

Q: 74 – Title: Is eating prawns haalal or makroo

Question

Is eating prawns halaal or makroo

Answer

**In the Name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful.**

**As-salamu `alaykum wa-rahmatullahi wa-barakatuh.**

There is a difference of opinion pertaining to the permissibility of prawns. One group of Ulama hold the view that it is permissible while another group believe it is not permissible.

The reason for the difference stems from the categorization of prawns. Those who hold the view of the permissibility of prawns believe that prawns are fish. Others believes that prawns are not fish.

Amongst the Ulama who believe that prawns are fish are

a) Hazrath Maulana Ashraf Ali Thanwi *rahmatullahi 'alaihi*

b) Hazrath Mufti Abdur Raheem Lajpuri *rahmatullahi 'alaihi*

c) Hazrath Mufti Mohammad Abdus Salaam Chatgami *rahmatullahi 'alaihi*

Those Ulama who have not regarded prawns to be fish are

a) Hazrath Maulana Rasheed Ahmed Gangohi *rahmatull?hi ?alaihi*

b) Hazrath Maulana Khaleel Ahmed Saharanpuri *rahmatull?hi ?alaihi*

c) Hazrath Maulana Rasheed Ahmed Ludyanwi *rahmatull?hi ?alaihi*

When analyzing the basis of the different views, one finds disagreement on what constitutes the valid *shar'ee* measure upon which we could base the classification of prawns. Those that regard prawns as impermissible believe that the valid grounds would be the classification of the scientists.

Hazrath Mufti Rasheed Ahmed Ludyanwi(ra) in Ahsanul Fatawa mentions that there are three features in fish.

1) Spine 2) Gill 3) Fins

These features are not found in prawns, hence prawns are not fish.

Hazrath Mufti Abdur Raheem Lajpuri *rahmatullahi 'alaihi* states that prawns have been referred to as fish. Hereunder are some references;

1) (1/460 مرقاة المفاتيح شرح مشرق العواصم) مرقاة المفاتيح شرح مشرق العواصم (مرقاة المفاتيح) مرقاة المفاتيح

2) (4/332 مرقاة المفاتيح شرح مشرق العواصم) مرقاة المفاتيح شرح مشرق العواصم مرقاة المفاتيح

3) مرقاة المفاتيح شرح مشرق العواصم مرقاة المفاتيح شرح مشرق العواصم مرقاة المفاتيح شرح مشرق العواصم (مرقاة المفاتيح شرح مشرق العواصم مرقاة المفاتيح شرح مشرق العواصم مرقاة المفاتيح شرح مشرق العواصم) مرقاة المفاتيح شرح مشرق العواصم (10/143 مرقاة المفاتيح شرح مشرق العواصم مرقاة المفاتيح شرح مشرق العواصم) مرقاة المفاتيح شرح مشرق العواصم مرقاة المفاتيح شرح مشرق العواصم مرقاة المفاتيح شرح مشرق العواصم

Hazrath MI Ashraf Ali Thanwi (ra) says “there are no specific features of a samak(proven through valid evidence) in the absence of which, would discount it from being classified as a *sa mak*”.

There are two reliable opinions with respect to the issue of prawns. *Taqwa* would demand that a person refrains from eating prawns, though there is leeway in consuming it.

**And Allah knows best.**

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