

Issue of Pork-Eating: In the Light of Revealed Teachings and Medical Science

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Abstract

Islam is a complete code of life and it provides guidance in all the spheres of life. We must be clear about the fact that teachings of all the prophets were actually Islamic teachings. That is why the true believers of all the prophets are called Muslims. This article focuses on the consumption of pork in the light of Islam and medical science. Teachings of Holy Quran, Holy Bible, Hadiths of Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) and Medical Science are given to analyze the facts. In this article an attempt is made to show the relationship of revealed knowledge with medical science. The author comes to the conclusion that revelation and science are on the same page regarding the ill effects of pork eating. Moreover, logical and ethical aspect of Islamic injunctions regarding Halal and Haram also becomes clear through this paper.

In Holy Quran Almighty Allah says:

(١) **فَا مَا يَاتِيكُمْ مِنِّي هُدًى فَمَنِ تَبِعَ هُدَايَ فَلَا خَوْفٌ عَلَيْهِمْ وَلَا هُمْ يَحْزَنُونَ۔**

“Then, should some guidance come to you from Me, those who follow my guidance shall have no fear, nor shall they grieve.”

The guidance which is mentioned in this verse is Islam. All the prophets were the preachers of Islam and their fundamental teachings were common.

In last revealed book, Almighty Allah after mentioning other prophets, says to Hazrat Muhammad (S.A.W):

اُولَئِكَ الَّذِينَ هَدَى اللَّهُ فَبِهِدْهُمْ اِقْتَدِهٖ ط (٢)

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“Those are the people whom Allah has guided. So, it is their guidance that you should follow.”

Islam is a religion of nature and the true followers of prophets were Muslims. Legal and illegal things were told by prophets under the guidance of revealed knowledge. In this article, status of pork is analyzed, whether it is legal or illegal in revelation. Moreover, decision of medical science is also seen. For inter-religion tolerance and co-operation it is necessary to focus on the real teachings of revealed books. This reality must be kept in mind that religion is not needful of science whereas science after all has to surrender before religion. It is tried to present solid arguments and facts in this research work.

In Holy Quran at four different places Almighty Allah has told the prohibition of pork.

1. In Surah Baqarah, verse no.173 Almighty Allah says:

انما حرم عليكم الميتة والدم ولحم الخنزير وما اهل به لغير الله فمن اضطر غير باغ ولا عاد فلا اثم عليه ج ان الله غفور الرحيم (٣)

“He (Allah) has prohibited for you carrion, blood, the flesh of swine and that upon which a name of someone other than ‘Allah’ has been invoked. Then, whoever is compelled by necessity, neither seeking pleasure nor transgressing, there is no sin on him. Verily, Allah is Most-Forgiving, Very-Merciful.”

2. In Surah Al-Maidah, verse No. 3, it is said:

حرمت عليكم الميتة والدم ولحم الخنزير وما اهل لغير الله به..... (٤)

“Prohibited for you are: carrion, blood, the flesh of swine and those upon which (a name) other than that of Allah has been invoked (at the time of slaughter).....”

3. In Surah Al-an'aam 6:145 Almighty Allah says:

قل لا اجد في ما اوحى الي محرماً على طاعم يطعمه الا ان يكون ميتة او دماً
 مسفوحاً ولحم خنزير فانه رجس او فسقاً اهل لغير الله به ؕ فمن اضطر غير باغ ولا
 عاد فان ربك غفورٌ رحيم (٥)

“Say, “I do not find, in what has been revealed to me, anything(out of the cattle under discussion)prohibited for anyone who eats it, unless it be carrion or blood that pours forth, or flesh of swine-because it is impure-or there be an animal slaughtered sinfully by invoking on it the name of someone other than Allah. However, if anyone is compelled by necessity, neither seeking pleasure nor crossing the limit, then your lord is Most-Forgiving, Very-Merciful.”

4. In Surah An-Nahal 16:115, it is said:

انما حرم عليكم الميتة والدم ولحم الخنزير..... (٦)

“He has but prohibited for you the carrion, the blood, the flesh of swine.....”

