بسم اللہ الرحمن الرحیم

Having a haircut without fixing the price is not permissible

Darulifta Ahlesunnat (Dawateislami)
(Translated Fatwa)

Question

What do the scholars of Islam say concerning this matter: Zaid had his hair cut by a non-Muslim barber but did not fix the price. After the haircut, Zaid gave the barber some money, and the barber took it without saying anything. My question is: is it correct to do this?

Answer

Having a haircut without fixing the amount is not permissible, because the principle is that when you take a permissible service from someone that is subject to compensation — for example, the service of having one's hair done and the like — and the payment is not fixed, then to do so is not permissible. In such a case the standard amount (ujrat-e-mithl) must be paid; that is, whatever amount is standard in the market for such work shall be given. However, if the rates are already well-known, or both parties are aware of the rate, then it is not necessary to fix the rate each time. Nevertheless, in the above-mentioned scenario, the contract was made with a non-Muslim, so we shall not declare this act impermissible under any circumstance, since invalid contracts (ʿuqūd fāsidah) are permissible between a Muslim and a ḥarbi kāfir.

وَاللہُ اَعْلَمُ عَزَّوَجَلَّ وَرَسُوْلُہ اَعْلَم صَلَّی اللہُ تَعَالٰی عَلَیْہِ وَاٰلِہٖ وَسَلَّم

(Allah Almighty knows best and His Messenger صَلَّی اللہُ عَلَیْہِ وَاٰلِہٖ وَسَلَّم knows best.)

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