



The third question of Fatwa no. 4049:

Q 3: A man works for a merchant in his shop. One day, he found a carton which contains some items, such as blades and gas lamps. He asked the shop owner whether he knows who this carton belongs to, but he replied in the negative. The worker took it and gave it to his brother-in-law, and told him to sell it. If its owner appears, they will give him his right. More than two years passed, and nobody came to inquire about it. This man wants to clear his conscience. What should he do? Please advise, may Allah reward you.

A: This is considered a Luqatah (a lost item found by someone else). It should be announced for a whole year, if it has value and is worthy enough. If its owner does not show up, it is permissible for the person who finds it to give its value as Sadaqah (voluntary charity) on behalf of its owner,

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or spend it in any form of charity. If its owner shows up, they should be told what happened. If they accept it, it will be fine. Otherwise, they should be given its value, and the reward goes to the one who gave the Sadaqah. The person who finds it can also keep it if they want after a year has passed. If its owner shows up, the same applies. May Allah grant us success! May peace and blessings be upon our Prophet Muhammad, his family and Companions!

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