



Bulletin 1

Halal Meat

Importance of Halal consumption

We all know that eating Halal is a basic requirement for Muslims, but did you also know that Halal meat is something that Allah(swt)and his beloved Messenger Prophet Muhammad(pbuh) has also placed great importance on. According to the world famous **Mufti Taqi Usmani** in his book titled " **Legal Rulings on Slaughtered Animals**" he quotes the 2 Sahih Hadith.

1) Sahih Bukhari # 391. "Whoever performs our Salah (method of prayer), faces our Qiblah (direction of Holy Ka'ba in Makkah), and eats the animals which we slaughter is a Muslim who is deserving of the protection of Allah(swt) and his Messenger(pbuh)" In another translation of this Hadith, Prophet Muhammad(pbuh) said" I have been ordered to wage war with people until they say that there is no God but Allah(swt), when they recite this, perform our salah, face our qiblah, and slaughter according to our way of slaughter, then their blood and wealth is sacred for us, except that blood and wealth in which a right has been established."

According to this hadith, it is important that all Muslims are fully aware of the right Islamic slaughter method because using any modified method which is against the Shariah of Islam could produce HARAAM meat. The Prophet Muhammad(pbuh) has compared the Islamic slaughter method and drawn it parallel to Salah and facing Qiblah. This means that the Islamic slaughter method is the symbol of Islam through which a Muslim can be distinguished from a non Muslim.

Eating doubtful and haram meat can have a very serious implication on the worship of a Muslim as proven by this Sahih Hadith

2)Sahih Muslim #1015.

"Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) once described a person who has been on a long journey, his hair is dishevelled, and dust has gathered on his body, This man raises his hands to the sky and cries out, "O my Lord, O my Lord, whereas his food and drink is from unlawful sources, his body has been nourished with unlawful food, then how can his dua be accepted"

As such, it is of great importance that we know the Islamic slaughter method and be sure that the meat we consume is slaughtered under the strict Shariah method.



The Islamic slaughter method

- ☑ All animals to be slaughtered must be the ones permitted for consumption under the Islamic law for example cow, sheep, lamb, goat, ram, deer, rabbit, poultry and should be of the required age and health.
- ☑ Slaughtering must be performed manually by a mature Muslim who fully understands the fundamentals and conditions relating to slaughtering according to the Islamic Law.
- ☑At the time of slaughtering the name of Allah must be invoked by saying:
Bismillah Allah Akbar
(I begin (the slaughtering) in the name of Allah - Allah is the Greatest)
- ☑ If at the time of slaughtering the name or names of someone other than Allah is invoked, the meat becomes Haraam (Unlawful).
- ☑According to the Shafi School of Thought, if a Muslim, by mistake, forgets to invoke the name of Allah at the time of slaughtering, the meat will remain Halal. This is not the case with the other three schools of thought who are strict on invoking the name of Allah at the time of slaughtering.
- ☑If someone knowingly does not invoke the name of Allah at the time of slaughtering, the meat becomes Haraam.
- ☑The animal should be slaughtered using a very sharp utensil, preferably a knife, penetrating the throat of the animal. This knife should not be used to kill other haraam animals.
- ☑ Windpipe, food-tract and two jugular veins should be cut, preferably in one stroke.
- ☑The blood of the slaughtered animal must be drained as completely as possible.
- ☑The neck of the animal should not be disjoined during slaughtering intentionally; even the knife should not go deep into the spinal marrow.
- ☑Slaughtering from the back of the neck is not allowed in Islam.
- ☑ Animals should be killed in a comfortable way. Brutality and unnecessary suffering to them must be avoided according to the Islamic Law.
- ☑ Halal animals should not be slaughtered in a place where haraam animals are slaughtered while animals should not be slaughtered in front of other animals.

This being the general guideline of the Islamic slaughtering, the next step is to examine if these guidelines are followed by people and organizations who certify meat products as Halal in Fiji Islands. Does their method comply with the Shariah of Islam, and if not, can they be forcefully labelled as Halal? This will be discussed in Bulletin 2, Inshah Allah

A Joint Project by

