

Food and gifts from non-Muslims

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Article taken and slightly adapted from: mtws.posthaven.com

(http://www.ibnothaymeen.com/all/noor/article_8315.shtml)

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

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

Question: Occasionally, for special events my non-Muslim neighbour sends me food and sweets. Is it permissible for me to eat them?

Shaykh Ibn Uthaymeen (رَحِمَهُ اللهُ)¹: Yes, it is permissible for you to eat food given as a gift from a non-Muslim if you trust them because the prophet (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ)² accepted a gift from a Jewish women which she gave in the form of a sheep and he also accepted a Jew's invitation to share a meal and he ate (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ). So, there is no problem in accepting the gifts of non-Muslims or eating their food with the condition that they are trustworthy (in that they would not try to harm you) and if you are worried or afraid (that they could harm you in some way i.e. serving you poisoned food etc.) then their invitation is not to be answered. Likewise, it cannot be for a religious event or holiday like Christmas etc. as the gifts given for this event are not to be accepted.

¹ (رَحِمَهُ اللهُ) (rahimahullaah) May Allaah the Most High have mercy on him

² (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) (sallallaahu 'alayhi wa sallam) May the peace and blessings of Allaah the Most High be upon him