities, and clubs prepare elaborate functions and parties. Many will argue that Valentine's Day is a day of joy and harmless fun (Moore, 2020; Ramdani & Kurniawan, 2020; Karomah & Nasrulloh, 2025).

However, Muslims have special reservations towards this Day. A majority of Muslims does not celebrate this Valentine's Day, while those who do it, do it on the name of liberalism and religious freedom. Hence, a lot of Muslim dominated countries are campaigning against the Day, while some have prohibited the citizens from observing the holiday. For instance, a court in Pakistan has placed a ban on the Valentine's Day celebration and also banned the country's media from covering Valentines' related events (Turley, 2022; Wahab, 2022).

Also, according to John Tolan (2002); Dimeji Akinloye (2017) and G. Prasiska *et al.* (2023), in Indonesia, students between 13-15 age brackets have protested against Valentine's Day in the country, because they believe it promotes casual sex (Tolan, 2002; Akinloye, 2017; Prasiska *et al.*, 2023). Also, Asma Arshad (2022) and Tomas Novak (2025) added that, in Malaysia, Association of Muslim Youths have discouraged Muslim youths from wearing Valentine themed dress and avoid the use of emoticons and fragrance in the name of celebrating lovers' day (Arshad, 2022; Novak, 2025).

In Iran, according to Jonathan Turley (2022) and Eskandar Sadeghi-Boroujerdi (2023), shop owners are not allowed to sell or stock any Valentine's material. Roses or love shaped paraphernalia are also prohibited (Turley, 2022; Sadeghi-

Boroujerdi, 2023). Also, in 2008, Saudi Arabia asked florists and gift shops to remove all red items until after Valentine's Day. The Saudi's termed the celebration of such a holiday a sin (Dorsey, 2018; Ward, 2022).

It has equally banned in Belgorod and Russia. As a result, many non-Muslims and some Muslims have alleged that Muslims are against love; and hence, they don't celebrate Valentine's Day (Menocal, 1981; Alatrash, 2022).

This article, therefore, will provide definite answers to the questions, such as: (1) *What is the historical behind Valentine's Day?*; (2) *Why people celebrate it?*; (3) *Is Valentine's Day truly a day of love?*; (4) *What is verdict of Islam on the celebration of Valentine's Day and why Muslims can't celebrate it?*; and (5) *How to express love in Islam?*

This article also, therefore, intends to take a look at the historical background of the Valentine's Day and examines the verdict of Islam on the reasons why Muslims are not celebrating Valentine Day and weather the it truly a day of love in the verdict of Islam. This research work is historical and analytical in nature. The existing available literatures on Islamic books, journals, *Al-Hadith*, the Glorious Qur'an, and research work related to the topic will be equally reviewed (Kumar, 2008; More, 2023).

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

The Historical Origins of Valentine's Day. The festival of love was one of the festivals of the pagan Romans, when paganism was the prevalent religion of the Romans more than seventeen centuries ago. In the pagan Roman concept, it was an expression of "spiritual love". There were myths associated with this pagan festival of the Romans, which persisted with their Christian heirs. Among the most famous of these myths was the Roman belief that Romulus, the founder of Rome, was suckled one day by a she-wolf, which gave him strength and wisdom (Kelly, 1986:5; Cline, 2018).

The Romans used to celebrate this event in mid-February each year with a big festival. One of the rituals of this festival was the sacrifice of a dog and a goat. Two strong and muscular youths would daub the blood of the dog and goat onto their bodies, and then they would wash the blood away with milk. After that, there would be a great parade, with these two youths at its head, which would go about the streets. The two

youths would have pieces of leather with which they would hit everyone who crossed their path. The Roman women would welcome these blows, because they believed that they could prevent or cure infertility (Schmidt, 1993; Wills, 2015).

The Link between St. Valentine and Pagan Roman Festival. The name St. Valentine is given to two of the ancient' martyrs of the Christian Church. Some say there were two of them, while others say there was only one who was martyred by the Gothic Leader Claudius in 296 CE (Common Era). In 350 CE, a church was built in the honor of St. Valentine on the site of his death to perpetuate his memory (Oruch, 1981; Schoepflin & Seren, 2000).

The celebrating of the Feast of Love continued by the Romans, even after they embraced Christianity; however, the pagan concept of "spiritual love" was now changed to "martyrs of love". This was done to commemorate the massacre of St. Valentine, who was a promoter of peace and love; and was supposedly martyred for the same cause. The festival was also called "Feast of Lovers" and Saint Valentine was considered to be a supporter of lovers (Bell, 1979:2-3; Moon, 2019).

