151476 - Is it permissible to pray in a prayer room in which there are taxidermied animals?

the question

What is the ruling on placing taxidermied animals in the prayer room of the school? Please note that these taxidermied animals were put there at the time of an exhibition, which was held in the prayer room, and prayer in this prayer room was paused until the exhibition ended. I hope you will answer quickly because the matter is very important, because of the unease that was caused to some of the students of the school regarding these taxidermied animals.

Detailed answer

Praise be to Allah.

It is not permissible to taxidermy animals, but that is not because they are images; rather it is for other reasons, including the following:

1. It is a type of folly and a waste of money.

2. It could lead to people putting up images by way of thinking that they come under the same heading as these taxidermied animals.

3. That is a means that leads to becoming attached to this taxidermied animal and thinking that it could ward off harm from the house and its occupants, as some ignorant people think.

This was stated by Shaykh ‘Abd al-‘Aziz ibn Baz (may Allah have mercy on him), as it says in his *Fatawa* (8/426).

4. The taxidermied animal may be an animal whose meat cannot be eaten, so it is impure (najis), and keeping something that is impure is not permissible, because what is impure must be

removed and got rid of.

This was stated by Shaykh al-‘Uthaymin (may Allah have mercy on him), as it says in *Liqa’ al-Bab al-Maftuh* (no. 14).

Shaykh al-‘Uthaymin (may Allah have mercy on him) pointed out that taxidermied animals do not come under the heading of images, as he said:

But this is not an image, as some people think, as they think that this is like an image that has been made by a human, when that is not the case, because it is the creation of Allah, may He be glorified and exalted. End quote.

Op. cit.

based on that, the fact that these taxidermied animals are in the prayer room is not a reason to stop praying in your prayer room. Rather they should not be in front of the worshippers or in a place where they can be seen during the prayer, lest they distract people from the prayer. Similarly, if they are impure (najis), they should be removed from the prayer room.

We should also point out that the prayer room of the school does not come under the ruling on mosques; nevertheless, it should be respected and protected from anything that is not appropriate, out of respect for the prayer that is offered in that place.

And Allah knows best.