

FATAWA GAMBLING AND LOTTERY 2004

Betting on horse racing, Lottery and gambling

Subject: Investing Money on Horse Races

From: Islam on line

Sent: Wednesday, October 20, 2004 12:51 AM

Question

As-salamu `alaykum Over the last seven years I have been investing money on horse races. I use the word 'investing' rather than betting as I spend many hours studying and researching which takes mental effort, hard work and a considerable amount of skill and knowledge to make a profit. Hence, I find it an intellectual and stimulating challenge. This has been my sole occupation for this period of time and I have made enough to purchase my own property. I have been aware that Muslims shouldn't gamble, as money should not be obtained through 'luck' rather obtained money should be a result of hard work. For this reason I haven't been too concerned about what I do as my profit has nothing to do with luck, only skill, knowledge and studying. Aware of this I have never indulged in gambling games which rely on random luck such as the lottery, scratch cards or anything else for that matter. I have treated my occupation like any other business where every decision requires a calculated risk and like any business carries a certain amount of risk, which can be minimised with the correct preparation. However, I recently came across an Islamic website where they stated what I do can't be classified as an investment as there needs to be assets and goods involved in whatever you invest. I am now worried and upset and don't know what to do. Obviously I would like to carry on with what I do if it's allowed if not what should I do with the profits I have made. After all it's taken a lot of time and effort to accumulate what I have and it's all I own. If I decide to no longer continue and repent can I still use the money. If I can't use the money in a 'normal' context could I use it to finance a new business venture and then pay back the money to charity through its profits. I am very upset as everything I have worked for has come through these means and I am concerned as to what I should do as it's everything I own. I've also spent all these years working hard and saving this money and the thought of it not being any use is causing me distress.

Jazakum Allahu Khairan for your constant help

Yours,

My Answer

Bismi Allah al Rahman al Rahim

Al Hamdu li Allah Rabb al 'Alamin

wa al Salatu wa al Salamu 'ala Sayyidina Muhammad wa 'Ala 'Alihi wa Ashabihi

Ajma'in

Dear Br. ,

Al Salamu Alaykum Wa Rahmatullahi Wa Barakatuh

It is reported that Omar Bin al Khattab advised that one MUST FIRST KNOW THE RULING OF SHARI'AH BEFORE STARTING A BUSINESS (of course he meant in regard to the business she/he wants to start). Your question is seven years late!

Yes, betting on horse and any other racing is a sort of gambling even if you spend year on researching and studying it. It is in the final analysis a chance like any other gambling. Who said in gambling (all different kinds of gaming) there are no studies and research. Besides there is another element in gambling beside chance that is the element of being useless or in Arabic ""Abath"" [nothingness] by what virtue do you win/lose? Wealth/income can be earned, according to Shari'ah, by virtue of owning a growing asset or by work [of course, other sources re inheritance, getting a gift, etc.]. you can't earn income by doing a thing that is in the final analysis ""pure nothing"" (Abath=vain). It adds nothing to the world. Encouraging racing? Incorrect! encouraging racing can be done by prizes to winners not by betting, regardless of what you call it!

Now, what to do. what you earned is according to Shari'ah ""un-earned". You have to give it away to Muslim charity and start anew. Get a decent job or use your talent for a creative beneficial activity, get a partner to finance you; use your skills in finding some other trade. Sorry for having to be plain! I have no other choice!

Wa Allahu A'lam

Wa Alhamdu li Allah Rabb al 'Alamin

Wassalam

Sincerely,

Dr. Monzer Kahf

Working in Gambling Industry and renting it properties

Subject: work on making a survey on gambling

From: Assia

Sent: Wednesday, September 01, 2004 11:35 AM

Assalamu alaykum,

Yes, I received your answer. May Allah s.w.t. reward you for your help.

* In my perspective, the research's purpose is to identify the reasons that prevent people (or some of them) to come to the casino.

Therefore, it included questions like:

- is the heavy traffic/ the crowded area/ the distance/ease to come to the casino/etc, discouraging factors?
- if there were a connecting hotel / shops at proximity / daycare facilities/ etc, would you come to the casino more often?
- if the casino moves to the old port of Mtl, would you come often?
- there were also questions about the game they play the longest? for how long? etc
- When it comes to people who never went to a casino and who are not interested at all about casinos, the questions are about a certain complex that will contain a hotel, shops, sport complexes, etc. If they say they would like to visit it, the following question is ""if the complex contains a casino in addition of all the things I mentioned, would you come to the complex? and if yes, would it be tempting to visit the casino?""