One of the false believe connected with this festival was that the names of young unmarried girls would be written on pieces of paper and placed in a dish on a table. A young man, who wanted to marry, would be called to pick a piece of paper to draw a name of a girl. He would then hangout with that girl for a year, so that the couple gets to know each other, and then get married (WW, 2008; Sancho, 2024).

This process was repeated every year during the festival. The Christian clergy abolished this tradition in Italy, as they believed it would cause corruption of the society. In the 18th and 19th centuries, it was revived again in some Western countries, where they sold books of love poems in shops. These books were called "Valentine Books" and had suggestions for writing love letters (Schmidt, 1993; Hudon, 1996).

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 for this purpose. This was when the Italian Bishop Valentine was executed by the Roman Emperor Claudius II for conducting secret marriages of military men in the year 270. Claudius II decided that single

men made better soldiers than those with wives and families, so he outlawed marriage for young, single men, who made up his military (Hopkins, 1998; Adams & Adams, 2012).

Valentine defied Claudius and performed marriages for young couples in secret. When his actions were revealed, Claudius put him to death. Another version of the story says that Valentine was a holy priest in Rome, who helped Christians escape harsh Roman prisons, where they were often beaten and tortured. Valentine was arrested and sent to the prefect of Rome for this. He found that his attempts to make Valentine renounce his faith were useless, and so recommended he be beaten with clubs, and later beheaded. This took place on 14th February 270 (Panati, 1987:50-52; Chapman, 2013).

According to the Catholic Encyclopedia, there are at least three different Saint Valentines, all of whom are Christian martyrs of February 14. One of them is described as a priest from Rome (as mentioned above), another as bishop of Interamna (modern Terni), and the third from Africa. It was in the year 496 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. The holiday became popular in the United States of America in the 1800's during the Civil War (Voragine, 1993; Siddiqui, 2016; The EWTN News Staff, 2020).

After the American adoption of this day, it got popularized in Europe again. In rest of the world, it reached in last 50 years with the blessings of media and attractive merchandize (Fair, 2004; Sammarco, 2022).

The Verdict of Islam on the Celebration of Valentine's Day. Based on the above facts, it is clear that Valentine is not just a name of a holiday. In fact, Valentine was a man whom the Christians believe to be a saint. Moreover, the history of Valentine, which has become a ritual practice of Christianity, is based on *Shirk*. In addition to this, the actions committed by the young boys and girls, were purely the acts of fornication (Haseeb *et al.*, 2016; Waxman, 2023).

This automatically contradicts to the verdict of Islam, which does not allow its followers to participate in the festival for the following reasons:

Firstly, in the verdict of Islam, the festivals are clearly defined and well established, and no additions or subtractions

may be accepted. They are essential part of worship and there is no room for personal opinion. They have also been prescribed for the Muslims by Allah SWT (*Subhanahu Wa-Ta'ala*/Glory be to God) and the Prophet Muhammed SAW (*Salallahu 'Alaihi Wassalam*/Peace and Blessing be Upon Him), which are the sources of the Islam. Therefore, in Islam, festivals are part of the laws, clear way, and religious ceremonies of which Allah SWT says in the *Al-Qur'an*, Chapter 5 (*Al-Ma'idah*/Banquet), Verse 48: "*To each among you, We have prescribed a law and a clear way*"; and in another sources, *Al-Qur'an*, Chapter 22 (*Al-Hajj*/Pilgrimage), Verse 67, Allah SWT says: "*For every nation, We have ordained religious ceremonies which they must follow*".¹

So, there is no difference between joining them in their festival and joining them in their other rituals. According to the Islam, agreeing with the whole festival is agreeing with disbelief; and agreeing with some of their minor issues is the same as agreeing with them in some of the branches of disbelief.

Festivals are also the most distinctive things by which religions are told apart, so whoever celebrates their festivals is agreeing with the most distinctive rituals of disbelief. Undoubtedly, going along with them in their festivals may, in some cases, lead to disbelief. Dabbling in these things, at the very least, is a sin. The Prophet Muhammad SAW referred to the fact that every nation has its own festivals, when he said: "*Every nation has its own festivals and this is our festivals*" (*Abu Da'ud*, 1372 A.H.:*Hadith* 1134).

