

Islam Question & Answer

General Supervisor:
Shaykh Muhammad Saalih al-Munajjid

40216 - What is the ruling on eating local chickens when one does not know how they were slaughtered?

the question

Is it permissible to eat the chicken and meat that are available in restaurants, when I do not know whether they were slaughtered according to Islamic sharee'ah or not?.

Detailed answer

Praise be to Allaah.

It was proven in Saheeh al-Bukhaari from 'Aa'ishah (may Allaah be pleased with her) that some people came to the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) and said: "Some people bring us meat and we do not know whether they mentioned the name of Allaah over it or not." He said: "Say the name of Allaah yourselves then eat." I said: They (the people who brought the meat) were new in Islam and they were not sure whether they said the name of Allaah (when slaughtering the meat) or not. So he said: Say the name of Allaah yourself and eat. So it is permissible to eat even if we do not know whether the name of Allaah has been pronounced over the meat or not. Similarly it is permissible to eat even if we do not know whether it was slaughtered in the proper manner or not, because if the action was done by the appropriate people, the basic principle is that it is valid unless there is evidence to the contrary. If there comes to us meat that has been slaughtered by a Muslim, a Jew or a Christian, then we do not ask about it and we do not say, "How was it slaughtered?" or "Was the name of Allaah mentioned over it or not?" It is halaal so long as there is no proof that it is haraam. This is a way in which Allaah has made things easy for us. Otherwise we would have a problem every time some meat was offered to us, and we would have to ask, "Who slaughtered it? Does he pray or not? Did he say the name of Allaah over it or not? Did the blood flow or not?" and so on. But by the grace of Allaah, if an

Islam Question & Answer

General Supervisor:
Shaykh Muhammad Saalih al-Munajjid

action is done by the appropriate people, then the basic principle is that it is sound and valid unless there is evidence to the contrary.