

10668 - Taking pictures for memories

the question

Some people say taking pictures and keeping them at home is haram, is this true?. Because in N. America and Europe for example we heard every day a missing children and with out their recent picture it is difficult to trace them, so could you explain to me what kind of pictures is haram and what kind is not haram, because I like to take pictures from my children just for memory and I keep them at home, am I committing a sin, please specify for me and give me some daliil.

Detailed answer

The basic principle concerning making pictures of any animate being, whether it is a human or any animal, is that it is haram, whether the pictures are three-dimensional or are drawn on paper, cloth or walls, etc., or are photographs (taken with a camera), because of the reports in the saheeh ahaadeeth which state that that is not allowed, and threaten the one who does that with a painful torment, and because they may lead to shirk in the form of standing respectfully before them, humbling oneself before them, drawing close to them and venerating them in a manner that is only befitting for Allah. They are also forbidden because this is a kind of trying to match the creation of Allah, and because of the temptation inherent in some of them, such as pictures of actresses and naked women, and so-called beauty queens.

Among the ahaadeeth which state that this is haram and that it is a major sin is the hadeeth of Ibn 'Abbaas (may Allah be pleased with him), who said, "I heard the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) say: 'Whoever makes an image in this world will be told to breathe the soul into it on the Day of Resurrection, and he will never be able to do that.'" (Narrated by al-Bukhaari and Muslim). He [Ibn 'Abbaas (may Allah be pleased with him)] also narrated that the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said: "Every image-maker will be in the Fire, and every image that he made will be made to appear to him and will torment him in Hell." Ibn 'Abbaas said: "If you must do that, then make trees and things that

have no soul.” (Narrated by al-Bukhaari and Muslim). The general meaning of the ahaadeeth is that it is absolutely forbidden to make images of anything that has a soul.”(Fataawa al-Lajnah al-Daa’imah, 1/456-457)

Shaykh Ibn ‘Uthaymeen said, when he was asked about pictures: making pictures for this purpose is haram and is not permitted. That is because making pictures for memories is haram, because the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said, “The angels do not enter any house in which there is an image,” (narrated by al-Bukhaari, Bid’ al-Khalq, 2986), and whatever the angels do not enter had no goodness in it.”(

Fataawa Manaar al-Islam, 3/759)