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The fifth question of Fatwa no. 2742

Q 5: We have been informed by some Muslims that pictures are Haram (prohibited), and that angels do not enter a house where there are pictures. Is this true? Do these prohibited pictures refer to the three-dimensional images of humans and animals or do they include all pictures such as those in the ID card or on paper money? If the prohibition is general, how can we remove all images from the house? Please, enlighten us! May Allah reward you with the best.

A: Yes, all images of animate beings whether humans or animals are prohibited, whether they are three-dimensional pictures, drawings, or paintings on paper or cloth, or even photos. Angels do not enter a house where there are pictures, according to the general meaning of authentic Hadith. Yet, picturing is permitted only in necessary cases such as taking pictures of criminals and suspects to arrest them or pictures for passports and ID cards. Moreover, we hope that such pictures will not prevent angels from entering a house due to the necessity of keeping and carrying them. It is Allah alone Who is sought for help. Also, we think that pictures with menial value like those on bed covers or pillows do not prevent angels from entering houses. Among the Hadiths mentioned in this regard is the saying of the Prophet (peace be upon him): [\(Those who make these pictures will be punished on the Day of Resurrection and it will be said to them, "Give life to what you created."\)](#) (Related by Al-Bukhari)

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It was also narrated on the authority of Abu Juhayfah (may Allah be pleased with him) that the Prophet (peace be upon him) [\(has cursed the one who consumes \(takes\) Riba \(usury\) and the one who pays it, and cursed the image-maker.\)](#)

May Allah grant us success. May peace and blessings be upon our Prophet Muhammad, his family, and Companions.

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