



HALAL LIVING

What is
Halal?

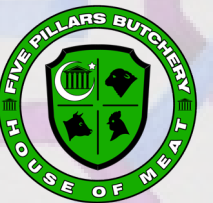
Where **Religion**
& **Food** Meet: The INS and OUTS
of Halal Slaughter

PRESENTED BY:
FIVE PILLARS BUTCHERY
HOUSE OF MEAT



**Five Pillars Butchery would like to thank the
USDA for funding this educational webinar and
all those participating today.**

**The views and opinions expressed in this
webinar are Five Pillars Butchery's and do not
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WHAT EXACTLY DOES IT MEAN?





Halal

Halal is an Arabic word that means “permissible” and its opposite is Haram, “forbidden.” Halal includes sets of prescribed rules based in Islamic ethics which Muslims must follow. Most notable among them are dietary guidelines pertaining to food consumption and the way in which an animal is slaughtered, like the term Kosher in Judaism. Halal can also pertain to business practices which include business transparency and ethical investments.

EXAMPLES OF **HARAM** FOOD

- ALCOHOL
- PORK
- BLOOD

CONSUMING ANIMALS THAT WERE

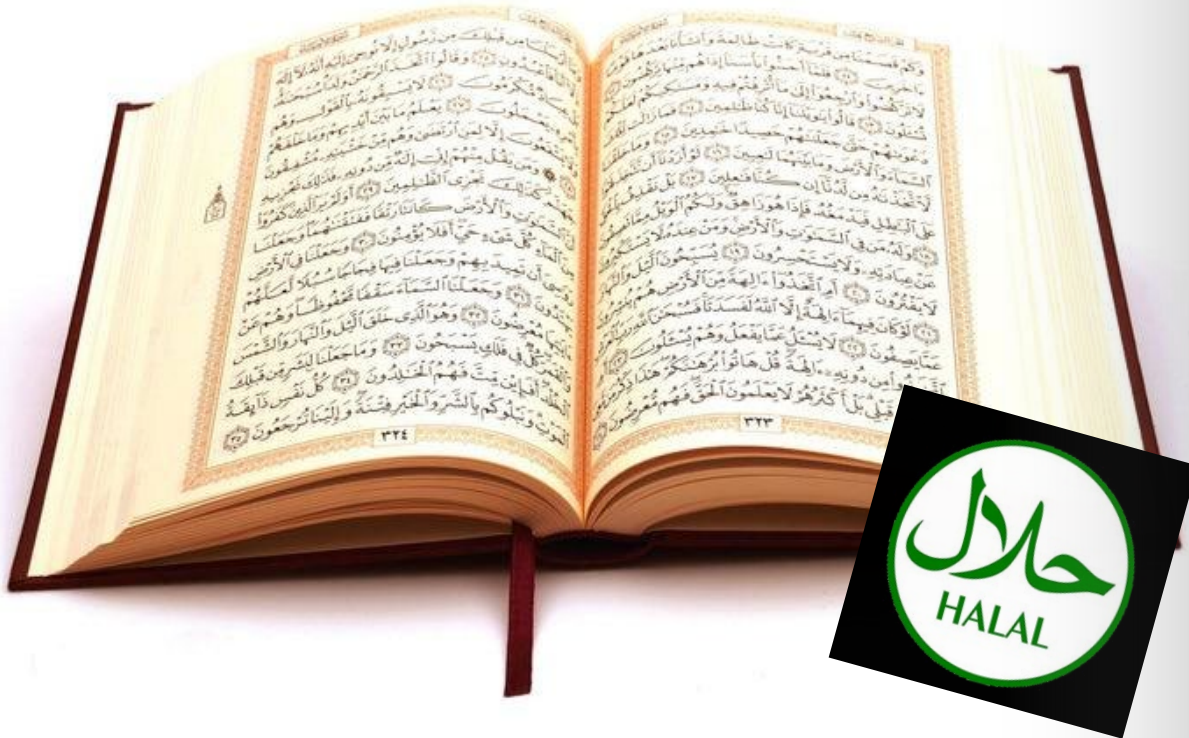
- DEAD PRIOR TO SLAUGHTER
- ANIMALS THAT WERE KILLED IN IMPERMISSIBLE WAYS (i.e;BLUDGEONING),
- ANIMALS THAT WERE SLAUGHTERED WITHOUT THE PRAYER



ALL FOOD IS **HALAL** EXCEPT THAT WHICH HAS BEEN MENTIONED IN THE HOLY QURAN:

O you who believe! Eat of the good things We have provided for you, and give thanks to God, if it is Him that you serve. (2:172).

