Touching the Ka ' bah

During tawaaf we see some people touching the walls and covering of the Ka ' bah, and Maqaam Ibraaheem. What is the ruling on that?.

Praise be to Allaah.

This question was put to Shaykh Muhammad ibn ' Uthaymeen (may Allaah have mercy on him), who replied as follows:

This is an action which some people do, seeking thereby to draw closer to Allaah and to worship Him. Every action which is done with the intention of drawing closer to Allaah and worshipping Him, but which has no basis in sharee ' ah, is an innovation, and the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) warned against that when he said: " Beware of newly-innovated matters, for every innovation is a going astray. " Narrated by al-Tirmidhi, 2676; Abu Dawood, 4607.

It is not narrated that the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) touched anything apart from the Yemeni Corner and the Black Stone.

On this basis, if a person touches any corner or side of the Ka ' bah apart from the Yemeni Corner and the Black Stone, then he is considered to be an innovator (follower of bid ' ah). When ' Abd-Allaah ibn ' Abbaas saw Mu ' aawiyah ibn Abi Sufyaan (may Allaah be pleased with him) touching the two northern corners of the Ka ' bah, he told him not to do that. Mu ' aawiyah (may Allaah be pleased with him) said to him: " No part of the House should be ignored. ' Ibn ' Abbaas (may Allaah be pleased with him) said: " ' Indeed in the Messenger of Allaah (Muhammad) you have a good example to follow " [al-Ahzaab 33:21 – interpretation of the meaning]. And I saw the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) touching

the two Yemeni corners, " meaning the Yemeni Corner and the Black Stone. So Mu ' aawiyah accepted what Ibn ' Abbaas said.

A more serious form of bid ' ah is what some people do, namely touching Maqaam Ibraaheem. It was not narrated that the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) touched any part of the Maqaam.

The same applies to other actions that some people do, namely touching Zamzam or touching the pillars of the porticos – the ancient pillars built by the Ottomans. None of these actions were narrated from the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him), so they are all bid ' ah (innovations), and every innovation is a going astray.