

Making shoes having pictures of animals

Shaykh Aboo `Abd-al-Mu`iz `Alee Farkous al-Qoobee

Article taken and slightly adapted from: ferkous.com

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of Allaah, the Most Merciful, the Bestower of Mercy

The ruling concerning making shoes having pictures of animals on them

Question: I have a brother who works in a private company, this latter manufactures shoes on which there are pictures of animals and other creatures that have souls as the human being. We would like you to deliver a fatwa concerning this delicate issue. Find in the attachments samples of these pictures. So, is this job permissible or not? May Allaah reward you.

Shaykh Aboo `Abd-al-Mu`iz `Alee Farkous al-Qoobee (May Allaah the Most High preserve him): All praise is due to Allaah, the Lord of the Worlds. Peace and blessing be upon whom Allaah sent as a mercy to the Worlds, upon his Family, his Companions and his Brothers until the Day of Resurrection:

Know that there is a difference –in the ruling- between making pictures and possessing them.

This being said, when it comes to making pictures by hand through carving, engraving or drawing, such an act is basically prohibited because of the resemblance of Allaah’s creation that it entails, according to what is confirmed in the hadeeths texts prohibiting that and justifying the prohibition through this meaning. However, pictures of objects that do not have soul as well as pictures representing parts of the body such as the hand, the foot, the eye, the finger and suchlike parts are excluded from the prohibition forasmuch as they are not a complete body.

As for possessing pictures and using them, this has different rulings varying according to the circumstances and cases that are attached to their use:

- If the use is based on having a statue that has a shadow among the creatures that have a soul, then this is unanimously prohibited whether the statue is hung, put on a support or preserved.
- As for the pictures that do not have a shadow, they are either hung or not hung:
 - If they are hung on the wall and are printed or engraved on curtains, then if the picture is glorified, it comes under the ruling of prohibition; and if it is not glorified, then it is strongly detestable.

Making shoes having pictures of animals

- When it comes to pictures that are not hung and are humiliated through the fact that one walks on them, wears or sits on them such as cushions and pillows and suchlike uses that are beyond the glorification or the fact of being hung, then there is no matter to possess and use them, according to the hadeeth of Abee Talhah (*May Allaah be pleased with him*): "Except a figure on a garment"¹, and other hadeeths. The children's toys and suchlike objects meant for the amusement of kids are also excluded from the prohibition, according to the famous hadeeth of 'A'ishah (*May Allaah be pleased with her*)², provided that such toys are not associated with any aspect of nakedness, depravity and decadence, the toys shouldn't be glorified by hanging them on the walls or keeping them on shelves, otherwise they are prohibited due to the meaning of glorification.

Based on that, if the shoe manufacturing company is engaged in making the pictures of live creatures by drawing or engraving them, then such an act is prohibited due to what has already been elucidated. Yet if the pictures are already prepared and the company puts them on shoes, then the worn shoes is apparently dispraised and is, accordingly, beyond the glorification, and the pictures are subject to humiliation and will vanish at any time, then -in such a case- it comes under the ruling of permissibility. All this provided that these pictures do not represent any religious, ideological or ethnic slogan. Otherwise, they will be prohibited because it is not permissible to show allegiance unless to the people of faith and the (true) Group.

The perfect knowledge belongs to Allaah (*Mighty and Majestic is He*); and our last prayer is all the praises and thanks are to Allaah, the Lord of the Worlds, and prayers of Allaah are to Muhammad and his Family, Companions and Brothers until the Day of Resurrection.

Algiers on Ramadhan the 24th, 1421 H.

¹ Reported by Al-Bukhaaree (5958) and by Muslim (2106), from the hadeeth of Aboo Talhah (*May Allaah be pleased with him*).

² Reported by Aboo Daawood (4932), from the hadeeth of 'A'ishah (*May Allaah be pleased with her*). She said: "When the Prophet (*May the peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him*) arrived from the expedition of Tabook or Khaybar, and a curtain was hung in front of her Sahwa (i.e. a shelf or a window used for putting objects on it), the draught raised an end of the curtain revealing some dolls which belonged to her. He asked: "What is this?". She replied: "My dolls". Among them, he saw a horse with wings made of rags, and asked: "What is this I see among them?" She replied: "A horse". He asked: "What is this that it has on it?". She replied: "Two wings". He asked: "A horse with two wings?" She replied: "Have you not heard that Sulaimaan (Solomon) had horses with wings?". She said: "Thereupon the Prophet (*May the peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him*) laughed so heartily that I could see his molar teeth". This hadeeth is judged authentic by Al-Albaanee in "Aadaab Az-Zifaaf" (170).