Prohibited for you are carrion, blood, the flesh of swine, and animals dedicated to other than God; also the flesh of animals strangled, killed violently, killed by a fall, gored to death, mangled by wild animals—except what you rescue, and animals sacrificed on altars; and the practice of drawing lots. For it is immoral. (5:3)



WHY HALAL SLAUGHTER?

#1. It is a religious obligation for Muslims, as stated in the Holy Quran.

**“And do not eat of that upon which the name of Allah has not been mentioned, for indeed, it is grave disobedience...”
-6:121**

**“Certainly, We have brought them a Book (the Qur’an) which We have explained in detail with knowledge, guidance, and a mercy to a people who believe.”
(7: 52)**



By keeping our faith as the guidance within the slaughter process, we maintain the care and the dignity of each animal we pray over.

We recognize the life we are taking and gratefulness to our Creator is our intention throughout the process, for the blessings each animal gives .



Do not (show disrespect towards) the sacrificial animal nor garlanded animals (to be sacrificed for Hajj)

Quran 5:2



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KINDNESS TO ANIMALS IS MANDATORY IN ISLAM

**“There is no man who kills a sparrow or anything beyond that, without its deserving it, but God will ask him about it.”
-Prophet Muhammad pbuh**

**“A good deed done to an animal is as meritorious as a good deed done to a human being, while an act of cruelty to an animal is as bad as an act of cruelty to a human being.”
-Prophet Muhammad pbuh**

**“Verily Allah has enjoined goodness to everything; so when you kill (an animal), kill in a good way and when you slaughter (an animal), slaughter in a good way. So every one of you should sharpen his knife, and let the slaughtered animal die comfortably.”
-Prophet Mohammad pbuh**

“Do you intend (on) inflicting death on the animal twice—once by sharpening the knife within its sight, and once by cutting its throat?”

-Prophet Muhammad pbuh



Improving Religious Slaughter Practices In The U.S

According to Temple Grandin, Animal Sciences Professor and Advocate, at Colorado State University, if done properly, religious ritual slaughter is ***as humane as good conventional slaughter methods.***



“To conduct slaughter without stunning, with an adequate level of welfare, requires more skill and attention to the details of the procedure compared to slaughter with stunning.” –Temple Grandin

From Temple Grandin’s research and report:

She observed and concluded;

“If the cattle stay completely calm while kosher slaughter is performed, they flinch slightly at the beginning of the cut. There is no other movement until convulsions start when sensibility is lost. Immediately after the cut I loosened the head holder and body restraints. Most cattle looked around for 5 to 60 seconds until they collapsed. They did not seem aware that their throats were cut. Waving my hand in front of the animal’s face caused a much bigger reaction than the kosher cut” (Grandin, 1994).

<https://journals.openedition.org/aof/93>



Required reading for anyone working with livestock!
— JEANNETTE BERANGER,
senior program manager at The Livestock Conservancy



Islamic Perspective on Tagging

A lot of confusion and misunderstanding, regarding tagging animals for the halal market, exist among non-Muslim producers and even Muslim customers.

For Muslims, this verse in the Quran may be where misunderstanding comes from:

“I will certainly mislead them and delude them with empty hopes. Also, I will order them and they will slit the ears of cattle and alter Allah’s creation.” And whoever takes Satan as a guardian instead of Allah has certainly suffered a tremendous loss”

4:119



PRE-ISLAMIC ARAB GODS IN ARABIA



ذُو غَابَات
Dhu Ghabat



إنزاک
Inzak



اللات والعزى والمناة
Manat ,Al-Uzza ,Al-Lat



كاهل
Kahl



ود
Wadd



سين
Sin



ذات حميم
Dhat Hamim

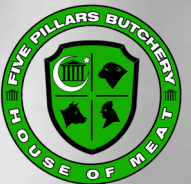


مقه
maqah

The belief may come up due to misunderstanding the verse. During the Pre-Islamic era, pagan Arabs used to cut the ears of their cattle in dedication to the gods they worshipped.

