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Fifth question from Fatwa No. 2742

Q 5: We have been informed by some people that pictures are haram (unlawful), and that Angels do not enter a house where there are pictures. Is this true? Are these prohibited pictures denoting the three-dimensional figures of humans or animals? Or do they include all pictures such as those kept in wallets or drawn on money? If the prohibition is generally applied, how can we free the house from them? Please, advise us! May Allah reward you in the best manner.

A: Yes, all the pictures of animate beings among humans or animals are prohibited, whether they are three-dimensional pictures, drawings, or paintings, on paper or cloth, or even photos. The angels do not enter a house where there are pictures, and there are general authentic Hadiths indicating this. But, picturing is permitted only in necessary cases such as taking pictures of criminals and suspects to arrest them or pictures included in passports and identity cards. Moreover, we hope that such pictures and the likes would not prohibit angels to enter the house due to the necessity of keeping them and carrying them. It is Allah (alone) Who can be sought for help. Owing to this, we hope that pictures used in a manner implying disrespect like those on beds or pillows do not prohibit entering angels. In addition, among the Hadiths mentioned in this regard, the saying of the Prophet (peace be upon him): [\(The makers of these pictures will be tortured on the Day of Resurrection, and it will be said to them, 'Give life to what you have created \(i.e., these pictures\).'](#)) Narrated 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 \(peace be upon him\) cursed the eater \(i.e. taker\) of Riba \(usury/interest\) and its payer, as well as 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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