

# SWINEFLESH

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## PART 1: READ

إِنَّمَا حَرَّمَ عَلَيْكُمُ الْمَيْتَةَ وَالدَّمَ وَلَحْمَ الْخِنْزِيرِ وَمَا أُهْلَ بِهِ لِغَيْرِ اللَّهِ فَمَنْ اضْطُرَّ غَيْرَ بَاغٍ وَلَا عَادٍ فَلَا إِثْمَ عَلَيْهِ إِنَّ اللَّهَ غَفُورٌ رَحِيمٌ (البقره)

2:173 (Y. Ali) He hath only forbidden you dead meat, and blood, and the flesh of swine, and that on which any other name hath been invoked besides that of Allah. But if one is forced by necessity, without willful disobedience, nor transgressing due limits, - then is he guiltless. For Allah is Oft-forgiving Most Merciful.

## PART 2: LEARN

1) The Arabic equivalent of flesh is "lahm". The term "lahm" is mentioned in the Glorious Quran in four different occasions. First, in the area of human development, the meaning of "lahm" is given clearly in 23:14 and 2:258 when Allah talks about "clothing the bones". Second, in the area of describing the fish; the term "lean meat" was used to describe the whole fish as given in 35:12 and 16:14. Third, the term meat was mentioned again in 22:37 to mean the entire animal, which is selected for sacrifice. Fourth, the term "meat" was mentioned once again in connection with "meat -in-paradise" in 52:56 and 56:21. The pig in its entirety is forbidden.

2) Pork is very fatty and, when eaten, this fat passes into the blood stream. This excessive fat in the blood causes the veins to harden, the blood pressure to go up, and finally a heart attack. Furthermore, in the case of poisonous chemicals found in pork fat, - "toxins" - the lymph nodes have to work harder than usual to get rid of them. This condition especially occurs in children as lymph node infections and swelling.



3) Pork contains sulphur in great quantities. The excess sulphur taken in by the body accumulates in cartilages, muscles and nerves, and causes illnesses such as infections, calcifications, and lumbar hernia. Along with all of these, it brings about various types of serious skin diseases and trichina (trichina is only transmitted by pigs and is life threatening for humans)

4) The pig is the main carrier of the taenia solium worm, which is found in its flesh. These tapeworms are found in human intestines with greater frequency in nations where pigs are eaten. This type of tapeworm can pass through the intestines and affect many other organs, and is incurable once it reaches beyond a certain stage.

5) One in six people in the US and Canada has trichinosis from eating trichina worms which are found in pork. Many people have no symptoms to warn them of this, and when they do, they resemble symptoms of many other illnesses. These worms are not noticed during meat inspections, nor are they killed by salting or smoking. Few people cook the meat long enough to kill the trichinae.

6) The Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs issued recently a news release saying that Pork is a significant source of Human Yersinosis. It is a gut disease caused by a group of bacteria known as Yersinia. It is infectious to both humans and animals. The common symptoms of Yersinosis include diarrhea, vomiting, fever and abdominal pain or discomfort. According to the Ministry statement, swine are a significant, if not a primary reservoir for human Yersinosis. Further more, the University of Guelph conducted a research on 80 Ontario pig farms; almost 40% of them tested positive for Yersinia. The statement of the Ministry of Agriculture was made on July 8<sup>th</sup>, 2005 by Wayne Du – Pork Quality Assurance Program Lead.

7) It comes as no surprise that pork consumption is prohibited in Judaism and Christianity; the reader may wish to consult the texts of Leviticus 11:7-8, Isaiah 65:4, and Isaiah 66:17. Pork is also prohibited in Islam according to Quran 2:173, 5:3, 16:15 and 6:145.

8) Finally, is it a “yes” or “no” to pork? Chemistry says no. Medicine says no. Judaism says no. Christianity says no. Islam says no. Now the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture is also declaring its position: NO.

### References:

- 1) Badawi, Jamal. Audio Library Tapes (Series F, Tape 9)
- 2) Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Development. 2005
- 3) Saleh, Mohammed. [www.muslimeducators.com](http://www.muslimeducators.com)
- 4) Wikipedia Encyclopedia
- 5) Yahya, Harun. Islam, the Religion of Ease

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### **PART 3: THINK & CONNECT**

- 1) Since pork is prohibited in all religions, should Jews, Christians and Muslims co-operate to wipe it out from the face of the earth?
- 2) Are we allowed to hate, to abuse, to torture and be unkind to pigs?