



Southern Africa

HALAAL GAZETTE

No. 18

Shawwaal 1436 / July 2015

HALAAL OR KOSHER?

WHICH OF THE FAVOURS OF YOUR LORD WILL YOU DENY?



Whilst there are linguistic similarities in that Kosher is a Hebrew word that means **"proper or fit"** and Halaal is an Arabic word that means **"permissible"**, both are largely associated with food and have root in their respective Scriptures. However, they are two different entities with differences in both meaning and spirit.

While it is known that pork and pork products are unacceptable for

both, there are many differences that one may not be aware of, some of which we list below:-

1. Islam prohibits all intoxicating liquors while liquors in general are regarded as Kosher. Grape – derived wines can also be Kosher if manufactured under the supervision of a Rabbi. The Kosher mark cannot make it Halaal.
2. Gelatine is considered Kosher by some Jewish authorities regardless of its source of origin. Muslims consider gelatine prepared from pork and non-Halaal slaughtered animal origin as Haraam. Therefore, food items such as marshmallows, yoghurts etc. are not automatically rendered Halaal with a Kosher symbol.*
3. Enzymes irrespective of their source are

acceptable in cheese making and carry the Kosher symbol, whilst enzymes of pork origin are Haraam to Muslims.

4. Jewish law permits use of pig hair basting brushes in food preparation whilst it is Haraam for Muslims.
5. Pig skin products may be used by Jews whilst it is forbidden for Muslims.
6. Islam considers the entire carcass as Halaal whilst Jews cannot use the hind quarter.
7. Jews only recite the prayer at the beginning of the slaughter day. Muslims on the other hand pronounce the name of Allah on the slaughter of each animal.
8. For those who erroneously believe that Halaal equates to Kosher and vice versa and hence acceptable, Jewish dietary law is explicit that they do not accept Halaal as Kosher

The Divine laws of Islam are indeed perfect as taught to us by the perfect Exemplar, the Noble Prophet (peace be upon him). Consumption of Halaal increases spirituality and benefits us both now and in the Hereafter. There is no need to compromise Halaal for convenience and deny the favours of our Lord.

*** SANHA is the only South African Halaal certifier alongside the majority members of the World Halal Council who subscribes to and strictly adheres by the ruling of impermissibility of gelatine from non-Halaal slaughtered animals.**

Muslims accept and believe as an article of faith, the role of all the previous Prophets (peace be upon them) and the Scriptures revealed through them with reliance on the final verse of the Final Revelation revealed to the Last Prophet (peace be upon him) in his farewell pilgrimage.

The verse revealed stated **"...this day have I perfected your religion for you and completed my favour upon you and chosen for you Islam as your religion."** Surah 5 Verse 3

Notwithstanding this ultimate, unalterable and irrevocable determinate, there is a belief in some quarters that Kosher equates to Halaal and one can easily switch from one to the other when the **"need"** arises. This is more prevalent with the **"need"** justified during travelling or taking up residence in non-Muslim countries where Halaal may not easily be available.