



**Fatwa no. (508):**

**Q: A man wanted to purchase some goods from a merchant, so the latter gave him three different models to choose from. The man asked him to tell honestly which was the best, so the merchant said, "Honestly, this is the best one." Neither of them intended to swear by honesty, they merely wanted to make sure of each other's honesty. Is this considered Kufr (disbelief) and atheism.**

**A:** If none of them intended by the word "honesty" swearing by other than Allah, but just entrusting his Muslim brother with telling him the truth, there is no harm in this. However, they should not have used this expression which entails swearing

**( Part No : 1, Page No: 343)**

by honesty. If their intention was swearing by honesty, it is considered swearing by other than Allah, which is a form of Al-Shirk-ul-Asghar (minor form of associating others in worship with Allah), and one of the major sins. `Umar Ibn Al-Khattab (may Allah be pleased with him) narrated that the Messenger of Allah (peace be upon him) stated, ( [Whoever swears by anything other than Allah is a Kafir \(disbeliever\) or a Mushrik \(one who associates others with Allah in worship\).](#) ) He (peace be upon him) also stated, ( [He who swears by honesty is not one of us \(i.e. the Muslims\).](#) ) Ibn Mas`ud (may Allah be pleased with him) said, "I would rather make a false swearing by Allah than swear by other than Allah even if truthfully."

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

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