* The concern now is about the salary I earned by working at the survey company: is it allowed to give it to a Muslim family in need? or only to a Muslim association?

* Should I give the totality of it or not?

* Finally, I have a friend who was working there before me. So, she worked there for maybe 2 months or so. She says that she is in need of that money, she didn't know it

was not halal before and if she doesn't use this money, she would be obliged to borrow from someone else. So, is she allowed to keep that money because of necessity?

I believe this email will clarify the situation. InshaALLAH, we'll be able to know what to do now.

Once again, baraka ALLAHu fika wa jazaka khaira al-jaza'.

Wassalamu alaykum wa Rahmatul'ALLAHi waBarakatuh

Assia

My Answer:

Bismi Allah al Rahman al Rahim

Al Hamdu li Allah Rabb al 'Alamin

wa al Salatu wa al Salamu 'ala Sayyidina Muhammad wa 'Ala 'Alihi wa Ashabihi Ajma'in

Dear Sr. Assia

Assalamu Alaykum wa Rahmatullahi wa Barakatuh.

It seems that the questions can benefit researchers and other non-Haram activities although some of them come very close to be casino-specific. Additionally, the results of this survey may not go outside the casino that commissioned, and paid for, it. I suggest that you probably should give to MUSLIM CHARITY a good portion of the money you got for it but any percentage that one may suggest shall only be arbitrary.

Yes, You give it to Muslim charity or association with the condition that it spend it on Muslim poor and needy, with priority to those under severe poverty conditions and foreign occupation.

Your Muslim friend should also do the same but if she is poor that she needs this money for food, cloth and shelter, she may use it herself. A Companion of the Prophet, pbuh, was due to give some food to sixty needy but he swore that non in the whole town was in more need than he, so the Prophet, pbuh, told him to eat the food with his family.

Wa Allahu A'lam

Wa Alhamdu li Allah Rabbi al 'Alamin

Wassalam

Sincerely,

Dr. Monzer Kahf

From: Assia

Sent: Sunday, August 29, 2004 6:06 PM

Subject: Question about my work

Assalamu alaykum,

This summer, I worked for a survey compagny that was doing a research for the casino. So, basically, my job was to call randomly selected people at their house and ask them what they think about certain aspects of the casino. I was just wondering whether the money I earned by this means is halal or not? If not, what do I do with this money? And what happens if I already used a part of it? Should I make sadaka from it? Should I give it to a Muslim charity? Or should I give it to a non Msulim charity? Should I give all my salary of a part of it?

(I think the compagny is payed by the casino for carrying out this research)

Jazakum Allahu khairan for answering the questions.

Baraka ALLAHu fikum

Wassalamu alaylum
Montreal, Canada

My Answer:

Bismi Allah al Rahman al Rahim
Al Hamdu li Allah Rabb al 'Alamin

wa al Salatu wa al Salamu 'ala Sayyidina Muhammad wa 'Ala 'Alihi wa Ashabihi
Ajma'in

Dear Sr. Assia

Assalamu Alaykum wa Rahmatullahi wa Barakatuh.

Although your employer was commissioned by a casino to conduct a survey the crucial question is whether the job you did can only benefit a forbidden activity or could it be of general benefits to researchers, law enforcement, traffic regulator, etc. If what you did was designed specifically to only benefit casinos (such as what size of liquor glasses do you prefer? which kind of slot machine, or way of stripping, etc.) , the job may be forbidden and the money you got is Haram. In this case it has to be given to a Muslim charity, It become Halal for the poor and needy and similar deserving recipients. But if the results of your job can be of benefits to other users, your work on the survey does not fall within the Haram boundaries and you may keep the compensation you got for it. The principle is: if the rendered service is specific so that it can only be used by a producer of a prohibited product/service, it is then considered part of the latter and prohibited like it. In all circumstances the compensation should not be given back to the employer because it was paid against services it received.

