

Ruling regarding watching cartoons

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

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

Question: What is the ruling regarding watching cartoons?

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 till the Day of Resurrection.

If cartoons, which are part of cartoon films, are in conformity with the religious norms, such as the good intention and being meaningful i.e. realising guiding, informative and educational objectives; if they are free from any kind of dissoluteness, unveiling, music and bad education; if they are not opposite to Islamic morals and good manners and they are free from any call to Shirk (polytheism), undervaluing the religion and its matters through funny style and defaming expressions, and free from driving people away from religion by what is proposed by these cartoons; in this case, watching them is allowed. Moreover, cartoons may be recommended if they convey a correct religious education.

However, it is known that pictures which are used in a disrespectful manner are allowed, according to the Prophet's (May the peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) prohibiting pictures except those which are a sign on a dress¹, and also according to the hadeeth reported by `A'isha and her playing with dolls². Ibn Qudaama said in "Al-Mughnee" [7/216]

¹ Reported by Al-Bukhaaree, chapter of "Dress", concerning the one who dislikes sitting down on pictures (hadeeth 5613), Muslim, chapter of "Dress and adornment", concerning the prohibition from drawing the picture of an animal (hadeeth 5640), Aboo Daawood, chapter of "Dress", concerning "The pictures" (hadeeth 4155), At-Tirmidhee, chapter of "Dress", concerning what is reported about the picture (hadeeth 1750) and An-Nasaa'ee, chapter of "Adornment", concerning "Pictures" (hadeeth 5350) on the authority of Aboo Talhah (May Allaah be pleased with him).

² Reported by Aboo Daawood, chapter of "The good manners" (hadeeth 4932) on the authority of `A'isha (May Allaah be pleased with her) who said: "When the Prophet (May the peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) arrived after the expedition to Tabook or Khaybar, the draught raised an end of a curtain which was hung in front of her store-room, 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 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 has been judged authentic by Al-Albaanee in "Aadaab Az-Zifaaf" (170). Its origin is reported in Al-Bukhaaree's "Saheeh", chapter of "The good manners", concerning being kind to people (hadeeth 5779).

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when speaking about answering the invitation to the marriage banquet: "If the head of the picture is cut off, it is no longer detestable [i.e. prohibited]... also, if the picture contains a body without a head or a head without a body or if it has a head and its body is not that of an animal, it is not then prohibited, because this would not be the picture of an animal".

The perfect knowledge belongs to Allaah (*Mighty and Majestic is He*). Our last prayer is all praise is due to Allaah, the Lord of the Worlds. Peace and blessing be upon our Prophet, his Family, his Companions and Brothers till the Day of Resurrection.

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