



JURISPRUDENCE OF FOOD AND DRINK

JURISPRUDENCE

LEVEL 4

Objectives >>>

Students should:

- Learn which animals are halal to eat
- Learn which animals are haram to eat
- Learn further detailed rules about halal and haram food
- Learn the recommended and detestable acts related to eating and drinking
- Learn the rules of Islamic slaughter

Lesson 1: Ḥalal and Ḥaram Animals

It is important to be extra careful about what we eat and what we feed our family, as this can have a great impact on our bodies and souls.

Allah (SWT) has made that which is good for us and which is pure and clean permissible for us, and has made that which is harmful for us impermissible.

CATEGORISATION

For the purposes of our discussions, animals are categorised into:

- Land animals
- Marine Animals (and amphibians)
- Birds

LAND ANIMALS

The following land animals are halal to eat:

- Wild animals whose blood gushes out when slaughtered are halal to eat if they are hunted and slaughtered properly (e.g. deer, gazelle and wild goat). One of the conditions is that when hunted the animal has the ability to flee
- Therefore, baby deer (or similar baby animals) are haram to eat and their skin is impermissible to use
- Domesticated land animals are permissible to eat if they are slaughtered in a prescribed way (e.g. cow, bull)



A baby deer is haram to hunt and eat

- If the above birds are hunted in the correct way their meat is not halal but its parts are tahir. The exception is a bird that cannot fly, such as a baby bird. Baby birds are haram to hunt, and all their body parts are haram to eat and are najis.



Birds with claws or talons and birds that mostly glide are haram to eat

The following land animals are makruh to eat:

- Horse
- Mule
- Donkey

The following land animals are haram to eat:

- Animals whose blood does not gush out when slaughtered. However, their skin is tahir if they are hunted or slaughtered in the right way. This includes zebras, lions and rabbits
- Kangaroos are haram to eat
- Rabbits are haram to eat



Kangaroos are haram to eat

The following birds are permissible to eat:

- Birds which flap more than they glide, as long as they can fly (e.g. not baby birds)

The following birds are makruh to hunt:

- Swallows
- Hoopoe birds

MARINE ANIMALS

All marine animals are Ṭāhir, but not all are halal

The following marine animals are halal to eat:

- Any fish that have scales
- Shrimp
- Prawn

The marine animals must die after being caught, either in the net or after coming out of the water



Shrimp and prawn are halal

BIRDS

The following birds are impermissible to eat:

- Birds which have claws or talons
- Birds who glide more than they flap
- Birds that have no feathers

The following marine animals are haram to eat but are Tahir:

- Oyster
- Lobster
- Octopus
- Calamari



Oysters and Lobsters are haram

***Note:** when buying seafood make sure the batter used is not haram or najis in any way

The following are clearly mentioned to be impermissible to eat:

- Eels
- Cat-fish
- Fish that died in the sea



FISH EGGS

- The eggs of halal fish are halal
- The eggs of haram fish are haram

AMPHIBIANS

- Ducks and geese are halal



- Crocodiles and turtles are not halal, but their skin is tahir

Review Questions

Q1. A baby deer:

- Is okay to hunt because deer are permissible to eat
- Is haram to hunt because we cannot hunt a wild animal that cannot run away
- Is makrūh to hunt because it is so cute

Q2. Which birds are halal to eat?

- Those which have claws and fangs
- Those which flap more than they glide
- Hunting birds

Q3. Oysters and lobsters are:

- Halal to eat
- Haram to eat
- Makrūh to eat

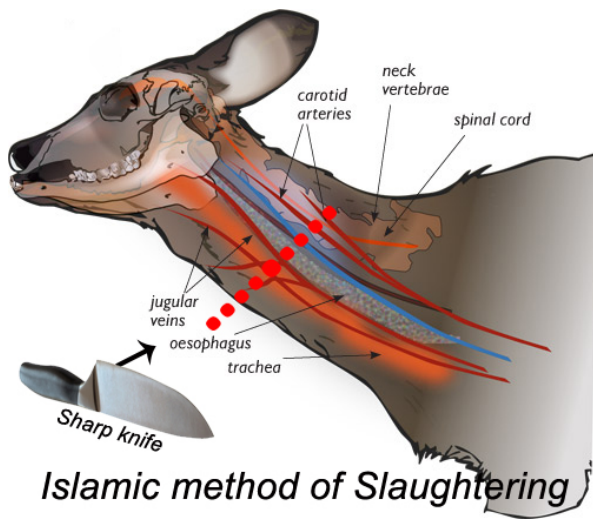
Lesson 2: Conditions of Slaughtering

For the meat of an animal to be halal, it must be slaughtered Islamically

CONDITIONS OF SLAUGHTERING

- The slaughterer must be a Muslim (male or female)
- The knife used to slaughter an animal must be made of iron. Slaughtering with a steel knife is not allowed).
- The throat and the chest of the animal to be slaughtered must be facing the Qiblah.
- The slaughterer must mention a remembrance containing the name of Allah, and so if a person says 'Bismillah' or 'Allahu Akbar' before slaughtering this is sufficient. The person doing the slaughtering must himself mention the name of Allah.
- The four structures in the throat must be cut: the oesophagus, the trachea and the two major blood vessels. Therefore, the cut must be made under the 'Adam's apple'. The whole head should not be cut off completely until the animal is completely dead.
- After the animal is slaughtered, it should still have some motion (e.g. flap/blink). This helps the blood circulate out of the body
 - Stunning the animals before slaughtering is common in many abattoirs. Goats are stunned with an electric shock, while a cow is shot in the forehead. This shock can kill an animal if the

animal is not killed within a few minutes. This can make the animal suffer less. We have to be careful about this and make sure the animal is killed immediately and blood should spurt from the animal once it is slaughtered.



DETESTABLE (MAKRŪH) ACTS

- Eating raw or uncooked meat
- Not eating a large amount
- Leaning against something while eating
- Eating food while it is hot or blowing on food
- Putting bread under the plate
- Peeling fruit that can be eaten with the peel
- Eating while walking
- Eating alone
- Separating meal place from subordinates
- Sitting with disbelievers around the same table

Review Questions

Q1. It is:

- a. Recommended to eat slowly
- b. Recommended to eat quickly so as not to waste time on food
- c. Neither eating fast or slow is recommended

Q2. If a Muslim shopkeeper tells us something is halal:

- a. We still need to ask and investigate
- b. We should take their word for it
- c. We cannot trust him as some people lie

Q3. The person slaughtering an animal as per the rules of Islamic slaughter must be:

- a. Muslim
- b. Male
- c. A scholar

FURTHER ISSUES

If we go to a non-Muslim shop and they tell us the food is halal, what should we do?

- We cannot take the word of a non-Muslim unless we have surety or confidence that this is halal

If a Muslim seller tells us that something is halal, we should take their word for it and we do not need to investigate this further.

RECOMMENDED AND DETESTABLE ACTS

RECOMMENDED (MUSTAḤAB) ACTS

- Washing hands before eating
- Saying Bismilāhi Raḥmanil Raḥīm before eating
- Saying 'alḥamdulillāh' after eating
- Eating slowly
- Eating with others, especially family members
- Cleaning between the teeth
- It is recommended to have only two meals a day, one in the morning and one in the evening
- Start and end with some salt or vinegar

