
The way of slaughtering cattle

Article taken and slightly adapted from: alifta.gov.sa

[Part No. 18; Page Nos. 26,27]

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

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

Question: What is the Shar'eh (Islaamically lawful) way of slaughtering cattle; camels in particular?

Shaykh Abdul-Azeez ibn Baaz (رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ)¹: The Shar'eh way of slaughtering camels, sheep and cows is to cut the throat, oesophagus (gullet) and external jugular veins; this is the most perfect and best way of slaughtering cattle. The throat is the air passage, the oesophagus is the passage of food and liquids and the jugular veins are the two veins around the neck, the cutting of which makes blood drain easier. If these four parts are cut, the slaughter is Halaal (lawful) according to all scholars.

A second way of slaughtering is to cut the throat, the gullet and one of the jugular veins. For, this way is also Halaal and good, though it is less perfect than the first one.

A third way of slaughtering is to cut the throat and the gullet only without cutting the jugular veins. Such a way is also sound and it is advocated by a number of scholars, who drew on the Prophet's (peace be upon him) saying: [**if the slaughtering tool causes blood to gush out, and if Allaah's Name is mentioned, then eat (of the slaughtered animal); but do not slaughter with a tooth or a nail (claw)**]². This is the preponderant opinion in this issue.

The Sunnah (a commendable act) is to slaughter the camel by way of Nahr (slaughtering by a vertical movement of the spear to the lower part of the throat) while it is standing on its three legs, having its left foreleg tied, and stabbing it at the point where the neck meets the chest. For cows and sheep, the Sunnah is to slaughter it by way of Dhabh (slaughter by a horizontal cut through the throat) while making it lie down on its left side. Moreover, the Sunnah when making the Dhabh or Nahr is to make the animal face the Qiblah (Ka`bah-direction faced in Prayer). This is not Waajib (obligatory); rather, it is a Sunnah (supererogatory act of worship following the example of the Prophet (peace be upon him)). If someone slaughters an animal while its face is not directed towards the Qiblah, the slaughtering is still Halaal. Likewise, if someone adopts the way of Nahr for what should be slaughtered by way of Dhabh or vice versa, the sacrifice is Halaal; yet it contradicts the Sunnah. May Allaah grant us all success.

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

² Saheeh Bukhaaree