Stunning and Slaughtering
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Abbreviations:
saww: - Sal lal la ho Allay hay Wa Aal lay he Wasallam
azwj: - Az Za Wa Jalla
asws: - Allay hay Salawat Wass Salam
AJFJ: Ajal Allah hey wa Fara Jaak
ra: - Razi Allahazwj
La: - Laan Allahazwj
In the Name of Allah, the Beneficent, the Merciful. The Praise is for Allah Lord of the Worlds, and Blessing be upon our Chief Muhammad and his Purified Progeny, and greetings with abundant greetings.

Summary:

EU has recently passed laws ‘on the killing of animals’ in order to minimise the pain and suffering of animals through the use of approved stunning methods. It applies to all farmed animals. In the UK, about 84 % of Halal meat comes from animals, which have been stunned prior to slaughtering.

Stunning of animal remains a highly controversial issue, as many animal rights campaigners argue that religious slaughter causes animals unnecessary suffering and should be banned. Essentially, bleeding is the part of the slaughter process where the main blood vessels of the neck are severed in order to allow blood to drain from the carcass. A research study conducted in 2015 shows blood would drain (as measured blood loss) in similar amount when slaughtered using electric head-only stunning to that of using traditional religious slaughter without stunning. Below we present some Ahadith of Rasool Allah and his pious progeny in order to better understand the conditions of Islamic slaughtering.

Abu Ali Al Ashary, from Muhammad Bin Abdul Jabbar, from Safwan Bin Yahya, from Abdullah Bin Sinan, (It has been narrated) from Abu Abdullah regarding the Words of Allah Mighty and Majestic: therefore mention the Name of Allah over them in rows [22:36]. He said: ‘That is where they are stood in a row for the sacrifice. You would tie down its hand in what is between the hooves up to the knees. And: So when they fall down [22:36] - is when they fall upon the ground’. 

In October 2017, the Commission concluded a study on the “Preparation of best practices on the protection of animals at the time of killing”, see, https://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/welfare/practice/slaughter_en

https://www.rspca.org.uk/getinvolved/campaign/slaughter


Al Kafi – V 4 – The Book of Hajj Ch 185 H 1

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1 In October 2017, the Commission concluded a study on the “Preparation of best practices on the protection of animals at the time of killing”, see, https://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/welfare/practice/slaughter_en
2 https://www.rspca.org.uk/getinvolved/campaign/slaughter
4 Al Kafi – V 4 – The Book of Hajj Ch 185 H 1
Ali Bin Ibrahim, from his father, from Ibn Abu Umeyr, from Hammad, from Al Halby who said,

‘Neither should the Jew, nor the Christian slaughter your sacrificial animal for you. So if it was a woman, then let her slaughter it herself, and she should face the Qiblah, and she should be saying, *I turn my face towards the One Who Originated the skies and the earth [6:79].* O Allah **azwj**! (This is) from You **azwj** and for You **azwj**.’

Muhammad Bin Yahya, from Ahmad Bin Muhammad, from Muhammad Bin Sinan, from Ismail Bin Jabir who said,

‘Abu Abdullah **asws** said to me: ‘Do not eat their slaughters, nor eat in their vessels, meaning the People of the Book.’

Ali Bin Ibrahim, from his father, from Ismail Bin Marrar, from Yunus, from Muawiya Bin Wahab who said,

‘I asked Abu Abdullah **asws** about the slaughters of the People of the Book. So he **asws** said: ‘There is no problem when they mentioned the Name of Allah **azwj** Mighty and Majestic, but **asws** mean from them - the ones who happen to be upon the commands of (Prophets) Musa **as** and Isa **as**.’

**Blood must come out of the Slaughtered animal:**

Ali Bin Ibrahim, from his father, from Hammad Bin Isa, from Hareyz, from Muhammad Bin Muslim who said,

‘I asked Abu Ja’far **asws** about a Muslim who slaughtered a sheep and Named (*Bismillah*), but his knife transcended by its severity, so it cut-off the head. So he **asws** said: ‘If the blood comes out, so eat’.

