Q 2: A person asks me for an out-of-stock commodity which is available at another shop. That shop sells it at 100 riyals. When the person asks me about its price, I tell him that it costs 150 riyals. The buyer does not mind buying it at that price. Is it permissible for me to buy this commodity at 100 riyals and then sell it for 150 riyals? Is it permissible to ask him to pay me the price of 150 riyals before I buy the commodity at 100 riyals?

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Is it permissible to charge the 50 riyals as profit? If not permissible, what is the right course of action? Is this sale regarded as selling something which is not in the possession of the seller?

A: This type of sale involves selling items not in real possession of the seller. Accordingly, you are not allowed to sell this commodity to the buyer until it first comes into your possession. Once you take possession of it, it becomes permissible for you to sell it to him at an agreed upon and profitable price that may not be too much for the buyer. However, if the buyer entrusts you to buy him a certain commodity, it is not permissible for you to charge more money than the stated price of the commodity. There is nothing wrong, however, if he gives you money as a gift in return for your effort.

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

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