



Payment of debts

Second question of Fatwa no. 2235

Q 2: What is the ruling on an indebted person who wants to repay his debts but is unable to find the creditors as some of them died, some migrated outside the country and did not come back, and some they can not recall or identify?

A: People's rights should be returned to them. Thus, if a person is indebted he should exert every effort to repay the debt to them or to their inheritors if they died. However, if they are unable to deliver the debt to the inheritors or to the creditor because the latter migrated to another country that they do not know or he does not know their address, or he has entirely forgotten the creditor's name; he should pay the money in Sadaqah (voluntary charity) on behalf of the creditor. If the creditor appears at a later time, he should be told about what was done with his money. He may be content with paying the money in Sadaqah or his money should be paid to him and the reward of the Sadaqah will be, In sha'a-Allah (if Allah wills), for the indebted person who will not be otherwise discharged.

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May Allah grant us success! May peace and blessings be upon our Prophet Muhammad, his family,
and Companions!

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