Wa Allahu A'lam

Wa Alhamdu li Allah Rabbi al 'Alamin

Wassalam

Sincerely,

Dr. Monzer Kahf

Subject: Selling Lottery Tickets

From: Islam on line

Sent: Wednesday, October 13, 2004 4:31 AM

Name of Questioner Neelem Gender Female Age 21-30

Education Graduate

country of Origin United Kingdom country of Residence United Kingdom

Question

Salam, My husband is a IT professional working in London and his father wants him to give up his career and work at his business with him and his other son. They sell porn mags and lottery tickets. I have said to my husband that it is not a good idea to do this. I said to my husband that we will move back to his parents, but he should continue with his career. My husbands brother said as long as you make your dad happy, it doesnt matter if you earn a bit of haram money. Is this right? My husband then proposed this to his father, who is now blackmailing us. He said that he cannot force us to come back, but if we don't we will never have his blessing or love. Is this not blackmail? He said don't bother coming back home if you are not going to work at my business. Is this islamically right? We are willing to move back, but he wants us also to give up our careers. I will have to live with my brother-in-law and his wife. I will always have to wear my hijab around the house, where I am supposed to feel

comfortable and safe. His wife doesn't wear a hijab and my husband will always see a women beautifully dressed and me who is limited to how I dress. His family are not very religious and I am scared that my husband will move away instead of closer to islam. They don't pray Jumma, because they will be know one to cover the business. His father said that we could pay zakat, do hajj and pray salat, but it will never mean anything to Allah if we don't do as he asks of us. I think its wrong of him to blackmail us this way. He's not ill and he can employ someone to work at his business, but he wont and also that the earnings are haram. My father-in-law is being unjust and he shows no respect to my family. He never talks from an islamic perspective, he always talks from a culture and tradition perspective. His aim is that I cut off all ties with my family and that my husband should mingle with his own family but not mine. My husband doesn't want to do anything to upset his father, even if that means that it is islamically wrong. My family will not be able to visit me at my in laws. My husbands mum doesnt agree and says that we should be able to continue as we are. So my mother-in-law is happy, its just my father/brother-in-law, causing problems for us. My father-in-law believes that if you are busy you dont have to pray. My biggest fear is that, in the 2 years that I have been married they have never accepted me. When I go to the house nobody would talk to me or treat me right. They have never shown me respect. My father-in-law walks right by me and doesnt even talk to me. Before I got married my father-in-law said that he would only come to ask for my hand in marriage, if I signed a letter saying that I will take no claim of their property or money, should our marriage dissolve. I had to do this, because I loved my husband very much. My father-in-law, only loves those that will do everything he asks of them and obey's his orders. How will this work? I fear our earnings will be haram and that our marriage will be affected. My husband hates confrontation. If I have problems there, he will not do anything and ask me to shut up and get on with it. I can't live like this. My husband has asked me to trust him, but when he's around his father he never speaks up. His father said that he will stop the porn mags and lottery tickets, but his brother is saying something else. What do we do? Please help us and guide us in the right direction. What will Allah be pleased with? All we want is to be accepted in paradise. Please I urge you to help us. Jazakum Allahu Khairan for your constant help
Yours,

My Answer

Bismi Allah al Rahman al Rahim

Al Hamdu li Allah Rabb al 'Alamin

wa al Salatu wa al Salamu 'ala Sayyidina Muhammad wa 'Ala 'Alihi wa Ashabihi
Ajma'in

Dear Sr. Neelem,

Al Salamu Alaykum Wa Rahmatullahi Wa Barakatuh

I would probably suggest that you and your husband should go to a marriage councilor and get some help on family issues.

I can only advise on the Islamic law part of your questions:

- 1) You have a legal right to an independent residence outside your in-laws house. You are not required to live in their house. This you should probably convince your husband with especially that he has his independent work.
- 2) It is certainly forbidden to sell porn magazines, liquor, swine products, lottery tickets and other prohibited things. The income derived from this sale is also Haram. On the other hand working in a business as an employee that sells

permissible things and non-permissible things is not prohibited as long as the employees does not handle these prohibited items and does not sell them him/herself.

- 3) The five Prayers are obligatory and must be done on their time regardless of being busy, unless under necessities, such as helping resuscitating a patient or you are held in the traffic that does not give you time to leave the car for any moment (even in such cases most Ulama argue that one must pray sitting in the car). Being busy selling or in business is not at all a necessity.
- 4) Pleasing one's parents is required provided they do not ask for a prohibited thing because the rule is: one may not obey any one in matters that involve disobeying God.
- 5) Have the full right to treat your in-laws the way they treat you, you are not - legally from Shari'ah point of view- to visit them if they do not visit you. Certainly you have to be kind and nice to every one including the in-laws but you and them have equal footing; the same is between your husband and your family.

