

Writing Basmala on invitation cards

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of Allaah, the Most Merciful, the Bestower of Mercy

Question: What is the ruling regarding invitation cards and writing Basmala¹ or a verse of the Qur'aan or a hadeeth on them?

Answer: All praise is due to Allaah, the Lord of the Worlds. Peace and blessing be upon whom Allaah sent as a mercy to the Worlds, upon his Family, his Companions and his Brothers till the Day of Resurrection.

Oral expressions are not different from written expressions as regards the ruling, in accordance with the rule stipulating that: "**What is written is like what is spoken**", or the rule: "**Writing to a remote person is like speaking to a near person**" and "**The pen is one of two tongues**" as it is said.

For this reason, inviting to a banquet by speech or by writing are similar as regards permissibility and clarity. If it is most likely that this card will be thrown into a rubbish bin after the expiration of its delay, because of lack of piety, lack of concern or for other reasons, then it will be better to not write the Basmala, a verse of the Qur'aan or a hadeeth, for fear of exposing the mention of Allaah to humiliation. Yet, writing the Basmala is permissible, as the Prophet صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ used to begin his letters by Basmala², in order to follow the example of the Qur'aanic verses.

As for the person who receives such a card, he should endeavour to spare it being put in an undesirable place, and he is responsible if he contradicts this, and it is he who will incur sin and not the person who wrote it.

The perfect knowledge belongs to Allaah عَزَّ وَجَلَّ. Our last prayer is all praise is due to Allaah, the Lord of the Worlds. Peace and blessing be upon our Prophet, his Family, his Companions and Brothers till the Day of Resurrection.

Algiers, Safar 18th, 1428H. Corresponding to: March 7th, 2007.

¹ Basmala: Saying Bismillaahi Rahmaan Ar-Raheem (In the Name of Allaah, the Most Merciful, the Bestower of Mercy).

² See: Saheeh Al-Bukhaaree, concerning the beginning of revelation (hadeeth 7) and Saheeh Muslim, chapter of "Jihaad and conquests" (2/849) (hadeeth 1773) on the authority of Ibn `Abbaas رضي الله عنهما via Aboo Sufyaan Sakhr Ibn Harb رضي الله عنه.