



# Islam and Cryptocurrency: Halal or Haram?

Speaker:

**Harris Irfan**

Chair:

**Mr Asim Khan, CEO**

**Khalij Islamic, a Shari'ah consulting firm with presence in UK & UAE**

Date: To be advised

Venue:

EY

1 More London Place, London

Greater London, SE1 2AF ([MAP](#))

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## About the Lecture

The recent interest in cryptocurrencies has caught the attention of Islamic scholars, a number of prominent ones sufficiently moved to declare them haram, or impermissible. Is this reaction one based on the precepts of their faith, or one driven by ignorance and political expediency?

When in the early 19th century the governor of Egypt introduced water faucets at the Mehmet Ali Mosque in Cairo, religious scholars debated whether this new fangled contraption was permissible in performing one's ablutions before the prayer.

For centuries, Ottoman clerics were so suspicious of the printing press that it was banned on penalty of death. They would go on to debate endlessly whether or not the telegraph wire conveyed the word of the Devil, and whether the loudspeaker was permissible in calling the faithful to prayer. Even in recent times, air travel and television have been the subject of religious edicts, but has the age of the internet and social media improved the way scholars engage with science and technology? Or has it amplified the disconnect between scholars and their flock?

In this lecture by Islamic finance specialist, Harris Irfan, we explore the cryptocurrency debate taking place in the Islamic finance industry, and consider whether there is a future for it within an economic model based on the principles of justice and social harmony.

## About the Speaker

Harris Irfan is a Partner at Gateway LLP, Chairman of the UK Islamic FinTech Panel and founder of Islamic finance consulting firm, Cordoba Capital.

An investment banker with 24 years' experience in London and the Middle East, Harris authored the critically acclaimed best-seller *Heaven's Bankers: Inside the Hidden World of Islamic Finance*.

He co-founded the world-leading Islamic finance team at Deutsche Bank, and was CEO of its Islamic finance think-tank. He was subsequently appointed Global Head of Islamic Finance at Barclays and then Head of Investment Banking at European Islamic Investment Bank / Rasmala.

*Heaven's Bankers* received critical acclaim from the world's press, including the Financial Times and the Wall Street Journal. Harris has presented to audiences ranging from the Bank of England to the Oxford Union and the World Islamic Economic Forum. He writes on Islamic finance for the international press, including The Guardian, Foreign Affairs and Forbes, and appears frequently in the media, including the BBC and CNN. Harris holds a degree in Physics from the University of Oxford.

To register for this lecture, please [click here](#)  
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Help ye one another in righteousness  
and piety

The Holy Qu'ran 5:2