

FATAWALOTTERY AND GAMBLING 2007

Prizes and Competitions

Subject: Competitions and Prizes

From: Mohamad through Islam on line

Sent: Thursday, March 22, 2007 3:51 AM

Question:

Assalam alaykum. We follow football, and there are tipping competitions offered on the internet whereby entry is free and there are prizes (non monetary) on offer to the winners of different categories. However there are also a separate tipping competitions where there is an entry fee required to enter, and the prizes are also non monetary. My question is either of these competitions ""haram"" to enter? Thank you in advance for enlightning us, and jazakum Allah. Jazakum Allahu Khairan for your constant help

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. Mohamad

Al Salamu Alaykum Wa Rahmatullahi Wa Barakatuh

Competitions that have entry fees are definitely Haram, even if the prize is not monetary, it is a benefit anyway! They are gambling, pure! For others, I need more explanation for free competitions to determine whether they are permissible or not: objectives, how played, what prizes and all possible details.

Wa Allahu A'lam

Wa Alhamdu li Allah Rabb al 'Alamin

Wassalam

Sincerely,

Dr. Monzer Kahf

Lottery for good objectives

Subject: Playing Lottery for Medical and Educational Needs

From: Emad through Islam on line [mailto:samy.ahmed@iolteam.com]

Sent: Sunday, July 08, 2007 1:15 AM

Question

Salamu Alikum, I 'm a disabled man and I 'm not able to work. I need some complicated surgeries that goverment medical insurance doesn't pay for it. I also want to go back to

school and get some degree that may help me get a job in the future. I have never played the lottery before. I 'm wondering if I tried it for few times for small amount of money, Would that be Haram? I 'm hoping to be able to pay for my medical and educational needs if I won. Jazakum Allahu Khairan for your constant help

My Answer:

Bismillah al Rahman al Rahim

Alhamdu Lillahi Rab al Alamin, wa al Salatu wa al Salamu ala Sayyidina Muhammad, wa ala Aalihi wa Sahbihi Ajma'in

Dear Br. Emad

Assalamu Alaykum wa Rahmatu Allahi wa Barakatuh

Lottery is Haram for all reasons, and you must realize that the chance to win is extremely small, depending on the size of the lottery issue, it is one over 9 - 12 digit. Hoping that such a win may pay for you medical needs is like hoping that there will be an earthquake in the noon tomorrow morning! Please think rationally and find a serious approach to solve your need like going to non-profit organizations of which there are many that help such cases.

Wa Allahu A'alam

Wa Alhamdu Lillahi Rab al Alamin

Wassalam

Prof. Dr. Monzer Kahf

RE: Grants from Lottery Funded bodies

Subject: Question on Lottery Funded Council Providing Funds for Arabic Program

From: Hassan

Sent: Tuesday, June 19, 2007 3:38 PM

Question

AsSalamu Alaikum, Dear Dr Kahf,

I pray that you are doing well. I have a couple of questions for you.

A Province-wide organization is in existence that helps fund initiatives promoting languages others than English and French. So they are willing to fund or Subsidize Arabic language learning programs, etc.

So I traveled to attend a conference organized by this group. And in that meeting I found out that most of their funding comes from the State Lottery Corporation.

1. I felt that it will be incorrect of s to apply for and receive funds from this body for the Islamic school since all its funding is based on Lottery revenue. Am I correct? Please explain details so I can present at our Board Meeting.

Additional Note: The school is in debt and collecting funds to pay of its debt.

2. Since, the conference was in a different city we traveled there and they normally cover the cost of the Trip. Will it be unethical for us to accept that coverage from them? (This is at a personal level). wassalam

My Answer:

Bismillah al Rahman al Rahim

Alhamdu Lillahi Rab al Alamin, wa al Salatu wa al Salamu ala Sayyidina Muhammad, wa ala Aalihi wa Sahbihi Ajma'in

Dear Br. Hassan

Assalamu Alaykum wa Rahmatu Allahi wa Barakatuh

I think there is no justification for not accepting the grant from the organization that helps teaching other languages on two grounds: 1) when we deal with normal persons we don't check their sources of funds. The source of fund of the other person that we deal with is the other person's matter not ours. What matter to us is: 1) whether the deal between us and this person (or corporation or organization or government, etc.) is legitimate Shari'ah-wise and correct. In this case, it is a grant that is ok; and 2) whether we fulfill our obligation in the deal if there is an obligation on our part such as teaching Arabic in this case. My conclusion: It is not Haram to accept a grant from this organization. One consideration we may keep in mind: that is: if by accepting a donation or contribution from a person or organization we express support to any shameful practice, if so there may be a reason to suggest rejecting such a grant. An example is: Taking a grant from a house of prostitution. This does not apply in this case because you are not taking it from the lottery corporation one hand and even if it is from the lottery corporation the prohibition of lottery is a matter of system not a matter of shameful behavior (like prostitution, drug pushing, or theft). I would go for accepting the grant and accepting the cost of trip refund, this is regardless of the debt (or lack of it) that is on the school.

Wa Allahu A'alam

Wa Alhamdu Lillahi Rab al Alamin

Wassalam

Prof. Dr. Monzer Kahf