Wa Allahu A'lam

Wa Alhamdu li Allah Rabb al 'Alamin

Wassalam

Sincerely,

Dr. Monzer Kahf

Subject: Working in a Store Where Chicha, Tobacco and lottery are Sold

From: Islam on line

Sent: Tuesday, January 04, 2005 11:17 PM

Name of Questioner Abdelillah Gender Male Age 21-30

Education Graduate

country of Origin United States country of Residence Morocco

Question

Dear scholars, As-Salamu `alaykum. I am a Muslim international student in USA that I'm not allowed to work by there law; however, I'm working (to pay my tuition and rent) in a store where Hooka (Chicha or Water pipe) and moaassal (Hooka tobacco) are sold; is my money that I earn is halal? Also I would like to ask you if I work in Gas station where they sold tobacco and Lottery, but I won't sell lottery since I will work at night shift can my work turn to be halal in this gas station? And if I sell scratch off it counts as lottery or not? I would like your advise on which work should I keep and please make doaa for all that work in foreign country that allah make our life halal and hallal. Jazakum Allah khayran.

Jazakum Allahu Khairan for your constant help

Yours,

My Answer

Bismi Allah al Rahman al Rahim

Al Hamdu li Allah Rabb al 'Alamin

wa al Salatu wa al Salamu 'ala Sayyidina Muhammad wa 'Ala 'Alihi wa Ashabihi Ajma'in

Dear Br. Abellah

Assalamu Alaykum wa Rahmatullahi wa Barakatuh,

Working in the USA in a store that sells permissible things such as food items but it also sells prohibited material such as pork products, alcohol, tobacco or lottery, is

permissible provided provided you personally do not sell any such products and you do not carry alcohol to customers or set it on shelves. Because while the prohibition in other materials came for eating or using them, the prohibition of alcohol drinks covers its carrying and handling too.

Wa Allahu A'lam

Wa Alhamdu li Allah Rabb al 'Alamin

Wassalam

Sincerely,

Dr. Monzer Kahf

Subject: working in a store that sells lottery tickets

From: Islam on line

Sent: Wednesday, August 25, 2004 9:02 AM

Name of Questioner SAMIR Gender Male Age 31-45

Education High School and Below

country of Origin Lebanon country of Residence Palestine

Question

I have the opportunity of taking over a franchise business with MAC'S (Variety store). My role will be to manage the store and I will receive a monthly salary and I think there will be a percentage that I will get as a commission. This store sells Lottery tickets, wrapped Sandwiches in plastic bags that have pork ingredients and ""Adult"" magazines. I would like to know the ruling on this? I appreciate your help and ask Allah to reward you with the Jannah.

Jazakum Allahu Khairan for your constant help

Yours,

My Answer:

Bismi Allah al Rahman al Rahim

Al Hamdu li Allah Rabb al 'Alamin

wa al Salatu wa al Salamu 'ala Sayyidina Muhammad wa 'Ala 'Alihi wa

Ashabihi Ajma'in

Dear Br. Samir

Assalamu Alaykum wa Rahmatullahi wa Barakatuh.

As a manager you will responsible to arrange for receiving the pork, lottery, and porno magazines, for placing (showing) them so that customers see them and for selling them. All these acts are prohibited, a Muslim must not do that.

Wa Allahu A'lam

Wa Alhamdu li Allah Rabbi al 'Alamin

Wassalam

Sincerely,

Dr. Monzer Kahf

Subject: Renting a Gas Station with Lottery Machine

From: Islam on line

Sent: Saturday, May 29, 2004 11:50 PM

Name of Questioner wahid Gender Male Age 31-45

Education Post Graduate

country of Origin United States

Question

salam aleikom my brther in canada just rented a gas station that has lottery machine.he is concerned about halal and haram.his understanding is that the profits are distributed to charity by the government after the winner gets the money.if he doesn't supply this service his business would be affected since customers would go to another place to get their needs from one place only. i told to keep the machine and give the profits he gets from selling lottery to charities. would like your opinion in this matter. thank you very much for giving us a chance to be able to get help and advice from islam on line.

