

Ruling On Availing Free Services Without Specific Account Balance?

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What do the scholars of Islam and the respected Muftis say regarding the issue that under an Islamic bank, a current account is opened, in which the account holders are provided with a free checkbook, free transaction services, free pay order, and free inter-banking services, all without the condition of maintaining a specific balance in the account. Is it permissible to open such a current account, and will these free services not be considered as interest (riba)?

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

الجواب بعون الملك الوهاب اللهم هداية الحق والصواب

If the mentioned facilities are provided to all account holders, regardless of whether there is money in the account or not, then these benefits are not conditional on a loan, and it is permissible to avail these services. However, if the benefits are provided with the condition that a certain amount must be maintained in the current account, or if it is a conventional bank and the condition is that a specific amount must be in the savings account for these benefits, then availing such benefits would be impermissible and haram according to Hadith.

Gaining profit based on a loan is haram. The Hadith states:

“كل قرض جر منفعة فهو ربا-“

Translation: Every loan that brings a benefit is riba (interest).

(Kanz al-Ummal, Hadith 15516, Vol. 6, Page 238, Beirut)

In "Durr-e-Mukhtar" it is mentioned:

”كل قرض جرنفعاً حرام“

Translation: Every loan that causes profit is haram.

(Durrul-Mukhtar, Vol. 7, Page 413, Dar al-Fikr, Beirut)

Allama Ibn Abidin Shami (رحمة الله عليه) writes under this statement in "Radd al-Muhtar":

”اذا كان مشروطاً“

Translation: If it is conditional, then the profit is haram.

(Radd al-Muhtar, Vol. 7, Page 413, Dar al-Fikr, Beirut)

When the question of gaining profit based on a loan was posed to the esteemed Imam Ahmed Raza Khan (رحمة الله عليه), he replied:

”كسى طرح جائز نهىں۔“

Translation: It is not permissible in any way.

(Fatawa Razawiyya, Vol. 25, Page 217, Raza Foundation, Lahore)

Sadr al-Shariah, Badr al-Tariqah, Mufti Muhammad Amjad

Ali Azami (رحمة الله عليه) says:

”يوهیں (قرض دینے والا) كسى قسم كے نفع كى شرط كے نا جائز هے۔“

Translation: Similarly, if the lender stipulates any kind of benefit, it is impermissible.

(Bahar-e-Shariat, Vol. 2, Page 759, Maktaba al-Madinah, Karachi)

والله اعلم عزوجل ورسوله اعلم صلى الله تعالى عليه وآله وسلم

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