

Hadiths on Transactions/ Sales and Trade

The teachings of the Prophet (blessings and peace of Allah be upon him) with regard to buying and selling

Source: [IslamQA](#)

Question

I would like to learn about the Sunnah of doing business. How did the Prophet (blessings and peace of Allah be upon him) do business? How did he describe products, exchange them, return them, and so on?

Answer

Praise be to Allah.

We can sum up the teachings of the Prophet (blessings and peace of Allah be upon him) with regard to doing business, buying and selling, as follows:

The Prophet (blessings and peace of Allah be upon him) worked in business before his mission began, with his paternal uncle Abu Talib, and he also worked for Khadeejah, and he travelled for that purpose to greater Syria. He also did business in the markets; Majannah and 'Ukaaz were markets during the Jaahiliyyah to which merchants would come to buy and sell.

2. The Prophet (blessings and peace of Allah be upon him) used to engage directly in transactions himself, as we shall see below in the hadith about the camel of 'Umar and the camel of Jaabir (may Allah be pleased with them both). He also used to appoint one of his companions to do that for him, as in the case of 'Urwah ibn Abi'l-Ja'd al-Baariqi, who said that the Prophet (blessings and peace of Allah be upon him) gave him a dinar to buy a sacrificial animal or a sheep for him. He bought two sheep and sold one for a dinar, and he came back with a sheep and a dinar. He (the Prophet (blessings and peace of Allah be upon him)) prayed for blessing for him in his business dealings, and (after that) if he had bought dust he would have made a profit.

Narrated by at-Tirmidhi (1258); Abu Dawood (3384); Ibn Maajah (2402); classed as saheeh by al-Albaani in Saheeh at-Tirmidhi.

3. The Prophet (blessings and peace of Allah be upon him) used to **enjoin traders to be righteous and honest and to give charity.**

It was narrated that Hakeem ibn Hizaam (may Allah be pleased with him) said: The Messenger of Allah (blessings and peace of Allah be upon him) said: "The two parties to a transaction have the option (of cancelling it) until they part. If they are honest and disclose any defects, their transaction will be blessed, but if they lie and conceal defects the blessing of their transaction will be erased."

Narrated by al-Bukhaari (1973) and Muslim (1532).

It was narrated from Ismaa‘eel ibn ‘Ubayd ibn Rifaa‘ah from his father from his grandfather that he went out with the Prophet (blessings and peace of Allah be upon him) to the prayer place, and he saw the people engaging in trade. He said: “O merchants!” and they responded to the Messenger of Allah (blessings and peace of Allah be upon him), craning their necks and looking up at him. He said, “The merchants will be raised on the Day of Resurrection as evildoers, apart from those who fear Allah and are sincere and honest.”

Narrated by at-Tirmidhi (1210); Ibn Maajah (2146); classed as saheeh by al-Albaani in Saheeh at-Targheeb (1785).

It was narrated that Qays ibn Abi Gharazah said: The Prophet (blessings and peace of Allah be upon him) used to say: “O merchants, selling involves idle talk and oaths, so mix it with sadaqah (charity).”

Narrated by at-Tirmidhi (1208); Abu Dawood (3326); an-Nasaa’i (3797); Ibn Maajah (2145); classed as saheeh by al-Albaani in Saheeh Abi Dawood.

4. The Prophet (blessings and peace of Allah be upon him) used to **enjoin people to be tolerant and easy-going in buying and selling.**

It was narrated from Jaabir ibn ‘Abdullah (may Allah be pleased with him) that the Messenger of Allah (blessings and peace of Allah be upon him) said: “May Allah have mercy upon a man who is easy-going when he sells and when he buys and when he asks for payment.”

Al-Bukhaari (1970)

Ibn Hajar (may Allah have mercy on him) said:

In this hadith it is encouraged to be easy-going in transactions, to have the most sublime of attitudes, and to avoid miserliness, and it is encouraged to avoid putting pressure on people when asking for payment, and to take from them what they can afford.

Fath al-Baari (4/307)

5. The Prophet (blessings and peace of Allah be upon him) used **to give people their rights** and urge others to do likewise.

It was narrated that Abu Hurayrah (may Allah be pleased with him) said: A man was owed a camel of a certain age by the Prophet (blessings and peace of Allah be upon him), so he came to him to ask him to repay him, and he said: “Give him.” They looked, but they could not find anything but a camel that was older than his, so he said: “Give him.” He said: You have paid me back in full, may Allah reward you. The Prophet (blessings and peace of Allah be upon him) said: “Verily the best of you are those who are the best in paying off debts.”

Narrated by al-Bukhaari (2182) and Muslim (1601).

6. The Prophet (blessings and peace of Allah be upon him) used to urge people **to let a buyer cancel the transaction if he regrets it.**

It was narrated that Abu Hurayrah (may Allah be pleased with him) said: The Messenger of Allah (blessings and peace of Allah be upon him) said: “Whoever lets a Muslim off (a transaction), Allah will relieve him of his distress on the Day of Resurrection.”

Narrated by Abu Dawood (3460) and Ibn Maajah (2199); classed as saheeh by al-Albaani in Saheeh Abi Dawood.

Letting someone off means being easy-going and agreeing to cancel a sale or purchase; it is indicative of generosity of spirit.

What is meant by letting someone off a sale is: if someone buys something from a man, then regrets his purchase, either because he feels that he did not get a good deal, or because he no longer has any need of it, or because he does not have the wherewithal to pay for it, so he returns the item to the seller and the seller agrees to take it back, Allah will remove his hardship and distress on the Day of Resurrection, because of his kindness towards the buyer, because the transaction has been finalised, so the purchaser could not cancel it.”(‘Awn al-Ma‘bood).

7. The Prophet (blessings and peace of Allah be upon him) used to urge people **to give a little more when weighing.**

It was narrated that Suwayd ibn Qays said: The Messenger of Allah (blessings and peace of Allah be upon him) saw a man who weighed things for a fee and the Messenger of Allah (blessings and peace of Allah be upon him) said to him: “Weigh and give a little more.”

This is the continuation of the hadith quoted above.

8. The Prophet (blessings and peace of Allah be upon him) used to enjoin people to **give more time for a debtor** who is in financial difficulty, or to waive the debt.

It was narrated that Abu’l-Yasar (may Allah be pleased with him) said: The Prophet (blessings and peace of Allah be upon him) said: “Whoever waits for one who is in (financial) difficulty (to pay a debt) or waives it for him, Allah will shade him in His shade.”

Narrated by Muslim (3006)

9. The Prophet (blessings and peace of Allah be upon him) forbade transactions involving riba (usury), transactions involving ambiguity, ‘Eenah transaction [which involve selling something

for a price to be paid at a later date, then buying it back for a lower price to be paid immediately], dealing in haraam things, and cheating and deception.

The evidence for that is abundant and well-known.

We do not have details on his buying and selling in all of his commercial transactions, because his trading was done during the Jaahiliyyah, when he was not yet a Prophet such that his actions would be transmitted from his companions. But what has been narrated of his Sunnah is sufficient, in sha Allah.