The second question of Fatwa no. 16384

Q 2: I gave my daughter in marriage for a Mahr (mandatory gift to a bride from her groom) that is estimated at one hundred and ten thousand Riyals. I gave ten thousand Riyals to my daughter and kept the rest. I spent the money in several channels. For instance, I performed Hajj on behalf of my parents, gave Sadaqah (voluntary charity) and contributed to building a Masjid (mosque) from it. Are these acts permissible?

A: A Muslim should not exaggerate in the amount of Mahr; as it complicates marriage and burdens people with what they may not be able to afford. The father is permitted to take from his daughter's Mahr as long as it does not entail harm on her and that she does not need it. The Prophet (peace be upon him) said:

You and your property belong to your father.

If the father takes money from his son or daughter that does not cause them harm, and which they don't need, he is allowed to dispose of it, perform Hajj from it or give Sadaqah out of it. The reason is that the money becomes the property of the father when he takes it.

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

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