

What is the Ruling on Working the Job of Printing Pictures of Living Beings

Darulifta Ahlesunnat (Dawateislami)

Question

What do the noble scholars and jurists of Islamic law say about the following: A person works a job of printing pictures. Some people get albums made to keep as memories, such as after celebrating their daughter's birthday, and others get their own pictures printed to keep as a memory. Similarly, banners for mehfils are displayed that contain pictures of the na'at reciters and lecturers. In this situation, what is the ruling on printing these pictures? Is this permissible in sharī'ah? Please provide guidance.

Answer

Digital pictures are, in reality, not considered pictures; instead, they are just a reflection. However, when they are printed out, they fall under the ruling of creating pictures. And according to sharī'ah, creating pictures of living beings is impermissible, ḥarām, and a sinful act. Therefore, printing out digital pictures of living beings, whether birthday pictures, pictures of an event, pictures of na'at reciters and lecturers, or pictures of anyone else, is impermissible in sharī'ah and a sin. Furthermore, working a job of printing such pictures is also impermissible because this is assisting one in a sin which has been explicitly prohibited in the Noble Qur'ān.

Regarding the condemnation of creating pictures, it is mentioned in a ḥadīth narrated in Saḥīḥ Muslim:

سمعت عبد الله بن مسعود يقول: قال رسول الله صلى الله عليه وسلم: أشد الناس عذاباً يوم القيامة المصورون

Translation: I heard 'Abdullāh Bin Mas'ūd رضي الله تعالى عنه say: The Messenger of Allah

ﷺ said: The people who will get the most severe punishment on the day of judgement will be those who created pictures. (Saḥīḥ Muslim, Vol. 03, p. 1670, Ḥadīth No. 2109, Publ. Dār Iḥyā' al-Turās, Beirut)

There is a ḥadīth in Saḥīḥ al-Bukhārī:

أن عبد الله بن عمر رضي الله عنهما أخبره: أن رسول الله صلى الله عليه وسلم قال: إن الذين يصنعون هذه الصور يعذبون يوم القيامة يقال لهم: حيوا ما خلقتم

Translation: 'Abdullāh Bin 'Umar رضي الله تعالى عنهما informed that the Messenger of Allāh

ﷺ said: Indeed, those who make these pictures will be punished on the day of judgement. They will be told: Give life to these pictures that you had made. (Saḥīḥ al-Bukhārī, Vol. 07, p. 167, Ḥadīth No. 5951, Publ. Dār Tawq al-Najāh)

It is stated in Mirqāt al-Mafātīh:

قال اصحابنا وغيرهم من العلماء تصوير صورة الحيوان حرام شديد التحريم وهو من الكبائر لانه متوعد عليه بهذا الوعيد الشديد المذكور في الاحاديث

Translation: Our scholars and other scholars stated that making pictures of living beings is ḥarām, strictly ḥarām, and from amongst the major sins because warnings have been mentioned regarding this, as mentioned in the aḥādīth. (Mirqāt al-Mafātīh, Chapter of pictures, Vol. 07, p. 2848, Publ. Dār al-Fikr, Beirut)

A‘lā Ḥazrat Imām Aḥmad Razā Khān رحمه الله عليه states in Fatāwa Razawiyah:

فوٹو ہویا دستی تصویر، پوری ہویا نیم قد، بنانا، بنوانا سب حرام ہے، نیز اس کا عزت سے رکھنا حرام اگرچہ نصف قد کی ہو کہ تصویر فقط چہرہ کا نام ہے۔

Translation: Creating pictures or getting pictures made, whether photographs or hand-drawn, full-bodied or half-length, is ḥarām. Likewise, keeping them with honor is ḥarām even if it is only half-length, because a picture is essentially defined by the face. (Fatāwa Razawiyah, Vol. 24, p. 568, Publ. Razā Foundation, Lahore)

Assistance in sinful acts is impermissible and a sin. Regarding its prohibition, Allāh Almighty states in the Noble Qur‘ān:

وَلَا تَعَاوَنُوا عَلَى الْإِثْمِ وَالْعُدْوَانِ

Translation (Kanz al-‘Irfān): And do not help each other in sin and transgression. (Part 6, Surah al-Mā‘idah, Verse 02)

It is stated in Tabyīn al-Ḥaqāi‘ q:

الإعانة على المعاصي والفجور والحث عليها من جملة الكبائر كذا الذخيرة والمحيط

(Tabyīn al-Ḥaqāi‘ q, Vol. 04, p. 222, Publ. Cairo)

وَاللَّهُ أَعْلَمُ عَزَّ وَجَلَّ وَرَسُولُهُ أَعْلَمُ صَلَّى اللَّهُ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ

(Allah Almighty knows best and His Messenger صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ knows best.)

Answered By: Mufti Muhammad Qasim Attari

Ref No: FAM-977

Date: 19th Jumād al-‘Ūlā 1447 AH / 11th November 2025

 **Dar-ul-Ifta Ahlesunnat (Dawat-e-Islami)**

 www.fatwaqa.com

 [daruliftaahlesunnat](https://www.facebook.com/daruliftaahlesunnat)

 [DaruliftaAhlesunnat](https://www.youtube.com/DaruliftaAhlesunnat)

 [Dar-ul-ifta AhleSunnat](https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.daruliftaahlesunnat)

 feedback@daruliftaahlesunnat.net