98500 - There is nothing wrong with trimming the moustache or shave it altogether

the question

I trim my moustache so short that it cant be seen... is that correct? Are we allowed to say Al Hussayn was a Martyr?.

Detailed answer

Praise be to Allah.

The scholars are unanimously agreed that it is permissible to trim or cut the moustache, because of the many ahadith that have been narrated concerning that, such as the words of the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him): “Let the beard grow, and trim the moustache.” Narrated by al-Bukhari (5442). And he (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said: “Whoever does not remove anything from the moustache is not one of us.” Narrated by al-Tirmidhi (2685) and classed as saheeh by al-Albani in Saheeh al-Tirmidhi.

Al-Nawawi (may Allah have mercy on him) said in al-Majmoo’ (1/340)” As for cutting the moustache, there is unanimous agreement that it is Sunnah. End quote.

But there is a difference of opinion among the scholars as to how much may be removed.

Al-Shawkani said in Nayl al-Awtar (1/148): The people differed as to the amount that may be cut from the moustache. Many of the salaf were of the view that it may be removed completely and shaved off, because of the apparent meaning of the words shave and remove completely. This was the view of the Kufis [and is one view narrated from Imam Ahmad. What is meant by the Kufis is the followers of Abu Haneefah (may Allah have mercy on him)].

Many others were of the view that it is not allowed to shave it or remove it completely. This was

the view of Malik [and of al-Shafa'i and of Ahmad, according to another report from him].

Imam Malik was very strict about shaving the moustache and regarded it as mutilation for which a person deserved to be disciplined. He said that shaving it was a bid'ah (innovation) which had appeared among the people. This was narrated from him by al-Nawawi in al-Majmoo' and by Ibn al-Qayyim in Zad al-Ma'ad and others, but the majority of scholars were of a different view, as they thought that there was nothing wrong with shaving or cutting it, although they differed as to which is better. End quote.

Al-Mardawi said in al-Insaf (1/121): He may shave his moustache or trim the ends, but shaving is better. This was stated by him [i.e., Imam Ahmad]. End quote.

Ibn al-Qayyim stated in Zad al-Ma'ad (1/171) that Imam Ahmad (may Allah have mercy on him) said: If he shaves it there is nothing wrong with it, and if he cuts it there is nothing wrong with it. The evidence that Imam Ahmad quoted for that is that the ahadith enjoined shaving and cutting.

Hence the brother who asked this question may know that there is nothing wrong with what he is doing, although it is better to cut the moustache so that the edge of the lip appears, and not to remove it altogether, because this is what the Messenger (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) used to do. It was narrated that Ibn 'Abbas (may Allah be pleased with him) said: The Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) used to cut his moustache. Narrated by Ahmad (2733). Shaykh Ahmad Shakir said: Its isnad is saheeh.