Because Valentine's Day goes back to Roman times, not Islamic times, this means that it is something which belongs exclusively to the Christians, not to Islam; and the Muslims have no share and no part in it. If every nation has its own festivals, as the Prophet Muhammad SAW said then, this means that every nation should be distinguished by its festivals. If the Christians have a festival and the Jews have a festival, which belongs exclusively to them, then no Muslim should join in with them, just as he does not share their religion or their direction of prayer.

Also, the clear evidence of the Glorious *Qur'an*; *Sunnah* (sayings, actions, and approvals of Prophet Muhammad SAW);

¹See, for example, "Quran.com" in <https://quran.com/al-maidah/48> [accessed in Ado-Ekiti, Nigeria: December 10, 2025]; and "Quran.com" in <https://quran.com/al-hajj/22> [accessed in Ado-Ekiti, Nigeria: December 10, 2025].

and the consensus of the early generations of Islam indicates that there are only two festivals in Islam: *Eid al-Fitr* and *Eid al-Adha* (Abu Da'ud, 1372 A.H.:*Hadith* 11342). Any other festivals that have to do with a person, a group, an event or anything else are innovated festivals, which it is not permissible for Muslims to observe, approve of or express joy on those occasions, or to help others to celebrate them in any way, because that is transgressing the sacred limits of Allah SWT, and whoever transgresses the sacred limits of Allah SWT has wronged himself. If the fabricated festival is also a festival of the Pagans, then the sin is even greater, because this is a kind of taking them as close friends, and Allah SWT has forbidden the believers to take them as close friends in the Glorious *Qur'an* (Arshad, 2022; Wahab, 2022).

Secondly, the celebration of Valentine's Day means resembling or imitating the pagan Romans. If it is not allowed to imitate the Christians in things that really are part of their religion, but not part of our religion, then how about things which they have innovated in their religion in imitation of idolaters? Imitating non-Muslims in general – whether they are idolaters or People of the Book is *Haram* (prohibited), whether that imitation is of their worship which is the most serious form or of their customs and behavior (Nizami, 2020; Sulaiman, 2022).

This is indicated by the Glorious *Qur'an*, Chapter 3 (Ali 'Imran/Imran Family), Verse 105, thus: “*And be not as those who divided and differed among themselves after the clear proofs had come to them. It is they for whom there is an awful torment*”.²

Also, the Prophet Muhammad SAW said: “*Whoever imitates a people is one of them*” (cf Abu Da'ud, 1372 A.H.:*Hadith* 4021; An-Nasāi, 1981:*Hadith* 2150). Ibn Taymiyyah commented, as cited by Dimeji Akinloye (2017), that:

This *Hadith* (narration) at the very least indicates that it is *Haram* to imitate them, although the apparent meaning implies that the one who imitates them is non-Muslim, as Allah says in the *Qur'an* (5:5): “*And if any amongst you takes them friends (and helpers), then surely, he is one of them*” (Akinloye, 2017).

Also, Ibn Taymiyyah narrated that there was agreement that it is *Haram* to imitate non-Muslims in their festivals at the

²See “*Quran.com*” in <https://quran.com/ali-imran/105> [accessed in Ado-Ekiti, Nigeria: December 10, 2025].

time of the Prophet's Companions; and Ibn Al-Qayyim narrated that there was scholarly consensus on this point (cf Nubaa, Ramlia & Ariffin, 2016; Akinloye, 2017).

In another verse, *Qur'an*, Chapter 3 (Ali 'Imran/Imran Family), Verse 105, Allah SWT says: "*And be not as those who divided and differed among themselves after the clear proofs had come to them. It is they for whom there is an awful torment*" (*Ibidem* with footnote 2). The Prophet Muhammad SAW also said: "*Whoever imitates a people is one of them*" (cf Abu Da'ud, 1372 A.H.:*Hadith* 4021; Ibn-Hanbal, 1955:*Hadith* 50).

Prohibition of imitation the non-believers is one of the basic tenets of the Islam. In another *Hadith* (corpus of the sayings or traditions of the Prophet Muhammad SAW), 'Aa'ishah (may Allah be pleased with her), who said:

Abu Bakr came in and there were two young girls of the *Ansaar* with me who were singing about what had happened to the *Ansaar* on the day of *Bu'aath*. She said: "And they were not (professional) singing girls". Abu Bakr said: "Musical instruments of the *shaytaan* in the house of the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him)?" and that was on the Day of Eid. The Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said: "O Abu Bakr, every people has a festival and this is our festival" (cf Muslim bin al-Hujjaj, 1393 A.H.:*Hadith* 892; Al-Bukhari, n.d.:*Hadith* 952).

