



The first question of Fatwa no. 4212:

Q 1: I have a friend who was working for a charitable organization which uses its funds to help the poor, hold celebrations, and arrange trips for its members. During a fund raising party and a show which was put on to collect donations for the poor, my friend took some of the money as a loan. At the time, she was the organization's secretary and responsible for expenses of the party and the show. She expected to return the money soon after, but unfortunately she experienced financial difficulties and intended to repay the loan whenever possible. Now, she is financially able to return the money, but she is hesitant because if she gives it back, it will be seen that she

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took it without permission, and that would blemish her reputation among other members. Besides, if she gave the money back to the fund, it will not be spent on the poor, rather on a party, trip, or whatever. For these reasons, she asks whether it is permissible or not to give the money back to the female employee responsible for spending it for the needs of the poor, such as paying school tuitions for girls and renovating the schools and universities, or buying them suitable clothes etc. She could also pay this money in installments, so the female employee will not feel suspicious as to what happened in the past, or she could send someone on her behalf to put the money in the account although that would raise suspicions concerning the sender of this money.

The woman now asks so as not to commit any sin: What solution is valid, the first or second? May Allah reward you.

A: The said woman has to repent to Allah from what she did and give the money back to the organization to be spent on the needs of the poor, or she could send a man or a woman she trusts to return the money back on her behalf and in the name of a donor to fulfill her duty, if Allah wills.

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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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