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5 Al Kafi – V 4 – The Book of Hajj Ch 185 H 4
6 Al Kafi – V 6 – The Book of Slaughtered (animals) Ch 15 H 13
7 Al Kafi – V 6 – The Book of Slaughtered (animals) Ch 15 H 14
8 Al Kafi – V 6 – The Book of Slaughtered (animals) Ch 4 H 2
Ali Bin Ibrahim, from his father, from Ibn Abu Umeyr, from Umar Bin Azina, from Al Fuzayl, and Zurara and Muhammad Bin Muslim,

‘They asked Abu Ja’far asws about buying of the meat from the markets, and it is not known what the butchers have done’. He asws said: ‘Eat, when that was in the markets of the Muslims, and do not ask about it’. ⁹

Fulfilment of the slaughtering

Muhammad Bin Yahya, from Abdullah Bin Muhammad Bin Isa, from Ali Bin Al Hakam, from Aban Bin Usman, from Abdullah Bin Suleyman,

(It has been narrated) from Abu Abdullah asws having said: ‘In the Book of Ali asws (is written): ‘When the eye is blinking, or the feet are kicking, or the tail is moving, and you come over to it, so slaughter it’. ¹⁰

Muhammad Bin Yahya, from Ahmad Bin Muhammad, from Ali Bin Al Hakam, from Suleym Al Farra’a, from Al Hassan Bin Muslim who said,

‘I was in the presence of Abu Abdullah asws when Muhammad Bin Abdul Salaam came over, so he said to him asws, ‘May I be sacrificed for you asws! My grandfather is saying to you asws that a man struck a cow with a pole-axe, so it fell. Then he slaughtered it’. But he asws did not send an answer with him, and Instead called Saeeda, a slave girl of Umm Farwa as, so he asws said: ‘Muhammad came to me with a message from you, but I asws disliked that I send a message with the answer with him. So if it was such that the man who slaughtered the cow, when he

⁹ Al Kafi – V 6 – The Book of Slaughtered (animals) Ch 13 H 2
¹⁰ Al Kafi – V 6 – The Book of Slaughtered (animals) Ch 7 H 1
slaughtered it, the blood came out moderately, so eat, and feed, but if it passed away swiftly, so do not go near it'.

Al-Husayn bin Muhammad, from Moala bin Muhammad, from Al Washa, from Aban, from Abdul Rahman bin Abu Abdullah,

Abu Abdullah asws has said: ‘In the Book of Ali asws (it is written): ‘When the eye is blinking, or the feet are kicking, or the tail is moving, so eat from it, for you have realised its slaughter’.12

A number of our companions, from Sahl bin Ziyad, from Ibn Abu Najran, from Musny Al Hannat, from Aban bin Taghlub,

Abu Abdullah asws has said: ‘When you doubt regarding the life of a sheep, and you see it blinks its eyes, or moving its ears, or beating its tail, so slaughter it, for it is Permissible for you’.13

Abu Ali Al Ashary, from Muhammad bin Abdul Jabbar, from Safwan bin Yahya, from Ibn Muskan, from Muhammad Al Halby,

(The narrator) says ‘I asked Abu Abdullah asws about the slaughtered animal, so he asws said: ‘When it moves the tail, or blinks, or (moves) its ears, so it is purified’.14

A number of our companions, from Sahl bin Ziyad, from Ibn Abu Nasr, from Rafa’at,

(It has been narrated) from Abu Abdullah asws having said regarding the sheep when it blinks its eyes, or moves its tail, so it is purified’.15

11 Al Kafi – V 6 – The Book of Slaughtered (animals) Ch 7 H 2
12 Al Kafi – V 6 – The Book of Slaughtered (animals) Ch 7 H 3
13 Al Kafi – V 6 – The Book of Slaughtered (animals) Ch 7 H 4
14 Al Kafi – V 6 – The Book of Slaughtered (animals) Ch 7 H 5
15 Al Kafi – V 6 – The Book of Slaughtered (animals) Ch 7 H 6
The Conditions of the Bird Prior the Slaughtering:

أَبُوِعَبْدِاللَّهِِّ(ِعليهِالسلامِ)ِعَنِِالصُّقُورِِوَِالْبُزَاةِِوَِعَنِْصَيْدِهَاِف َقَالَِكُلِْمَاِلََِْي َقَْ ُلْنَِإِذَاِأَدْرَكْتَِذَكَاتَِهُِوَِآخِرُِالذَّكَاةِِإِذَاِكَانَتِِالْعَينُِْتَطْرِفُِوَِالرِّجْلُِت َرْكُضُِوَِالذَّنَبُِت َََحَرَّكُِوَِقَالَِ(ِعليهِالسلامِ)ِلَيْسَتِِالصُّقُورُِوَِالْبُزَاةُِفِِِالْقُرْآنِِ.

