90131 - As part of their studies, they are required to do one month’s training in a riba-based bank

the question

I am a third-year student in a school of commerce and management. We are required to do one month’s training in a company or bank. I always think of working in an Islamic bank, but there are no Islamic banks in our country. I would like to ask you about the ruling on doing this training in riba-based banks for the purpose of gaining experience, and if there is any payment at the end of the training, what is the ruling on that?

Detailed answer

Praise be to Allah.

Firstly:

We praise Allah, may He be exalted, for granting you insight into the truth and enabling you to realise that riba is haram and it is prohibited to work in that field. We ask Allah, may He be exalted, to increase you in knowledge and guidance, and to make good easy for you wherever it may be.

Secondly:

It is not permissible to work in companies or banks that deal with riba, because that comes under the heading of helping in sin and transgression, and Allah, may He be exalted, says (interpretation of the meaning): {And cooperate in righteousness and piety, but do not cooperate in sin and transgression} [al-Ma’idah 5:2]. It is narrated that the one who helps with riba by recording it or witnessing it is cursed, as is mentioned in the hadith narrated by Muslim (1598) from Jabir (may Allah be pleased with him), who said: The Messenger of Allah (blessings and peace of Allah be upon him) cursed the one who consumes riba, the one who pays it, the one who writes it down and

the two who witness it, and he said: “They are all the same.”

Based on that, it is not permissible to train in these banks, if that involves dealing directly with or helping in riba-based activities, unless the student has no choice, meaning that there is no way that he can avoid it. In that case it is permissible for him to attend, on condition that he hates the riba and denounces it, and that he refuses to take part in any riba-based transactions; rather he should advise them and explain that riba is prohibited, but he may learn about the procedures that involve it, so that he will be aware of these matters.

With regard to the payment that he may receive at the end of his training, he may accept it then get rid of it by giving it to the poor and needy, because it is impure wealth that was given in return for unlawful work.

Please see also the answer to question no. 81915 .

And Allah knows best.