Also, *Sunnah* Abu Da'ud [Sulaiman bin al-Ash'ath al-Sijistani] (1372 A.H.), *Hadith* 1134, narrated that:

Anas (may Allah be pleased with him) said: "When the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) came to Madinah, they had two days when they would play". He said: "What are these two days?" They said: "We used to play on these days during the *Jaahiliyyah*". The Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said: "Allah has given you instead of them two days that are better than them: the Day of al-Adha and the Day of al-Fitr" (This *Hadith* was classed as *sahih* by al-Albani in *sahih* Abu Da'ud, 1372 A.H.:*Hadith* 1134).

This indicates that festivals are among the characteristics by which nations are distinguished, and it is not permissible to celebrate the festivals of the ignorant and the *Mushrikin* (Polytheists).

Thirdly, the love referred to in this festival ever since the Christians revived, it is romantic love outside the framework of marriage (IK, 2013; Khalife, 2017; Tianyi, 2024). The result of that is the spread of fornication and immorality. The Christian clergy opposed it at some stage and abolished it, and then it came back again (Al-Munajjid, 2009; Sulaiman, 2017a).

Hence, love between a man and a woman is the first thing that comes to mind when one speak of love. Rather than prohibiting this kind of love, Islam encourages it within the sanctity of marriage. The foundation of marriage love, compassion, respect, forgiveness, and understanding is found in the Glorious *Qur'an*, Chapter 30 (*Ar-Rum*/the Romans), Verse 21, as following here:

And of His signs is that He created for you from yourselves mates that you may find tranquility in them; and He placed between you affection and mercy. Indeed, in that are signs for a people who give thought.³

Perhaps nowhere is this more epitomized than in the love between the Prophet Muhammad SAW (*Salallahu 'Alaihi Wassalam*/Peace and Blessing be Upon Him) and his first wife, Khadijah. She loved him for his noble manners, perfect character, trustworthiness, loyalty, humility, and gracious behavior towards everyone. He loved her for her beauty of character, virtue, understanding, nobility, and support and belief in him. He loved her deeply despite the age difference. She loved him unconditionally despite his poverty. So great was their love, that the Prophet Muhammad SAW continued to love Khadijah until the end of his life. It was reported that 'Aishah once asked him if Khadijah had been the only woman worthy of his love. Prophet Muhammad SAW replied:

"She believed in me when none else did; she embraced Islam when people disbelieved me; and she helped and comforted me when there was none to lend me a helping hand" (cf *An-Nasāi*, 1981:*Hadith* 281; *Al-Tirmidhi*, 1352 A.H.:*Hadith* 388; *Ibn-Majahi*, 1371 A.H.:*Hadith* 1979; *Muslim bin al-Hujjaj*, 1393 A.H.:*Hadith* 1106; *Al-Bukhari*, n.d.:*Hadith* 297).

Also, love according to Islam is more general and more comprehensive; it is not restricted only to one kind of love, that between a man and a woman. It is love when Muslim cry for those Muslims being tortured and killed by those evil armies of the West. It is love when Muslims cry looking at the people of Somalia dying out of hunger. In Islam, it is a love when Muslims morally mentally and financially support those Muslims, whose lives have been devastated by tyrant rulers like in Syria.

There is no religion which encourages its followers to love and care for one another more than Islam does. This applies at all times and in all circumstances, not just on one particular

³See "Quran.com" in <https://quran.com/ar-rum/21> [accessed in Ado-Ekiti, Nigeria: December 17, 2025].

day (Sabir *et al.*, 2014; Corbin, 2025). Therefore, in Islam, there is no special day to express gratitude and love. In fact, every day is a day to express love to one's wife, children, parents, elders etc. Islam has ordered Muslims to be kind and just with our family members and close ones to the extent that even animals deserve love and affection. According to Islam, Muslims should show love to their loved ones everyday of lives (Sulaiman, 2017b; Khan, Bocca & Rahman, 2022).

Love should not be confined to a particular date, such as the 14th February. A person receives tremendous amount of reward simply by placing a morsel in the mouth of one's wife. Imagine the reward for other good deeds:

"And you spend not upon your family seeking the pleasure of Allah, but that you are rewarded for it to the extent of placing a morsel in the mouth of your wife" (Al-Bukhari, n.d.:*Hadith* 5/178).