Abu Ali Al Ashary, from Muhammad Bin Abdul Jabbar, from Ibn Fazzal, from Mufazzal Bin Salih, from Lays Al Murady who said,

‘I asked Abu Abdullah asws about the hawk and the falcon, and about its prey. So he asws said: ‘Every prey which it did not kill when you came to it, so purify (slaughter) it, and the last of the purification (slaughtering) is when the eyes were fluttering and the legs were kicking and the tail was moving’. And he asws said: ‘And the hawk and the falcon are not in the Quran (to justify their killings)’.

What to be recited prior to slaughtering?

عَلِيُِّبْنُِإِب ْرَاهِيمَِعَنِْأَبِيهِِوَِمَُُمَّدُِبْنُِإِسَْْاعِيلَِعَنِِالْفَضْلِِبْنِِشَاذَانَِعَنِْصَفْوَانَِوَِابْنِِأَِ بِِِعُمَيٍِْْقَالَِقَالَِأَبُوِعَبْدِِاللَّهِِ(ِعليهِالسلامِ)ِإِذَاِاشَْ َرَيْتَِهَدْيَكَِفَاسَْ َقْبِلِْبِهِِالْقِب ْلَةَِوَِانَْْرْهُِأَوِِاذْبَِْهُِوَِقُلِْوَجَّهْتُِوَجْهِيَِلِلَّذِيِفَطَرَِالسَّمَاوَاتِِوَِالَْْرْضَِحَنِيفاًِوَِمَاِأَنَاِمِنَِالْمُشْرِكِينَِإِنَِّصَلاَتِِِوَِنُسُكِيِوَِمَُْيَايَِوَِمَََاتِِِلِلَّهِِرَبِِّالْعَالَمِينَِلََِشَرِيكَِلَهُِوَِبِذَلِكَِأُمِرْتُِوَِأَنَاِمِِنْكَِوَِلَكَِبِسْمِِاللَّهِِوَِاللَّهُِأَكْبَرُِاللَّهُمَِّت َقَبَّلِْمِنِِِّثَُُِّأَمِرَِّالسِّكِّينَِوَِلََِت َنْخَعْهَاِحَِتََِّّتََُوتَِ.

Ali Bin Ibrahim, from his father and Muhammad Bin Ismail, from Al Fazl Bin Shazaan, from Safwaan, and Ibn Abu Umeyr who said,

‘Abu Abdullah asws said: ‘When you buy your sacrificial animal, so face the Qiblah with it, and sacrifice it, while slaughtering it (one should) say, I turn my face towards the One Who

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16 Al Kafi – V 6 – The Book of Hunting Ch 2 H 10
17 Al Kafi – V 6 – The Book of Hunting Ch 7 H 1
Originated the skies and the earth [6:79] Say: Surely my Salat, and my sacrifice, and my life, and my death are for Allah Lord of the worlds [6:162] There is no associate for Him; and with that I am Commanded, and I am the first of submitters [6:163] There is no associate for Him azwj; and with that I am Commanded, and I am the first of submitters azwj. O Allah azwj! From You azwj and for You azwj. In the Name of Allah azwj, and Allah azwj is the Greatest. Accept from me’. Then use the knife and do not break its bones until it dies’. 18

In another Hadith:

Ali Bin Ibrahim, from his father, from Ismail Bin Marrar, from Yunus, from one of his companions, Abu Ja’far asws has said: ‘When you slaughter (an animal) so say, ‘In the Name of Allah azwj, and the Praise is for Allah azwj, and Allah azwj is the Greatest! I believe in Allah azwj, and praise be upon Rasool-Allah sallallahu alayhi wasallam, and the infallibility of His azwj Commands, and the thanks for His azwj sustenance, and the understanding by His azwj Grace upon us asws, the People asws of the Household…..(an extract). 19

The minimum to be recited for slaughtering:

Muhammad Bin Yahya, from Ahmad Bin Muhammad, from Al Hassan Bin Mahboub, from Al Aa’la Bin Razeyn, from Muhammad Bin Muslim who said,

