



(Part No. 1; Page No. 715)

Fatwa no. 5350 :

Q: The phenomenon of selling embalmed animals and birds has recently appeared. We hope that Your Eminence will give us the legal opinion regarding the ruling on owning embalmed animals and birds? What is the ruling on selling these figures? Is there a difference between what is prohibited and what is lawful to own alive and after embalment? What should a Muhtasib (i.e. A public official entrusted with keeping order), do regarding this phenomenon?

A: Owning embalmed birds and animals, whether lawful or unlawful to own if alive, is a waste of money and a type of extravagance because of the cost of embalment. Allah has forbidden extravagance and wastefulness. Likewise, the Prophet (peace be upon him) forbade wasting money. This also encourages owning birds and other animate creatures to hang or place in the home, which is prohibited. It is not permissible to sell them or own them. The Muhtasib should explain to people that this kind of transaction is prohibited and should take the necessary measures to put an end to this trend in markets.

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

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