Indeed, Islam encourages Muslims to express their emotions and love at all times, as the Prophet Muhammad SAW (Salallahu 'Alaihi Wassalam/Peace and Blessing be Upon Him) said: *"If a man loves his brother, let him tell him that he loves him"* (cf Al-Tirmidhi, 1352 A.H.:*Hadith* 2329; Abu Da'ud, 1372 A.H.:*Hadith* 5124). In another *Hadith* (corpus of the sayings or traditions of the Prophet Muhammad SAW), he said:

"By the One in Whose hand is my soul, you will not enter Paradise until you truly believe, and you will not truly believe until you love one another. Shall I not tell you of something that, if you do it, you will love one another? Spread (the greeting of) Salaam amongst yourselves" (Muslim bin al-Hujjaj, 1393 A.H.:*Hadith* 54).

Also, Islam respects love and affinity as the entire humans do on this earth. The only problem is that Islam only thing in legitimate love and relationships. Love between two spouses, between family members, between blood relations, between good friends. There are no special days in particular to show love. One can show love 24/7 to his or her ties according to Islam. Again, Allah SWT (Subhanahu Wa-Ta'ala/Glory be to God) says in the Glorious *Qur'an*, Chapter 30 (*Ar-Rum*/the Romans), Verse 21, that:

And among His signs is that He created for you mates from among yourselves, that you may dwell in tranquility with them and He has put love and mercy between your (hearts). Verily in that are signs for those who reflect.⁴

⁴See "*Qur'an.com*" in <https://quran.com/ar-rum> [accessed in Ado-Ekiti, Nigeria: December 17, 2025].

The key words in the verse are *Mawaddatan wa Rahmah*, which translates as Love and Mercy. The interesting thing to note about this verse is to notice the location of this verse along with the verses that precede it and those that come after. Allah SWT mentions His Signs (Night/Day, Heaven/Earth, and Man/Woman) and He puts the feeling of Love and Mercy between spouses in the same value as the creation of Heaven & Earth. For a person to express his or her love (romantic or otherwise) for someone is not only permissible, but encouraged in the Islam, as long as this is done in a way that does not violate Islamic regulations.

There are many narrations about the Prophet Muhammad SAW's candid expression of love toward his wives, his children, and his followers and supporters. These narrations tell of his variety of romantic gestures toward his wives. In the case of his wife 'Ā'isha, for example, there are narrations about the Prophet Muhammad SAW playfully racing with her; saying:

"Ā'isha when one of his followers asked who was most beloved to him; kissing her, even while he was fasting; laying down with his head in her lap; and drinking from the same spot on a cup that her lips had touched" (cf *An-Nasāi*, 1981:*Hadith* 281; Ibn-Majahi, 1371 A.H.:*Hadith* 1979; Al-Tirmidhi, 1352 A.H.:*Hadith* 388; Muslim bin al-Hujjaj, 1393 A.H.:*Hadith* 1106; Al-Bukhari, n.d.:*Hadith*, 297).

This brief list of examples shows that the Prophet Muhammad SAW (*Salallahu 'Alaihi Wassalam*/Peace and Blessing be Upon Him) expressed his love for his spouses and, by implication, instructed his followers to do so as well. There was enough emphasis on this for it to become a topic of study for many Muslim thinkers. Some of these, who wrote about love include al-Jāhiz died in 868, *Treatise on Love and Women*; Ibn Sina died in 1037, *Treatise on Love*; Ibn Hazm died in 1064, *The Ring of the Dove*; Ibn al-Jawzī, died in 1201, *Dispraise of Lowly Desire*; and Ibn al-Qayyim died in 1350, *The Garden of Devoted Lovers* (Bell, 1979:2-3; Chittick, 2014).

A common thread in these works was the insistence that expressing love is not in and of itself something to frown upon; it is only shameful when done inappropriately vis-à-vis the parameters set down by the Islam. Ibn Sīna and Ibn al-Qayyim took their reflections a step further and asserted that love at the level of human expression (e.g. romantic/sensual love between a husband and wife) was a means to achieve the

ultimate spiritual goal: a relationship of love with Allāh SWT (Grunebaum, 1952; Ramdani & Bakhtiar, 2024).

Therefore, it is a mistake to confuse celebration of Valentine's Day with what the real intentions are behind it. The love referred to on this day is romantic love, taking mistresses and lovers, boyfriends and girlfriends. It is known to be a day of promiscuity and sex for them, with no restraints or restrictions. They are not talking of pure love between a man and his wife or a woman and her husband, or at least they do not distinguish between the legitimate love in the relationship between husband and wife, and the forbidden love of mistresses and lovers (Sulaiman & Balogun, 2022; Sulaiman, 2023).