‘I asked him asws about a man who slaughtered, so he Glorified (Subhanallah), or Exclaimed the Greatness (Allah-O-Akbar), or Praised Allah azwj Mighty and Majestic (Alhamdulillah). He asws said: ‘All these are from the Names of Allah azwj Mighty and Majestic, and there is no problem with it’. 20

18 Al Kafi – V 4 – The Book of Hajj Ch 185 H 6
19 Al Kafi – V 6 – The Book of Aqeeqa Ch 19 H 2
20 Al Kafi – V 6 – The Book of Slaughtered (animals) Ch 8 H 5
Muhammad Bin Yahya, from Ahmad Bin Muhammad, from Al Hassan Bin Mahboub, from Al A’ala Bin Razeyn, from Muhammad Bin Muslim who said,

‘I asked Abu Ja’far asws about the man who slaughters and does not Name (Bismillah). He asws said: ‘If he had forgotten it, so there is no problem when he was a Muslim, and was good at slaughtering, and did not flip it over nor cut off the neck (until) after having slaughtered’.  

Slaughtering in a Direction other than Qiblah:

 علي بن إسماعيل عن أبي عمران بن ذرَّة عن أبي بكر بن محمد بن الحسن (عليه السلام) قال: سئل عن الذبحة لغة القبلة قال لا يأس إذا لم يتعبد

Ali Bin Ibrahim, from his father, from Ibn Abu Umeyr, from Hammad, from Al Halby, from

Abu Abdullah asws said when he asws was asked about the slaughtered animal slaughtered towards other than the Qiblah. He asws said: ‘There is no problem when it was not deliberate’.

The time of Slaughtering:

علي بن إسحاق عن محمد بن عمر عن علي بن الحسن (عليه السلام) و هو يقول: إن لم تذهب حتى يطلع الفجر فإن الله جعل الليل سكنًا للكثير شيء قال فطل جعلت فذلك فإن حننا فقال (عليه السلام) إن حفت الموت فأذبح.

Ali Bin Ismail, from Muhammad Bin Amro, from Jameel Bin Darraj, from Aban Bin Taghlib who said,

‘I heard Ali asws Bin Al-Husayn asws and he asws was saying to his servant: ‘Do not slaughter until the emergence of the day, for Allahazwj Made the night as a tranquillity for everything’. I said, ‘May I be sacrificed for youasws! Supposing we are fearing’. So he asws said: ‘If you fear the death, so slaughter’.

Hunting by a trained Dog:

تحمّد بن يحيى عن أحمد بن محمد عن علي بن الحسن عن عثمان بن يكير عن رضى عن أبي عبد الله (عليه السلام) أن الله قال في صيد الكلب إن أرسلت الرجل ومن قال فإنك لما أتساءل عليك وإن قال فإنك لما تأتي وإن كان غير معلم بلعلمه في ساعتين ثم يرسله فيكأن كنك منه فإنه معلم

21 Al Kafi – V 6 – The Book of Slaughtered (animals) Ch 8 H 2
22 Al Kafi – V 6 – The Book of Slaughtered (animals) Ch 12 H 3
(It has been narrated) from Abu Abdullah asws having said regarding a prey of the dog, if the man sends it and Names (Bismillah), so let him eat from what it remains upon it, even if it has killed, and even if it has eaten (from it). So eat from what remains, even it was not trained (earlier on), but he trained it in that very moment, then sends it, so he eats from it, for it is trained.

فََْمَّاِخِلاَفُِالْكَلْبِِمََِّاِيَصِيدُِالْفَهْدُِوَِالصَّقْرُِوَِأَشْبَاهُِذَلِكَِفَلاَِتَْْكُلِْمِنِْصَيْدِهِِإِلََِّمَاِأَدْرَكْتَِذَكَاتَهُِلَِْنَِّاللَّهَِعَزَِّوَِجَلَِّي َقُولُِ

So as for (a hunting animal) different to the dog, from what is hunted by the leopard, and the falcon, and similar ones to that, so do not eat from its prey, except what you come to and purify (slaughter) it, because Allah azwj Mighty and Majestic is Saying 'preying ones [5:4]. So whatever was different to the dog, so its prey is not from what can be eaten, except if you come to it, (and you) purify (slaughter) it’.