Jazakum Allahu Khairan for your constant help

Yours,

My Answer,

Bismi Allahi al Rahmani al Rahim,

Al Hamdu li Allahi Rabbi al 'Alamin, wa al Salatu wa al Salamu 'Ala Sayyidina

Muhammad wa 'Ala 'Alihi wa Sahbihi 'Ajma'in,

Dear Br. Wahid

Assalamu Alaikum wa Rahmatu Allahi wa Barakatuh

Lottery is prohibited because it crates a distribution of wealth on the basis of a false reason (mere chance) and the Maysir that is mentioned in the Qur'an had charitable purposes as the unbeliever Makkans used to practice it at the time of the prophet, pbuh. It is incorrect and unacceptable to claim that business becomes unprofitable without a lottery machine! There are many gas stations that don't have such machines. Besides, if it unprofitable for your brother he should take another kind of business. It is forbidden to sell lottery tickets, even though the government uses the net proceeds for good causes and it is prohibited to have a lottery machine on a Muslims property or within his/her business. Giving the profit generated by the machine to charity does not change the prohibition and the only way acceptable in Shari'ah is to remove it.

Wa Allahu A'lam,

Wa al Hamdu li Allahi Rabbi al 'Alamin,

Wa Assalam,

Sincerely,

Dr. Monzer Kahf

Prizes versus Gambling

Subject: Is giving prizes a gambling?

From: Islam on line

Sent: Wednesday, October 06, 2004 1:22 AM

Question

Name of Questioner Mohamed

Question

AlSalaam Alikum Our Muslim community plans a Da'wah event by showing the movie THE MESSAGE in english. My question is I'd like to hold door prizes to give the movie, along with other Islamic films on the Qur'an etc. by having people take numbers as they come in and than simply choosing the numbers out of a basket

randomly to distribute the movies. I'm suggesting this as a form of making people, nonmuslims, at ease as well as giving them movies etc. that they might see. Is this halal Islamically or is this a form of gambling? Jazakum Allah Khairan
Jazakum Allahu Khairan for your constant help
Yours,

"My Answer

Bismi Allah al Rahman al Rahim

Al Hamdu li Allah Rabb al 'Alamin

wa al Salatu wa al Salamu 'ala Sayyidina Muhammad wa 'Ala 'Alihi wa Ashabihi
Ajma'in

Dear Br. Mohamed,

Al Salamu Alaykum Wa Rahmatullahi Wa Barakatuh

distributing gifts by drawing numbers or any other random method is absolutely permissible. The Prophet, pbuh, used such a method for selecting who of his wives would accompany him in each trip. such random drawing is permissible as long as there is no charge for buying the numbers. If the numbers are purchased it becomes a form of gambling.

Wa Allahu A'lam

Wa Alhamdu li Allah Rabb al 'Alamin

Wassalam

Sincerely,

Dr. Monzer Kahf

Subject: Accepting Cash Prizes From a Bank

From: Islam on line

Sent: Wednesday, October 13, 2004 4:30 AM

Name of Questioner majid

Gender Male

Age 21-30

Education Graduate

country of Origin Kuwait

country of Residence Pakistan

Question

I am living in kuwait. i have opened an account in national bank of kuwait. the account name is al-jaharaw account. it is non interest bearing account. every month the bank make a draw between account holders and give them cash prizes. i want to know if this cash is halal. i have talked with scholars here some says it's halal others says it's haram. they say this account doesn't give you interest and for the promotion they give you prizes. otheres says it's just like a prize bond so it's haram. could you please explain me what will be the case. may Allah guide us all to the right path.

Amin

Jazakum Allahu Khairan for your constant help

Yours,

My Answer

Bismi Allah al Rahman al Rahim

Al Hamdu li Allah Rabb al 'Alamin

wa al Salatu wa al Salamu 'ala Sayyidina Muhammad wa 'Ala 'Alihi wa Ashabihi
Ajma'in

Dear Br. Majid,

Al Salamu Alaykum Wa Rahmatullahi Wa Barakatuh

The fact is that such prizes may be Halal or Haram depending on the way they are done! a prize announced once in a while for promotion that may give to certain accounts, in all categories: current and times, with no mention in the account agreement and no regularity that makes it a known tradition of the bank, is permissible and Halal to give and take. It is pure promotion and advertisement activity.

If such a prize is given only to a category of accounts that is otherwise given interest, mentioned in the agreement or announced to the public, with any kind of regularity that makes it a custom or tradition of the bank known to the depositors, it becomes Riba, hidden under the name of a prize but that does not change its ruling that is Haram to give and take. If you get it you should give it away to Muslim charity, do not leave it to the bank and being in Kuwait, you should also switch to an Islamic bank for your investment deposits.

