

Question 824) - Is there a narration from Rasulullaah SAW. on that?

A: Abu Sa'id al-Khudri RDI. narrates that Rasulullaah SAW. said,* Gold for gold, silver for silver, wheat for wheat, barley for barley, dates for dates and salt for salt - the same for the same, hand to hand. He who increases or seeks increase has done Riba. The taker and the giver are equal in it." [Muslim]

'Ubadah bin as-Samit RDI. narrates that Rasulullaah SAW. said, "Gold for gold, silver for silver, wheat for wheat, barley for barley, dates for dates and salt for salt - the same for the same, amount for amount, hand to hand. If the categories differ, then sell as you wish when it is hand to hand."

Rasulullaah SAW. mentioned these six things. He commanded that these things not be exchanged for something of the same category [Jins] unless it be of the same kind, equal amount and hand to hand. He declared that what is increased is Riba from whichever side it may be. He said, "The taker and the giver are equal in it. He allowed the exchange of these goods of another category [J-ins] whether in equal or differing amounts on condition that it is done hand to hand.

From this Imaam Abu Hanifa RAH. has established that Riba takes place from measured volume goods with its Jins and weighed goods with its Jins. These goods are either measured or weighed. Thus if a weighed item is exchanged for an item of the same category; or a measured good exchanged for a good of the same category - even if they are not of the specific six mentioned - and the exchange is for equal amounts, then the sale is correct. If there is an increase on either side then it is not allowed. If they are of different categories then an increase is allowed but not credit. When both criteria measure/weight and Jins - are missing then both increase and credit are allowed.*

When both criteria exist then an increase and credit are both Haram. If only one is found then an increase is allowed but credit is Haram.*

*Meaning, "Sell gold for gold...."

* Thus a Harawi cloth can be exchanged for 2 Marwi cloths on credit; and a walnut for an egg for credit because the prohibiting factors do not apply [al-Bahr ar-Raiq (140/6)]

* There are two scenarios - an exchange of wheat for barley in differing amounts is allowed as long as it is not on credit; an exchange of one Marwi cloth for 2 Marwi cloths is allowed as long as it is hand to hand. An exchange of one slave for two slaves deferred payment is not allowed because they are of the same category. [al-Bahr ar-Raiq (139/6)]

Muslim narrates that the Nabi SAW. bought a slave in exchange for two black slaves.

~ al-Quduri ~