

147826 - Ruling on playing some electronic games with the intention of winning a prize without spending any money

the question

I want to know that can you play online games at a website which gives you free registration and a small amount bonus money but you dont pay any money to that website.They give you the money which you can use to play games like example X and O and you play against the computer and you use that money to place bets and if you win you get more money?You can then request a payout from that website for the money you have won?Is this permissible?The bonus money they gave me when I registered isnt in my Bank Account.

Detailed answer

The basic principle concerning games is that they are permissible, so long as they do not involve anything haram, such as causing one to fail to do something obligatory or to do something forbidden such as uncovering the 'awrah, engaging in foul speech, causing harm to others, and so on.

But if playing these games and contests is done on the basis of paying money that is taken by the winner, that is not permissible except in archery contests, horse or camel races, and similar games.

That is because the Prophet (blessings and peace of Allah be upon him) said: "There should be no (money) prizes for competitions except in archery, camel-racing and horse-racing."

Narrated by at-Tirmidhi, 1700; Abu Dawood, 2574. Classed as saheeh by al-Albaani.

In this hadeeth the Prophet (blessings and peace of Allah be upon him) stated that giving money is not permissible for any kinds of competition or games except in these three cases, because perfecting these skills is something that helps in jihad for the sake of Allah.

Hence some of the scholars added to them everything that helps in jihad in material terms and otherwise, such as competitions for memorising the Holy Qur'an and the Prophet's Sunnah, and competitions in airplanes, ships and boats, and so on.

Al-Khattaabi said: Giving prizes is not appropriate except in horse and camel races, and similar contests, and in archery contests. That is because these matters are preparation for fighting the enemy, and offering prizes for them encourages people to prepare for jihad.

As for contests in matters that do not come under the heading of preparing for war or strengthening oneself for jihad, accepting prize money for them is haram and is not permissible."(Ma'aalim as-Sunan, 2/255)

If the prize money comes from both competitors then it is gambling, which is haram.

If the prize money is given by a third person, or by one of them and not the other, then it is haram, even if it is not called gambling.

An-Nawawi said: rather it is gambling if it is stipulated that money be paid by one of the two parties. But if one of them is offering to give money (to his opponent) if he is defeated, and will keep it if he defeats him, then it is not gambling, but it is an agreement to a contest that does not involve fighting skills, so it is not valid."(Rawdat at-Taalibeen, 11/225)

Shaykh al-Islam Ibn Taymiyah said: If one of the two players, or an outsider, gives the prize, it is forbidden nevertheless, except in the case of something that is beneficial such as races or archery, as it says in the hadeeth: "There should be no (money) prizes for competitions except in archery, camel-racing and horse-racing", because spending money on things that are of no benefit in either religious or worldly terms is not allowed, even if it is not gambling."(Majmoo' al-Fatawa, 32/223)

To sum up:

It is not permissible for you to play this game in return for money, even if you yourself do not pay anything, because playing games for material compensation is haram in all cases, except in cases in which Islam makes an exception and cases that are similar to that.

For information on the ruling on and the seriousness of some electronic games, please see the answers to questions no. [98769](#), [2898](#) and [22305](#)

And Allah knows best.