The above mentioned four verses of Holy Qur’an give categorical decision that flesh of pork is prohibited and it can be eaten only when life is at risk.

Verse no.60 of Surah Al-Maidah indicates the intensity of hatred about pork. The people who became the victim of the wrath of Almighty Allah are mentioned in this verse. Almighty Allah says:

قل هل اتيتكم بشر من ذلك متوبة عند الله ؕ من لعنه الله و غضب عليه و جعل منهم
 القرود و الخنازير و عبد اطاعت ؕ اولئك شر مكانا و اضل عن سواء السبيل. (٧)

“Say, shall I tell you about the ones whose retribution with Allah is worse than that (which you deem bad)? They are those whom Allah has subjected to his curse and to his wrath; and He has turned some of them into apes and swine, those who worshipped Taghut

(طغوت) (Satan, the rebel). Those are worse in their situation, and far more astray from the straight path.”

Turning into apes and swine was to make them sign of admonition. When Almighty Allah is mentioning something to make an example it means He hates that thing.

Sayings of the Holy Prophet (S.A.W)

1. In Sahih Al-Bukhari, the saying of Hazrat Jabir is given:

وقال جابر: حرم النبي ﷺ بيع الخنزير (٨)

And Jabir said, “The prophet (S.A.W) made the sale of pig illegal”.

2. In one another Hadith of the Holy Prophet(S.A.W),he said,

والذى نفسى بيده ليوشكن ان ينزل فيكم ابن مريم حكماً مقسطاً فيكسر الصليب، ويقتل الخنزير، ويضع الجزية، ويفيض المال حتى لا يقبله احد (٩)

“By Him (ALLAH) in whose hands my soul is, surely the son of Maryam (Mary) will shortly descend amongst you people (Muslims) and will judge mankind justly and will break the cross and kill the pigs and abolish the jizya. Then there will be abundance of money and nobody will accept charitable gifts.”

In the above hadith, Holy Prophet (S.A.W) has told the hatred of Jesus Christ regarding pigs.

3. Once the Holy Prophet (S.A.W) said;

من لعب بالنردشير، فكانما صبغ يده في لحم خنزير ودمه (١٠)

“Whoever plays Nardashir (a Persian word for a game similar to what is called backgammon today), it is as if he were dipping his hand in the flesh and blood of a pig”.

This Hadith indicates the disliking of Holy Prophet (S.A.W) on one side to Nardashir and on the other side to pig.

After the clear statements from Holy Quran and A Hadith of the Holy Prophet (S.A.W), let us see what the Holy Bible says regarding the status of pig.

Population of Pork in Holy Bible

The consumption of pork is prohibited in Bible also. It is written in the book of Leviticus:

“And the swine, though he divided the hoof, and be cloven footed, yet he cheweth not the cud; he is unclean to you. Of their flesh shall ye not eat, and their carcass shall ye not touch, they are unclean to you.”⁽¹¹⁾

Pork is also prohibited in the Bible in the book of Deuteronomy.

“And the swine, because it divideth the hoof, yet cheweth not the cud, it is unclean unto you. Ye shall not eat of their flesh, nor touch their dead carcass.”⁽¹²⁾

A similar prohibition is repeated in Bible in the book of Isaiah, chapter 65 verse 2-5.

Medical Science and Pork

Medical science has proved that consumption of pork causes several diseases. Renowned religious scholar and a medical expert, Dr. Zakir Naik says:

“Eating of pork can cause no less than seventy different types of diseases. A person can have various helminthes like roundworm, pinworm, hookworm, etc. One of the most dangerous is Taenia Solium, which is in lay man’s terminology called Tapeworm. It harbours in the intestine and is

very long. Its ova (eggs), enter the blood stream and can reach almost all the organs of the body. If it enters the brain it can cause memory loss. If it enters the heart it can cause heart attack, if it enters the eye it can cause blindness, if it enters the liver it can cause liver damage. It can damage almost all the organs of the body. Another dangerous helminthes is Trichura Tichurasis. A common misconception about pork is that if it is cooked well, these ova die. In a research project undertaken in America, it was found that out of twenty four people suffering from Trichura Tichurasis, twenty two had cooked the pork very well. This indicates that the ova present in the pork do not die at normal cooking temperature.”⁽¹³⁾