I took Abdullah ibn Abu Talhah to the Messenger of Allah (pbuh) to perform Tahnik for him (chew a piece of date and put its juice in the child's mouth). When I arrived, he (pbuh) had the branding iron in his hand and was branding the camels of Zakat (obligatory charity)."

The Prophet, peace and blessings be upon him, passed by an animal who had been branded on the face and its nostrils were smoking. The Prophet said, "Allah has cursed whoever has done this. Do not brand anyone on the face, nor strike it."



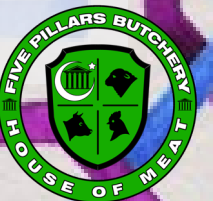
“Piercing or marking the ears of cattle for statistical purposes does not render an animal unfit for sacrifice, provided cut is no more than half the size of the ear. In fact, a Hadith (Prophetic tradition) confirmed the permissibility of marking the cattle for identification purposes. The Prophet (pbuh) himself used to brand his cattle to identify them for purpose of Zakat” the fatwa said.

-Khaleej Times

FATWA



Many Halal slaughter facilities around the country already willingly participate in the USDA's Regulatory Scrapie Slaughter Surveillance collection program, through which animals are identified.



THE PROCESS OF

HALAL

SLAUGHTER



#2 GOOD HALAL SLAUGHTER IS HUMANE

“Fear Allah in your treatment of animals.” -Prophet Muhammad pbuh

Although some countries have made no stun slaughter illegal, forcing the halal meat industry to perform stunning methods prior to slaughter, no stun slaughter is still the preferred method and is allowed under religious exemption in the US.

Prior to slaughter, fresh water must be made available for animals to access

No animal should witness the slaughter of another animal, the sharpening of the knife or the knife itself prior to the slaughter

The animal should be calm prior to slaughter by covering the animal's eyes

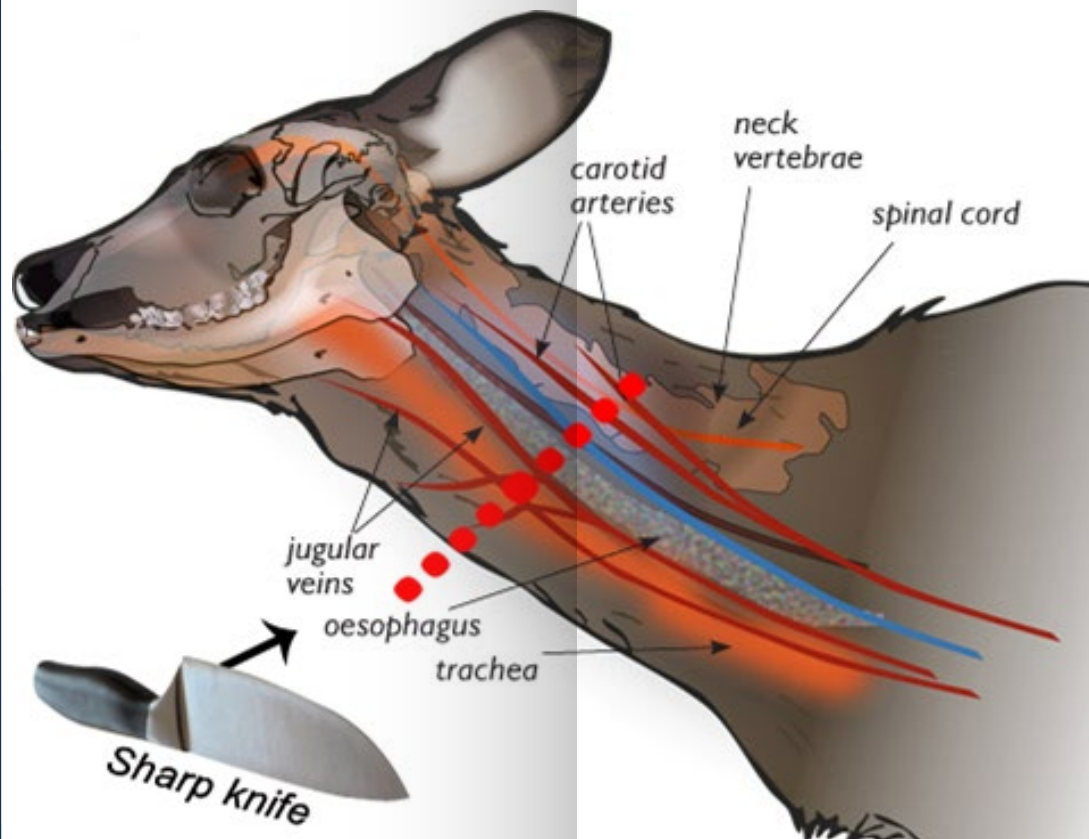
The slaughterman must treat the animals well and perform the prayer over every single animal. This prayer is seeking from the Creator of that life, permission to take that life, to provide sustenance

