

Question:

1. Is gelatine permitted? The late Syed Darsh said yes as the substance was chemically changed.
2. The people of the book i.e. who slaughter by cutting with a knife do not necessarily mention Allah's name. Is this meat permissible to us or do we have to say, "Bismillahi allahu akbar"?
3. Is alcohol in cosmetics permitted?

Answer:

Assalamu Aleikum

Sheikh Omar answered the question before as follows:

The Messenger Muhammad (saw) informed us that the Jews used to do this and were cursed by Allah (swt) for it; that they were forbidden to eat the fat of cows so they took it and sold it making it into tools i.e. changed its reality. The principal is that whatever is forbidden it is forbidden to benefit from it. To take the example of alcohol, if it is changed by man into vinegar then it is prohibited to benefit from it, however if it is done naturally by Allah through divine destiny, changing the attribute of grapes into vinegar, then it would be allowed to benefit from it. Similarly with Gelatine, if the reality has been changed by Allah it is allowed but if it is done by man it is still prohibited. Some people try to make an analogy with the blood of the mother which turns into milk, but here again the change is by Allah and not us. To summarise Gelatine is haram in origin in the UK (because the original rule in this country is that no meat is slaughtered unless and until we know otherwise) and it is still prohibited for us to benefit from even if it is no longer in its original form.

Anjem Choudary - UK Leader of Al-Muhajiroun