
Selling publications with immoral pictures and falsehoods

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Question: Is it permissible for a bookstore to sell newspapers and magazines that have immoral pictures, false stories and praise for the hypocrites and evildoers in them? And is it permissible for them to sell books that contain beliefs, ideologies and understanding that do not agree with what the Salaf us-Saalih were upon, in order that it could further promote its Salafee books?

Answer: Shaykh al-Albaanee (رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ)¹: It is not permissible to have any hesitation about not selling magazines that have immoral pictures in them, for selling them is Haraam (forbidden). As for the other books, such as those of Fiqh, then one who desires to keep within the bounds of the Religion must have knowledge of what is contained within these books from opinions, rulings and ideologies. And once he knows, then the ruling is based on what (material) is predominantly held within the book. So if for the most part, the book is correct, then it is permissible to sell it. And if not then it is not permissible to sell it at all.

However, the Muslim will never find a book – apart from the Book of Allaah – that is free from error. So if it were held that it is not permissible to sell any book that had an error in it, then it would mean that it is not permissible to sell any book. So the matter should be considered with respect to what is predominantly held within it.

¹ (رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ) (rahimahullaah) May Allaah have mercy on him