

Dar-ul-Ifta

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

نحمده ونصلي على رسوله الكريم

COCHINEAL (RED INSECT) IN SHARIAH

1. Allah Almighty Say:

وَيُحَرِّمُ عَلَيْهِمُ الْخَبَائِثَ

He allows them as lawful what is good (and pure) and prohibits them from what is bad (and impure). [Al-A'raaf, V157]

In the verse, the phrase “Alif Laam” in “Al-Khabaa'is” is for “Istighraaq” which means all types of impure things are included, without any exemption except from “Nas”.

*. “Nas” is the Holy Quran and the Hadith, Saying of the Holy Prophet “Peace and Blessing be on him”.

By this verse, we learn that all types of impure and bad things are prohibited and not permissible, so cochineal and its derivatives (i.e. Carmine, Carminic Acid E120) are also in this category.

2. Quoting of Paragraph in “Badaa-i-us-Sanaai” Vol. 10, Page No. 128:

In this paragraph the word “Jamee” has covered all the categories of insects, without any exemption except from “Nas”.

وجميع الحشرات وهوام الارض من الفار والقراد والقنازف والضب واليربوع ابن عرس ونحوها ولا خلاف في حرمة هذه الاشياء

In addition, the last sentence informs us that there is no different point of views on this issue. Cochineal and its derivatives (i.e. Carmine, Carminic Acid E120) are also in this category.

3. Same quotation in “Al-Fataawa Al-Hindiyya” Vol. 4, Page No. 289, from the general ruling, we learn that the insect (cochineal / carmine / carminic acid / E120) is from this category and is impure and there is no proof from the Holy Quran and Hadith to exempt it, nor any opinion of the authentic Jurist.

4. To measure it (Qiyaas/Analogy) from bee or mosquito is wrong, it is mentioned in the Hadith clearly, the Holy Prophet “Peace and Blessings be on him” said in the authority of Sayyiduna Abu Hurayrah “May Allah be pleased with him”:

اذا وقع الذباب في اناء احدكم فليغمسه كلها ثم ليطره فان في احد جناحيه شفاء وفي الاخر داء - بخارى ، ج ١٨ ، ص ٧٩

If a fly falls into one of your containers [of food or drink], immerse it completely before removing it, for under one of its wings there is venom and under another there is its antidote (cure). [Bukhari]

It is very clear an apparent from this hadith that if fly falls in a container, so the things (food or drink) will not be impure.

Secondly, we cannot apply this to other insects, because the reason here in hadith is “Shifaa” (Cure), so this Excellency will be only for fly, not for other.

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