Wa Allahu A'lam

Wa Alhamdu li Allah Rabb al 'Alamin

Wassalam

Sincerely,

Dr. Monzer Kahf

Subject: Lucky Draws from Islamic Perspective

From: Islam on line

Sent: Wednesday, March 03, 2004 11:03 PM

Name of Questioner Saifullah Gender Male Age 21-30

Education Graduate

country of Origin India country of Residence India

Question

Dear Sir, Assalamualaikum Wa Rahmatullah! A few days ago, while discussing gambling in our Islamic study circle, I had an argument with my fellow students. The argument pertained to the "Lucky Draw". I am of the opinion that "Lucky Draw" falls under the category of gambling and hence prohibited. But everyone, save a few in my study circle, is of a different opinion. They agree that the majority of the lucky draws qualify under Haraam, but a few do not. Let me give you an example. When we shop, the company gives an offer saying, any one making a purchase of more than, say \$50 is entitled to a lucky draw. The winner is chosen from among a lot of people who made purchases more than \$50, by picking his name from a lot. Now, to me it qualifies as game of chance - pure and simple. But my fellow study mates give me quite a different reasoning. They say this is not gambling because the customer has received the product for his money, and this constitutes trade. What he wins, is what the company gives him as a gift. "The gift", comes out of the profit of the company, and as such is not gambling, but marketing technique. Even if I agree to this logic, that it is marketing technique, my conscience bothers me on one small point. The winner is picked by chance! And if I heard the Hadeeth (sorry forgot the reference) right - ""Every game of chance is forbidden"". I have people giving me fatwas by this scholar and that, saying it is ok to take part in this lucky draw. I think that many people share my view and opinion, and for a surety it is not clear whether it is right or wrong. This bothers me - why say it is permissible when there is enough doubt to drown Mount Everest? Does our greed know no bounds? Have we become so weak in our faith that gifts of this world could shake our Eemaan? Please clarify! It

would help a lot if you could present a clear picture. May Allah bless you for your efforts! JazakAllah Khair!! Saifullah Muslim

Notes

Other points put forward as explanations in this issue (I have included my thoughts in parenthesis) are: 1. Gambling has a set of rules for winning as opposed to the ""Lucky Draw"", which has rules only for entry, but not for winning (I am not sure what this means) 2. Allah has not made Islam extreme, so adopt a mediocre view (How do I adopt a mediocre view, when I feel that this is against Islam. Alcohol is prohibited - so what do I do? Adopt a mediocre view, and have a non-alcoholic beer instead? I don't think so.) 3. This is not gambling, as in gambling a person stands to lose. But here in the ""lucky draw"", you have nothing to lose. (If I had a client with whom if I gambled on the tables in Vegas, and lost - say a million dollars - but I could acquire a contract worth \$50 million, can I say I have nothing to lose, so it is not gambling?) Before ending let me put forward one small request! In case you agree with the argument of my friends, please give me an email address so that I can get in touch with you, so as to enhance my understanding more. I wish this because, on Islam Online it takes at least two weeks to get in touch.

My Answer,

Bismi Allahi al Rahmani al Rahim,

Al Hamdu li Allahi Rabbi al 'Alamin, wa al Salatu wa al Salamu 'Ala Sayyidina

Muhammad wa 'Ala 'Alihi wa Sahbihi 'Ajma'in,

Dear Br. Saifullah

Assalamu Alaikum wa Rahmatu Allahi wa Barakatuh

The lucky draws, as described, are permissible. the difference between them and gambling is that in gambling you pay for the chance to win. Here you don't. This is exactly the difference between the Haram and Halal, it is not the point of distribution by chance. there may be an ambiguity caused by translation.

distribution of a gift or a privilege by chance is called Qur'ah. Qur'ah is a random selection to give a gift or a privilege. the Prophet, pbuh, used this technique in selecting who among his blessed Wives, would accompany Him in travels. Such draws becomes prohibited, if prices are inflated to include gambling. The example is if the normal price of a commodity is x but it is sold for $x+y$ if you want to participate in the draw. One may argue that the cost of promotion is anyway included in the price charged to consumers one way or another, but that alone does not cause prohibition if the price for that commodity is $x+y$ for all customers, those who enter the draw chance and those who do not because it is normal that all cost be included in the calculation of prices whether they are given by a draw or otherwise; in fact, giving it by a random draw is more fair and more acceptable by customers (this is why the Prophet used it in selecting the privileged wife for each travel). What caused it is paying a price for the chance.

You can email me for any more explanation but I will not answer any argumentative writing. My email is monzer@kahf.com

Wa Allahu A'lam,

Wa al Hamdu li Allahi Rabbi al 'Alamin,

Wa Assalam,

Sincerely,

Dr. Monzer Kahf
