

PHOTOGRAPHY

There is infinite wisdom in each and every Command of Deen. Following the Commandments of Allah Ta'āla will ensure our safety and well-being in every regard.

By their nature, forbidden things have harm ingrained in them. The consequences may not be apparent at first, but will certainly become manifest in time.

One such matter that has become apparent today is that of taking photos and videos of animate objects. The Ahadith are explicit in the prohibition of picture-making of animate objects. **They make no distinction between digital and other forms of photography.** The scope of the Hadith refers to **all methods** of picture making. The current method of taking pictures may soon be replaced with 3D imaging. Only Allah Ta'āla knows what other methods may be invented in time to come. The laws of Islam are timeless and will encompass all new methods of picture making. **It will remain forbidden irrespective of the instrument employed to make them.**

There has always been consensus among our pious predecessors with regards to photography. Until the recent past it was almost universally accepted as impermissible because of which the Ummah was saved from many trials in this regard.

Senior Ulama the likes of Ml Ebrahim Devla Sahib and Mufti Ahmed Khanpuri Saheb also consider digital photography to be explicitly forbidden.

Unfortunately, recently this scourge has become widespread to such a degree that even the sanctity of the Masājid and the three Harams have been violated. It is with a great sense of relief, that we note the position Wifāqul Madāris, Pakistan has taken on photography. Allah Ta'āla out of his mercy has made the harms manifest before it is too late. After a meeting of many Ulama, including Mufti Taqi Uthmāni Saheb and many others, where the matter was discussed, The Nāzim A'lā (Secretary General), of Wifāq-ul-Madāris, Ml Hanif Jhālandari Saheb issued a firm declaration:

“From today, no videos of any kind should be taken at Khayr-ul-Madāris and I make an appeal to all teachers and students to abstain from it at all times. I repent for whatever has happened thus far. Any Khayr-ul-Madāris graduate who takes videos has absolutely no relationship with Khayr-ul-Madāris and with me; we will be absolved from any obligation to him.”

Everyone agreed that, videos should be avoided,

especially amongst the people of knowledge. They should abstain from making any videos of their programmes.

Even if one considers photography permissible, it is still incumbent to abandon it as its harms far outweigh its benefits. Among the many harms of having Bayaans and religious programmes on video is that,

1. **The niyyah of the person being videoed is challenged between propagation of Deen and acquiring fame.**
2. **People are justifying bringing TVs into their homes and inevitably watching other harām programmes as well.**
3. **Women are now looking at strange men who they should not be looking at and considering it to be a virtue.**
4. **Scholars are enticed into forming a large fan base with a high follower count.**

Nabi ﷺ said: “Certainly the most severely punished people by Allah on the day of Qiyāmah are the Musawwiroon (picture makers)

Bukhari (5950)

If a person considers it a sin then only will he have remorse and resort to Taubah.

An important clarification to note is that just as it is forbidden to take pictures and videos of animate objects, it is also forbidden to circulate them. By circulating such material, one is promoting an evil act. Thus, both making and circulating such videos is forbidden. One should not fall under the misconception that one is propagating Deen by circulating these videos. If a person circulates them, he will bear the burden of circulating such videos and it will be incumbent upon him to immediately delete the video from his device and also instruct all those to whom he circulated such videos to delete them as well.

The warning in the Hadith is so severe for picture making that it would not be prudent to risk the wrath of Allah Ta'āla simply on the basis of “difference of opinion”. We appeal to all to take heed and desist from taking videos and pictures, whether it be of family, recording of incidents or **Islamic programmes.**

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WIFĀQUL 'ULAMA (SA)
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