This festival for them is a means for everyone to express love which contrary to Islam (Akhtar, 2012; Blog T.M., 2016). Also, expression of feelings and emotions, according to Zeeshan Akhtar (2012); Maan Khalife (2017); and Sadaf Faruqi (2017) is not a justification for the Muslim to allocate a day for celebration based on his own thoughts and ideas, and to call it a festival, or make it like a festival or 'Eid (Akhtar, 2012; Khalife, 2017; Faruqi, 2017).

So how about when it is one of the festivals of the non-Muslims? In Islam, a husband loves his wife throughout the year, and he expresses that love towards her with gifts, in verse and in prose, in letters and in other ways, throughout the years not just on one day of the year. And what people think is that, love before marriage is a good thing, is wrong, as has been proven in studies and by real-life experience. So, how can someone believe that Valentine's Day is of any benefit to Muslims? The truth is that it is a call for more permissiveness and immorality, and the forming of forbidden relationships. The husband who sincerely loves his wife does not need this holiday to remind him of his love. He expresses his love for his wife at all times and on all occasions.

In this matter, the Research Panel of Faith and the Research Panel of Syari'a of the Malaysian Department of Islamic Development, in 2017, have decided that "*the practice of celebrating Valentine's Day is 'haram' and contradicts the Islam*" (JAKIM, 2017). The 71st Fatwa Committee of the National Council for Islamic Affairs Malaysia Meeting, which was held from 22 to 24 November 2005, concluded also that:

The practice of celebrating Valentine's Day has never been recommended by Islam. The spirit of the celebration has elements of Christianity and the practice, which is mixed with sinful acts, is contradictory and prohibited by Islam (JAKIM, 2017).

Thus, the practice of celebrating Valentine's Day is not encouraged by Islam. Therefore, due to the fact that the foundations of celebrating Valentine's Day is based on *Kufr* and *Shirk*, such a celebration is *Harām* and prohibited in Islam.

Observations and Recommendations. Based on the foregoing discussion, it is extremely important for Muslim parents, grandparents, and teachers to understand and explain the real motives and cultural roots of Valentine's Day. The explanation is due to beloved Muslim youths and the Parents whenever the subject is brought up. It is quite evident that the Western culture was and is totally engulfed in modified paganism. Compared to the *Hadith* (corpus of the sayings or traditions of the Prophet Muhammad SAW) about the virtues of the Muslim months one can no longer allow his or her children and grandchildren to accept these seminally joyous holidays.

Muslims must fully embrace as much *Fard*, *Sunnah*, *Mustahab*, and *Nafl* as expression of their love and commitment to Allah SWT (*Subhanahu Wa-Ta'ala*/Glory be to God). The root of all of Western holidays (Holy Days) and festivals are dependent not on the *Torah* or the *Injil*, but on the concoction of Paul's usurpation of Prophet Isa AS ('*Alaihi Salam*/Peace be Upon Him)'s teachings. Logically, when the reasoning people of Western culture saw through the antics of the Catholic Church, they rejected religion totally. Now one sees the results in today's neo-pagan life style.

CONCLUSION

From the above, it is evident that, there are many reasons why taking part in Valentine's Day is at odds with Islam. The study revealed that, Valentine's Day is a pagan Roman festival, which continued to be celebrated until after the Romans became Christian. This festival became connected with the saint known as Valentine, who was sentenced to death on 14 February 270 CE (Common Era).

This article also notes that, celebrating Valentine's Day means resembling or imitating the pagan Romans, which is strictly forbidden in Islam. Also, in Islam, the festivals are

clearly defined and well established, and no additions or subtractions may be accepted. Also the festival promotes infatuation and sexual immorality. It observes that, the expression of feelings and emotions is not a justification for the Muslim to allocate a day for celebration. It concluded that, in Islam, a husband loves his wife throughout the year, and he expresses that love towards her with gifts, in verse and in prose, in letters and in other ways, throughout the years and not just on one day of the year.

The paper observed that, it is extremely important for Muslim parents, grandparents, and teachers to understand and explain the real motives and cultural roots of Valentine's Day. The paper recommended that, Muslims should distinguish themselves as being Muslims and following Islam. There is no need to follow the tradition of another religion or pagan ritual. Muslims are not Christians, Pagans, Jews, Buddhists, Hindus, Sikhs, Atheists or belonging to any other religion or way of life. Muslims are Muslims and follow Islam. By celebrating Valentine's Day is actually following something else according to the verdict of Islam.

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