



Piracy

Prof. Dr. G. Hussein Rassool

Assalmualaikum, – PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

Sharing books—whether mine or anyone else's—that have been obtained illegally (i.e., pirated copies) is a serious violation of copyright law. This includes uploading or distributing them in WhatsApp groups, Telegram channels, Facebook pages, or any other social media or digital platform without explicit legal permission.

Let's be clear: piracy is theft.

Publishers behind every book invest significant money, time, and resources into editing, printing, marketing, and distributing that book. Authors also dedicate months—sometimes years—of hard work. When you share pirated copies, you are directly denying them their right to a fair return on that investment and effort. It is not simply about permission; it is about integrity, ethics, and justice.

From an Islamic perspective, sharing pirated books is **haram**. It involves:

- Violating the rights (**ḥuqūq**) of others
- Consuming unjust wealth (**akl māl bi-l-bāṭil**)
- Betraying trust
- Committing a form of digital theft

It does not matter if your intention is to “benefit others.” You cannot justify sin through good intentions. The Prophet ﷺ said:

“Whoever deceives us is not of us.”
(*Ṣahīḥ Muslim*)

Scholars have clearly stated that it is not permissible to distribute copyrighted material without authorisation. This includes digital PDFs and scans, even if you did not sell them.

Please do not share any pirated books—mine or anyone else's—under any circumstances. If you truly value knowledge, respect those who produce and deliver it. If you see someone sharing pirated content, stop them. Speak up. Educate them. This is a collective responsibility.

May Allah guide us to earn and share knowledge in ways that are lawful, ethical, and blessed.



