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The Grand Muftee

Ruling on eating porcupine

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بِسْمِ اللهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

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

Question: What is the ruling on eating porcupine?

Shaykh Abdul-Azeez ibn Baaz (رَحِمَهُ اللهُ)[1]: Scholars (may Allaah be pleased with them) have disagreed about its ruling; some permitted it while others prohibited it. However, the more correct of the two opinions is that it is lawful, because the original ruling concerning eating animals is lawfulness, and only things that are mentioned in Sharee'ah (Islamic law) are prohibited. There is nothing in the Sharee'ah that indicates the prohibition of this animal. In addition, it is an herbivore like rabbits and deer not a carnivore, so there is no reason for prohibiting it. The mentioned animal is a kind of hedgehog with a coat of sharp spines. Ibn `Umar (may Allaah be pleased with him) was asked about eating hedgehogs, so he recited Allaah's saying (Exalted be He), [**Say (O Muhammad ﷺ): "I find not in that which has been revealed to me anything forbidden to be eaten by one who wishes to eat it, unless it be Maitah** (a dead animal) **or blood poured forth** (by slaughtering or the like), **or the flesh of swine** (pork)].

An old man said, Aboo Hurayrah narrated that the Prophet (peace be upon him) said: [**It is one of the noxious animals**]. Ibn `Umar said, "If the Messenger of Allaah (peace be upon him) had said this, then it is true."

This indicates that he (may Allaah be pleased with him) had no idea whether the Messenger of Allaah (peace be upon him) had said anything about a hedgehog. It is also clear that he did not believe the mentioned old man. This Hadeeth was ranked as Da'eef (weak) by Al-Baihaqee and other scholars due to anonymity of this man. Thus, it is concluded that its lawfulness is authentic and its prohibition is a weak opinion. Allaah (Glorified and Exalted be He) knows best.

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[1] (رَحِمَهُ اللهُ) **(rahimahullaah) May Allaah have mercy on him**