(It has been narrated) from Abu Abdullah asws said, ‘He asws was asked about the falcon and the dog when they both hunt and have killed its prey and eaten from it. Can one eat from its remains or not?’ So he asws said: ‘As for what the bird has killed, so do not eat it, except if you purify (slaughter) it; and as for that the dog kills, and the Name of Allah azwj Mighty and Majestic is Mentioned over it, so eat, even if it has eaten from it’.

Slaughtering is with Iron:

أَمِّاِمَاِق ََ َلََْهُِالطَّي ْرُِفَلاَِتَْْكُلْهُِإِلََِّأَنِْتُذَكِّيَهُِوَِأَمَّاِمَاِق ََ َلَهُِالْكَلْبُِوَِقَدِْذَكَرْتَِاسْمَِاللَّهِِعَزَِّوَِجَلَِّعَلَيْهِِفَكُلِْوَِإِنِْأَكَلَِمِنِْهُِّ

(The narrator says), ‘I asked Abu Abdullah asws about the (animal) slaughtered by the wood, and the stone, and the cane. So he asws said: ‘Ali asws Bin Abu Talib asws said: ‘The slaughter is not correct except by the iron’.
Muhammad Bin Yahya, from Ahmad Bin Muhammad, from Ibn Mahboub, from Zayd Al Shahaam who said,

‘I asked Abu Abdullah\textsuperscript{asws} about a man who did not have a knife in his possession, can he slaughter by a cane?’ So he\textsuperscript{asws} said: ‘Slaughter by the cane, and by the stone, and by the bone, and by the wood, when you cannot come across the iron, when their throats are cut and the blood flows, so there is no problem’.\textsuperscript{26}

**Slaughter in the segregation from other animals:**

Muhammad Bin Yahya, from Ahmad Bin Muhammad, from Muhammad Bin Yahya, from Gayas Bin Ibrahim,

(It has been narrated) from Abu Abdullah\textsuperscript{asws} that Amir Al-Momineen\textsuperscript{asws} said: ‘Do not slaughter the sheep in the presence of the sheep, nor a camel in the presence of the camel, and it is looking at it’.\textsuperscript{27}

**When Slaughtered and dead meat get mixed-up**

Ali Bin Ibrahim, from his father, from Ibn Abu Umeyr, from Hammad, from Al Halby,

(It has been narrated) from Abu Abdullah\textsuperscript{asws} having been asked about a man who had sheep and cows, and he was aware of the slaughtered from these, so he isolated it, and isolated the dead. Then the dead and the slaughtered got mixed up. So how should he deal with it?’ So he\textsuperscript{asws} said: ‘He should sell it to the one who considers the dead as permissible (to eat), and he can eat from its price, for there is no problem with it’.\textsuperscript{28}

\textsuperscript{26} Al Kafi – V 6 – The Book of Slaughtered (animals) Ch 2 H 3  
\textsuperscript{27} Al Kafi – V 6 – The Book of Slaughtered (animals) Ch 3 H 7  
\textsuperscript{28} Al Kafi – V 6 – The Book of Foodstuffs Ch 12 H 2
How to recognize the slaughtered meat from un-slaughtered?

Muhammad Bin Yahya, from Ahmad Bin Muhammad Bin Isa, from Ahmad Bin Muhammad Bin Abu Nasr, from Ismail Bin Umar, from Shuayb,

(It has been narrated) from Abu Abdullah asws regarding a man who entered a town, so he came across meat he did not know whether it was slaughtered or dead. He asws said: 'He should throw in upon the fire, so everything what shrivels, so it is slaughtered, and everything what expands, so it is dead'.

One is better-off eating one-third of the Belly:

Muhammad Bin Yahya, from Ahmad Bin Muhammad, from Ibn Sinan, from Salih Al Nayli,

(It has been narrated) from Abu Abdullah asws having said that Allah azwj Mighty and Majestic Hates the abundant eating’. And Abu Abdullah asws said: ‘There is no (choice) for the son of Adam as except that he must eat to straighten his lineage by it. So when one of you eats food, so let him make a third of his belly for the food, and a third of his belly for the drink, and a third of his belly for the breathing, and do not fatten yourselves like the fattening of the pigs for the slaughter’.  

29 Al Kafi – V 6 – The Book of Foodstuffs Ch 13 H 1
30 Al Kafi – V 6 – The Book of Foodstuffs Ch 21 H 9