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Fatwa no. 63

Q: A person hired a worker to graze his camels which he did for one month. When he wanted to leave the job, the owner gave him a garment in return for his monthly wage. After the worker took the garment, he left it as Amanah (trust) with the employer until his return, but he did not come back. Therefore, the employer sold the garment and the money increased; however, he could not find the owner of the garment. He searched for him, but no one could ever find him. What is the ruling on this money so that he may pay this debt?

A: You must give this money in charity. You have mentioned that the worker did not come back so you looked for him, but did not know where to find him and no one knew him. If he ever returns, you must repay him unless he approves of the charity you gave on his behalf. May Allah grant us success! May peace and blessings be upon our Prophet Muhammad, his family and Companions!

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