

Ruling on taking the Mushaf out of the mosque or replacing it with another  
I am the imam of a mosque and in the mosque there are more than 250 copies of the Qur ' aan, as in all mosques. As you know, most of them are not read and have stayed on the bookshelf for perhaps 20 years. Of course some of them have been put there by the Department of Awqaaf (Islamic endowments) and some have been put there by people or by the mosque committee. Some worshippers want to take a copy to read and some cannot afford to buy their own copy, and others say: Even if I could afford to buy a copy, how long will these copies stay in the mosques? Is it permissible for me to give some of these copies to them (especially if he takes a large copy and replaces it with a small one)?.

Praise be to Allaah.

Firstly:

If a Mushaf

has been given as a waqf to a specific mosque, it is not permissible to take it out of the mosque to read it at home or replace it with another one.

The scholars

of the Standing Committee (16/19) were asked: Is it permissible to take the Mushaf out of the Haram to read it at home?

They

replied:

If Mushafs

and books have been given as a waqf for people to benefit from in a specific

place, it is not permissible to take them elsewhere, whether a Haram or somewhere else, unless the place where they were put is no longer in operation, in which case they should be moved to somewhere where they may be

as beneficial or more so. End quote.

Standing

Committee for Academic Research and Issuing Fatwas.

Shaykh ' Abd

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al- 'Azeez ibn 'Abdullah ibn Baaz, Shaykh 'Abdullah ibn Ghadyaan, Shaykh 'Abdullah ibn Qa'ood

Shaykh Ibn

'Uthaymeen (may Allah have mercy on him) was asked: Is it permissible to take a Mushaf from the mosque then return it?

He replied:

It is not

permissible to take a Mushaf from the mosque then return it, because the Mushafs that are found in mosques are awqaaf donated for the public benefit,

for everyone who enters the mosque to benefit from. If someone takes them,

then this implies that he is keeping them for himself and depriving others of it, which is haraam and is not permissible even if he replaces it with another Mushaf. The Mushafs in the mosques should be left as they are, and

anyone who wants to read them may do so, in the mosque itself.

End quote

from Fataawa ash-Shaykh Ibn 'Uthaymeen, Noor 'ala ad-Darb.

Secondly:

If there are

many Mushafs in the mosque and they are not being made use of, there is nothing wrong with transferring the extras to another mosque that needs Mushafs.

Shaykh Ibn

Baaz (may Allah have mercy on him) said:

If this

small mosque does not need some of the Mushafs that are in it, there is nothing wrong with transferring those that are not needed in this mosque to another mosque that needs them, because the aim is that the worshippers benefit from these Mushafs. But to be on the safe side, it is better to ask the imam for permission to do that, because he knows best what the mosque

needs.

End quote

from Majmoo' al-Fataawa, 20/15.

For more

information please see the answer to question no.

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To sum up:

it is not permissible to take the Mushaf from the mosque or to replace it with another.

If the

Mushafs in the mosque are more than is needed, the extra copies may be transferred to another mosque.

And Allah knows best.