

**Shaykh Mashhūr Hasan Āl Salmān**  
*(hafidhahullāh)*

**TAKING MASĀHIF AND BOOKS  
FROM THE MASJID?  
WITH AN EXPLANATION OF WAQF  
AND THE LAZINESS OF THE  
ARABS<sup>1</sup>**

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Question:

“Whoever takes a Mus-haf from the Masjid with the permission of the Imām, is this considered to be from Ghulūl [the illegal usurpation of an item extracted from the spoils of war before it has been distributed by the leader of the Muslims]?”

**Answer from Shaykh Mashhūr:**

Is it permitted for an Imām to give you a microphone from the Masjid? And say “here you go, take it”? It reached me that some people wanted to take the microphone from a Masjid for a wedding?! To use it for singing?! Masha’Allāh, what a religious man such an Imām is, who allowed this! Masha’Allāh, if the Imām is like this then what about the people?! Tayyib, is it allowed for the Imām to give you something from the Masjid? It is not for the Imām to give you anything from the Masjid. If it is his then yes, but if it is not his then he cannot give it. There is no doubt that it is from ghulūl. It is not for the Imām at all to give away anything that belongs to the Masjid. It is not for the Imām to take a Mus-haf to his house. He cannot take a book from the books of the

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<sup>1</sup> From the Q&A session of our Shaykh dated Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2013, after 40:17:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LSuOXw4A5io&list=UU5zBCGzT2TI-CQgkNUpTHvA>

Translated by ‘AbdulHaq al-Ashanti

people of knowledge, so if one came a left a book in the Masjid it is prohibited for the Imām to come and place it in his house. It thus takes priority for it to be prohibited for him to give it to anyone. It is not allowed to transgress against Waqf, and the Awqāf of our books need to be guarded.

Yet it is something strange that our books have been transported to the West. For many years, this weak servant has been trying with our brothers at Masjid al-Aqsā to convince them to make copies and scans, via modern methods of scanning, of the manuscripts which they have. I send them a hard disk drive of a few gigabytes and they replied that they are unable to copy everything. Yet just a couple of days ago I was informed that in Britain they [digitally] copied all of the manuscripts of Masjid al-Aqsā so if I wanted to acquire any of the copies I have to go to Britain to access them.<sup>2</sup> So I wanted them, and may Allāh decree that nothing evil happens to al-Aqsā and I ask Allāh to preserve al-Aqsā, where would I get these manuscripts from? Britain! Unto Allāh is the complaint.

This is strange, and the way of the Arabs, and I am proud to be an Arab however the biggest sickness with the Arabs today is laziness. However, the emphasis on buying cars, modern technology, computers and so forth has given rise to a lack of aspiration and effort. Another unfortunate flaw of the Arabs today, which has emerged, is that if an Arab loves something he possesses it, while if the West love something they serve it. I hope that Allāh will take us from mere possession to service. If we love our deen and good manners it will not be of interest to me to merely possess. It would be of interest to me to serve. May Allāh grant success to all to what He Loves and is Pleased with.

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<sup>2</sup> [TN]: the digitisation of the historical manuscript collection at al-Aqsa Library was mainly conducted by Qasem Abu Harb for the Council of British Research in the Levant (Kenyon Institute):

[http://eap.bl.uk/database/overview\\_project.a4d?projID=EAP521;r=4886](http://eap.bl.uk/database/overview_project.a4d?projID=EAP521;r=4886)

The catalogue of the collection is here:

[http://searcharchives.bl.uk/primo\\_library/libweb/action/search.do?dscnt=1&scp.scps=scope%3A%28BBL%29&frbg=&tab=local&dstmp=1407080922825&srt=author&ct=search&mode=Basic&dum=true&indx=1&vl\(freeTextO\)=EAP521\\*&fn=search&vid=IAMS\\_VU2&fromLogin=true&fromLogin=true](http://searcharchives.bl.uk/primo_library/libweb/action/search.do?dscnt=1&scp.scps=scope%3A%28BBL%29&frbg=&tab=local&dstmp=1407080922825&srt=author&ct=search&mode=Basic&dum=true&indx=1&vl(freeTextO)=EAP521*&fn=search&vid=IAMS_VU2&fromLogin=true&fromLogin=true)

Abu Harb also in 2007 worked on the digitalisation of historical periodical collections located at al-Aqsa Library in order to make archival quality digital copies of the deteriorating newspapers and magazines:

[http://eap.bl.uk/database/overview\\_project.a4d?projID=EAP119;r=6729](http://eap.bl.uk/database/overview_project.a4d?projID=EAP119;r=6729)

These projects have been supported by the British Library's Endangered Archives Programme which focuses on the preservation of archival material which is in danger of destruction, neglect or physical deterioration: <http://eap.bl.uk/pages/about.html>