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A chapter on reconciliation

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Fatwa no. 13759

Q: I had a car accident not long ago. While driving my car within my lane, another car hit me causing a lot of damage. The traffic department decided that the owner of this car was wrong and responsible for the accident. We agreed that the costs of repairing my car would be incurred by him. We went to three workshops located in the region where the accident took place and took three representatives of the workshops to check the car. Each of them gave an invoice of the repairs costs they would receive in the workshop. I accepted the least invoice estimated at two thousand Riyals. I took the money to repair the car in my region which was fifty kilometers away from the region where the accident took place. Before doing this, a policeman came and suggested that we can go to another workshop where the repairs costs might be less. I said that I did not mind provided that the extra amount would be paid by the owner of the other car. He refused to go to another workshop and agreed to pay the first amount which was two thousand Riyals. I took the money and the car and went to the workshop located in my region. Repairing my car cost me only one thousand Riyals. I spent the other thousand Riyals

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as I was in need at that time. Should I pay this amount back or not? As I mentioned, this man agreed to give me the two thousand Riyals according to the invoices submitted by the workshops, plus this took place long ago. Please answer me, May Allah grant you success, reward you and benefit the Muslims through you!

A: If the case is as you have mentioned, and you conciled any differences with the owner of the other car who agreed to pay two thousand Riyals for repair, there is no harm in your having taken the money. May Allah grant us success! May peace and blessings of Allah be upon our Prophet Muhammad, his family and Companions!

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