

שקלים ו

Not only is it אסור to give less than a מחצית השקל, it is אסור to give more as well.

If a person saves up coins for מחצית השקל, saying “these coins go towards my שקל מחצית שקל”, and when ראש חודש אדר arrives, he finds he has more than enough, the extra is חולין.

When כלל ישראל used other currencies, they would give for the מחצית השקל a half of that currency (much as in the United States, we use half dollars for מחצית השקל--three for the three times it is mentioned, as it is not the actual מחצית השקל, but זכר (למחצית השקל)). They would always ensure, however, that it was always equal in value to the value of the מחצית השקל stated in the תורה (presumably, this would be done by using the value of silver and the weight of the מחצית השקל).

Someone who thought he was חייב a קרבן חטאת and set aside money for it, and then found out that he was not חייב, the money is חולין.

The extra of עשירית האיפה is left to rot.

The extra birds that had been set aside for a יולדת are used as a נדבה.

A person who set aside מחצית השקל and was then מת, the money is considered a נדבה.

An animal set aside as a קרבן פסח that was too old, or otherwise not ראוי להקרבה becomes a שלמים.