

## **1606 - Doesn't want to repay riba but also doesn't want to give a bad impression**

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### **the question**

as-salaamu alaikum wa rahmatullahi wa

barakatuhu

please inform me whether or not i must pay interest on loans i took out

before coming to islam, or in my days of ignorance. i intend to pay off all of the

principal ,of course, but i hate that i enter a state of war with Allah and His Messenger

(SAW) because of fulfilling a haram contract that i entered while not knowing better. i

would also hate to give muslims a bad name by not paying my debt conscientiously. can i

pay of the principal and give a gift stipulating that i reject riba and that i am only

giving this extra sum for another reason?

may Allah subhanu wa ta'Ala reward you with the good.

### **Detailed answer**

If you are able to, then do not pay the interest,

so that you will not be counted among those referred to in the hadeeth: The

Messenger of Allaah (peace and blessings of Allaah

be upon him) cursed the one who consumes riba, the one who pays it, the one

who writes it down and those who witness it, and said that all are equally sinful.

(Reported by Muslim, 2995). All of them are cursed for

their participation in this sin.

In order for a Muslim to avoid giving a bad impression to the

people from whom he took out the loan and who may be unaware of the fact that

it is forbidden, if he does not want to pay the interest, he could explain to

them the shari reason for this. If you have no choice and are forced to

pay the interest, unwillingly, then your repentance should be sufficient, in sha Allaah.

For more information, please see Questions # [824](#) and [2492](#).

May Allaah bless our Prophet Muhammad.