Do two and two equal three in Southern California Tribal Casinos?



George H. Hassanzadeh -- Expert in Islamic Matters Los Angeles, CA Friday, May 3, 2024

While Las Vegas casinos are financially hurting, the tribal casinos in Southern California are doing great, notably the Casino in San Bernardino, California, which I have patronized for the past 15 years.

Is it possible that I'm just not smart enough? Yes, I admit.

I have traveled the freeways to the famous Casino in San Bernardino, California, which boasts the number one casino in southern California, only to hand them tens of thousands of dollars.

With a large overhead, the casino also rakes in a significant amount of cash.

A couple of years back, I accidentally noticed that in addition to the 'one-arm bandit' taking my money, it also short-changed me.

 The casino has placed the <u>cashout button</u> conveniently above the <u>maximum bet button</u>. So, when you reach out to cash out your remaining money, your hand invariably goes over the maximum bet (without contacting) the button; in my case (twice), the slot machine took out an additional \$8.80 each time. The same happened when the attendant tried.

- 2. It would be best if you guard your remaining balance. Once, I was betting \$3.00 a shot, and I believe I had a \$14.60 balance, but the machine should only have \$2.92 as my balance. Meaning I had to add more cash if I wanted to continue.
- 3. The slot machine 'short-changed' me several times—notably, the week before the last. I had a balance of \$42.00 and won \$37.00, which made it \$79.00; the machine showed \$74.00 instead of \$79.00. The attendant had no explanation as to why. They called the supervisor. The supervisor's explanations made no sense. I walked away.
- 4. After putting nearly \$200.00 into a slot machine with three symbols, I got one "Reel Boost" and a 15 increase on the Wheel of Fortune. Each slice of the wheel was increased to the point that the wheel had only two slices. One was \$88.00 and the other \$76.00. The rest are over \$100.00 and \$200.00. The wheel went round and round and stopped at \$6.00. I was indeed shocked. Where did that \$6.00 come from?

The casino does not like you to complain about these matters for fear of perhaps alerting others. Instead of a reasonable alternative or a practical explanation. The casino did not like my objections and retaliated and stripped me of all the benefits I was entitled to.

There is no question that the casino skews dramatically toward unethical practices.

Basically, and factually, the San Bernardino, California casino takes unauthorized money from its members. I believe this practice is more than an ethical violation.

These incidents are my personal experience, and I have made no statement that could be a false or reckless disregard for the truth concerning the integrity of the casino.

I am asking "The Bureau of Gambling Control and California Tribal Gaming Agencies" to investigate the casino's alleged unethical tactic. George H. Hassanzadeh is the author of *Iran: Harsh Arm of Islam* and *First Comes the Mosque* and the movie script *Persian Pirooz.* Hassanzadeh is known to the public primarily through his appearances on television shows.

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