



April Foolsâ Day: Its Origins and the Islamic Perspective

Description



Bismillahi Wal Hamdullillah Was SalÄ tu Was SalÄ mu â alÄ Rasoolillahi
AmmÄ Baâ d:

As today is April the 1st, the so-called Aprils fools day, we share this benefit.

The origins of April Fools day

There is some dispute concerning the origins of April Fools Day.

Theory 1

Perhaps the most popular is that which is attributed to Pope Gregory XIII. In France in 1582 he adopted the Gregorian calendar (named after him), he moved the beginning of the year from March (the end of March), as had been common throughout Christendom, to January 1. Because Easter was a lunar and therefore movable date, those who stuck to the old ways were the â April Fools.â

People who were slow to get the news or failed to recognize that the start of the New Year had moved to January 1 and continued to celebrate it during the last week of March through April 1 became the butt of jokes and hoaxes.

They were ridiculed and seen as foolish and hence we have April Fool's Day.

This theory is disputed though, since it is known historically that the Julian Calendar, established in 46BC, made January the first month of the year. Though the first opinion may well still have grounds since not every country adopted the Julian Calendar until generations after him.

Theory 2

A different theory is that April Fool's Day is left over from the idea of renewal festivals (Renewal festivals are cultural, religious, or seasonal celebrations (usually pagan in origin) that mark new beginnings, rejuvenation, and the cyclical nature of life. Often aligned with the spring equinox or harvest, they symbolize the triumph of light over darkness and the replenishment of nature and society, featuring themes of cleansing, fertility, and hope.), which often occurred in spring marking the end of winter and the start of spring.

One of the oldest versions of this occasion was the Roman pagan festival Hilaria. It was a festival held in honour of Cybele, the mother of the gods. All kinds of games and amusements were allowed on this day; masquerades were the most common among them, and anyone could, in his disguise, imitate whomsoever he liked, regardless of how noble they were.

The festival coincided with the spring equinox, a pagan festival marking the beginning of spring or autumn, and those who took part in the festival would wear disguises, play tricks on people and generally wreak havoc.

Regardless of whichever theory is correct the day is one based in paganism, falsehood, lies and striking false fear into the hearts of people.

The Prophet ﷺ Sallallahu alaihi was Salam said:

ﷺ **It is not permissible for the believer to frighten another believer** ﷺ (Abu Daawood (5004) Declared ﷺ Sahih ﷺ by Shaikh Albani in ﷺ Sahih At Targheeb: (2805))

He also said: ﷺ **The sign of the hypocrite are three: if he speaks he lies, and if he is given a trust he breaks it, and if he makes a promise he breaks his promise** ﷺ (Saheeh Bukhaari (33) and Saheeh Muslim (59) upon the authority of Abu Hurairah)

He also said: **Be truthful for indeed truthfulness, leads to righteousness, and indeed righteousness leads to Jannah. Indeed a man remains truthful and is diligent about being truthful until he is written with Allah as a truthful person** (Saheeh Bukhaari (5743) and Saheeh Muslim (2607) upon the authority of Abdullah Ibn Mas'ood)

Therefore, there is no such thing as a white lie in Islaam, all of it is black.

If this lying is combined with resemblance of the pagans with their festivities, then it becomes worse.

Therefore we warn our brothers and sisters against this custom, the like of which has no good in it and may possibly cause harm.

Wa Sallallahu alaa Nabiyyinaa Muhammad

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