

Fatwa no. 2040

Q: I visited a friend after a long period of absence abroad. He wanted to slaughter an animal to serve me with but I said, "Your food will be unlawful for me if you exaggerate in entertaining me." I said this so as to prevent him from bearing this expense, but he insisted. I begged him not to let me break my oath and I asked Allah for Forgiveness after he left. Indeed, he slaughtered an animal and said it was permissible for me to eat from it and it was not proper to declare it unlawful. He promised after having our dinner, he would take me to a shaykh to clarify the issue for me. I thus ate from the food though I doubted the matter. It may be worth mentioning that I did not intend any divorce by what I had said to my friend. I only intended to refrain from eating of the animal because I did not want my friend to bear the high cost. Am I considered a sinner? Do I have to make any Kaffarah (expiation)? Am I subject to any Had (ordained punishment for violating Allah's Law)? May Allah reward you good.

A: If the reality is as you mentioned, you have only to make Kaffarah (expiation) for an oath which is to feed ten poor people five Sa`'s (1 Sa` = 2.172 kg) of wheat, dates, rice, etc. On a scale of the average of that with which you feed your family. You thus give every poor person half of a Sa`. You may alternatively clothe ten poor people, or free a slave. If you cannot afford any of this, you must fast three days preferably in succession. In addition, you have to make Istighfar (seeking forgiveness from Allah) and abstain from declaring lawful things as unlawful to you.

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

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