



Fatwa no. 8048

Q: Fifteen years ago, I was on a journey with many people. We wanted to convert some money and someone asked me to take some money to convert it for him. I did not know his name or address. He gave me 150 Libyan pounds which amounts to 300 Egyptian pounds. Later on, he came to me and demanded his money. By then I had spent the money on my family and did not have any money. I refused to give him

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his money and threatened to beat him then he went away. Now, a very long time after this incident, I feel so much regret that I often cannot sleep because of it. I would like to absolve myself of this sin but I do not know that man or his address and he also does not know my name or address. What should I do with this money? I appreciate your advice. May Allah reward you best!

A: If the reality is as you have mentioned, you have made a mistake and committed a grave sin. You have to repent and seek the forgiveness of Allah (may He be Exalted) and make serious attempts to search for the owner of the money. When you find him ask him to forgive you and give him the money. If you do not find him, look for any of his inheritors and give them the money. If you can not find his inheritors, give the money in charity intending to do so on behalf of the owner of the money. Then, if you find him or his inheritors at a later time tell them what happened. If they accept it, that is good. If they do not, give them the money and the reward of the charity will be for you. May Allah grant us success! May peace and blessings be upon our Prophet Muhammad, his family, and Companions!

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