
Eating meat of disbelievers and using their utensils

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of Allaah, the Most Merciful, the Bestower of Mercy

Question: A Somali student studying in China asks: I study in China and I face many difficulties in finding proper food, particularly meat products. Before I came to China, I heard that a Muslim is not permitted to eat from the animals that atheists slaughter, or better said, killed. There is a cafeteria serving meat to Muslim students at the University but I am not certain if the animals are slaughtered in the Islamic manner. I am in doubt but my colleagues are not and eat from them. Is it permissible for Muslims to eat such food? Moreover, there is no distinction between the utensils in which food is offered to Muslims and non-Muslims. What should a Muslim do in this case?

Shaykh Abdul-Azeez ibn Baaz (رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ)¹: It is not permissible for Muslims to eat the slaughtered animals of the disbelievers, except that of the People of the Book, i.e. The Jews and Christians. The ruling applies equally to the disbelievers such as the Magi, Pagans, communists or any other disbeliever. Also, a Muslim is not permitted to eat soup or anything mixed with their slaughtered animals because Allaah (Glorified be He) did not make food of the disbelievers lawful to us except the food of the People of the Book. Allaah (Glorified and Exalted be He) states: [**Made lawful to you this day are At-Tayyibaat** [all kinds of Halaal (lawful) foods, which Allaah has made lawful (meat of slaughtered eatable animals, milk products, fats, vegetables and fruits)]. **The food** (slaughtered cattle, eatable animals) **of the people of the Scripture** (Jews and Christians) **is lawful to you and yours is lawful to them**]². Food of the People of the Book refers to their slaughtered animals, as stated by Ibn `Abbaas and others. There is no blame on a Muslim to eat their fruits or the like, since they are not included in the unlawful foods. Muslims' food is lawful to both Muslims and non-Muslims so long as those who cook the food are true Muslims, worshipping none but Allaah, and associating with Him no prophet, pious man, deceased person, or anything else like those worshipped by the disbelievers.

Muslims must have utensils other than those with which the food and wine of the disbelievers are served. If there are no other utensils, the Muslim cook must wash utensils the disbelievers use, then put the food of Muslims in them. It is authentically reported in the Two Saheeh (authentic) Books of Hadeeth (i.e. Al-Bukhaaree and Muslim) on the authority of Aboo Tha`labah Al-Khushany (may Allaah be pleased with him) that he asked the Prophet (peace be

¹ (رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ) (rahimahullaah) May Allaah have mercy on him

² [Soorah al-Ma'idah 5:5]

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upon him) about eating in the vessels of the polytheists and he (peace be upon him) said to him: **[Do not eat in them unless there is no alternative. In this case, you should wash them before eating]**. May Peace and Blessings of Allaah be upon our Prophet Muhammad, his family and Companions.