Dr.Zakir Naik further says:

“Pork has very little muscle building material and contains excess of fat. This fat gets deposited in the vessels and can cause hypertension and heart attack. It is not surprising that over 50% of Americans suffer from hypertension.”⁽¹⁴⁾

“Pork can also spread one type of Pneumonia. This disease is caused by an organism Listeria Monocytogenes which is common in pork.”⁽¹⁵⁾

“Trichinosis (caused by parasite Trichinella spiralis), Gastroenteritis (caused by Escherichia coli), Tyhoid (caused by Salmonella) and skin and other infections (caused by Staphylococcus aureus) are the diseases spread by pig meat at times.”⁽¹⁶⁾

“Gastroenteritis (caused by Yersinia Enterocolitica) can also be spread by pork.”⁽¹⁷⁾

“Worm infestations e.g. round worm, hook worm and pin worm are spread by pork.”⁽¹⁸⁾

“Pig meat is also a potential source of Hepatitis-E infection (caused by Hepatitis-E virus).”⁽¹⁹⁾

“Cholesterol level is very high in pork. In 100 grams red meat, there are maximum 284 calories, while in pork there are maximum 496 calories. In the same way in (100 grams) red meat maximum quantity of fat is 21.1% while in pork this is 44.8%.”⁽²⁰⁾

“Shape virus is common in the meat of pig. This virus affects human lungs.”⁽²¹⁾

“Mucopolysac Charides are in very high quantity in pig. It causes many joint diseases in the people using pork.”⁽²²⁾

“Famous German Medical Scientist Heinrich Reckweg has pointed out a dangerous Protein Sutoxin in pork. This protein is the cause of different allergic diseases.”⁽²³⁾

“Usage of pork causes deficiency of Vitamin-E in human body. As a result pork eaters become sexually weak along with other manifestations of Vitamin-E deficiency.”⁽²⁴⁾

Pig, the most Shameless Animal

The pig is the most shameless animal on the face of the earth. It is the only animal that invites its friends to have sex with its mate. In America, most people consume pork. Many times after dance parties, they have swapping of wives; i-e many say “you sleep with my wife and I will sleep with your wife.” If you eat pigs then you behave like pigs.⁽²⁵⁾

The above stated facts make it clear that medical science as well as morality do not allow consumption of pork.

Why Pig is Created?

The question arises that when Almighty Allah has

declared prohibition of pig in revealed books, why He created it? Its answer is very simple. Satan is also creation of Almighty Allah but the purpose of its creation is to test humanity, whether the people Almighty Allah or Satan. In the same way Almighty Allah created pig to see whether mankind follows the commandments of the creator and remains away from its usage or disobeys Allah and uses its flesh and fat. The creation of pig is a test case for people. In Holy Quran, Almighty Allah gives the example of two angels, Harut and Marut. They were also a trial for people.

Almighty Allah says:

وما انزل على الملكين ببابل هاروت وماروت ط وما يعلمن من احد حتى
يقولوا انما نحن فتنه فلا تكفر ط (٢٦)

“And what had been sent down to the two angels, Harut and Marut, in Babylon. And these two did not teach anyone without first having said (to him), “we are but a trial, so do not go infidel.”

The above words of Surah Al-Baqarah tell us that Almighty Allah tested Israelites through this trial.

About Satan, Almighty Allah says:

ان الشيطان لكم عدو فاتخروه عدوا ط (٢٧)

“Verily Satan is your enemy so consider him enemy”.

In fact the human generation is bound to obey the revealed code of life if the real success is designed the disobedience causes disturbance not only in individual life but in society as a whole also. We come to know that in the light of revealed teaching and even from the point of view of the modern medical science, it is proved that Pork is dangerous and fatal for human life. So it has been declared unlawful (Haram) and Prohibited to eat.

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