The slaughter should happen in one swift slice, with a long sharp knife, by a skilled slaughterman. The animal won't be wasted if more than one slice is performed.



WHAT SHOULD HAPPEN

RELIGIOUS PRAYER IS SAID	✓
CAROTID ARTERIES ON BOTH SIDES CUT	✓
JUGULAR VEINS ON BOTH SIDES CUT	✓
OESOPHAGUS AND TRACHEA CUT	✓
NO HANDLING OF CARCASS UNTIL THE ANIMAL IS COMPLETELY DEAD (LOSS OF EYE REFLEX, BLOOD IS DRAINED)	✓



ISLAMIC METHOD OF SLAUGHTERING



WHAT SHOULD NOT HAPPEN

NO STUN SLAUGHTER PREFERRED	✗
THE HEAD SHOULD NOT BE REMOVED DURING SLAUGHTER	✗
THE VERTEBRAE AND SPINAL CORD SHOULD NOT BE CUT	✗
THE FURTHER HANDLING OF THE CARCASS IS NOT PERMITTED UNTIL THE ANIMAL IS COMPLETELY DEAD (LOSS OF EYE REFLEX, BLOOD IS DRAINED)	✗

ISLAM HAS ALSO LAID DOWN OTHER RULES FOR SLAUGHTER, INCLUDING THE FOLLOWING:

1. Animals should have a preslaughter rest, and be well fed and well looked after at the point of slaughter.
 2. The animals must be alive at the time of slaughter.
 3. Slaughter must be performed by a Muslim (who is of sound mind, mature, and fully understands the Islamic procedure and conditions for slaughtering of animals).
1. Animals that are slaughtered should be securely restrained, particularly the head and neck, before cutting the throat.
 2. Operator competence is of great importance in order to carry out satisfactory halal slaughter.
 3. Tools and other implements used must be for the slaughter of halal animals only.
 4. The knife must be razor sharp and without blemishes and damage.

8. The animal's trachea and esophagus must be severed. (The spinal cord should not be cut and the head not severed completely so as to induce immediate and massive hemorrhage).
9. The slice must be done once only. The slaughtering implement must not be lifted off the animal during slaughtering. Any lifting is construed as one act of slaughter. Multiple acts of slaughter on one animal are prohibited.
10. Slaughter the animal in such a way that its life departs quickly, and it is not left to suffer.
11. The slaughter must be spontaneous and complete.
12. The animal should not be shackled and hoisted before bleeding.
13. Hoisting should be done only after the animal has lost consciousness. Restraining equipment should be comfortable for the animal.
14. Further preparation and dressing of the carcass must be delayed until all signs of life and cerebral reflex have disappeared.



WHY STUNNING METHODS ARE NOT PREFERRED IN HALAL SLAUGHTER



All stunning methods risk the death of the animal prior to slaughter, which is not permissible for Halal.



Electrical Stunning



Head only electric stunning has the lowest risk of death to ruminants and this is performed for Halal slaughter around the globe, however;

Modern experiments are in practice to observe human response to a stimulus and human models can be used to see the response to electrical stunning. Human electroconvulsive therapy (ECT) which is used to treat intractable depression in humans is comparable to electrical stunning in animals but ECT has never been used in its “unmodified” form because of its negative aspects and medical science considered it a torture. This raises questions regarding the use of electrical stunning in the slaughter of animals **(Zivotofsky and Strous, 2012)**.

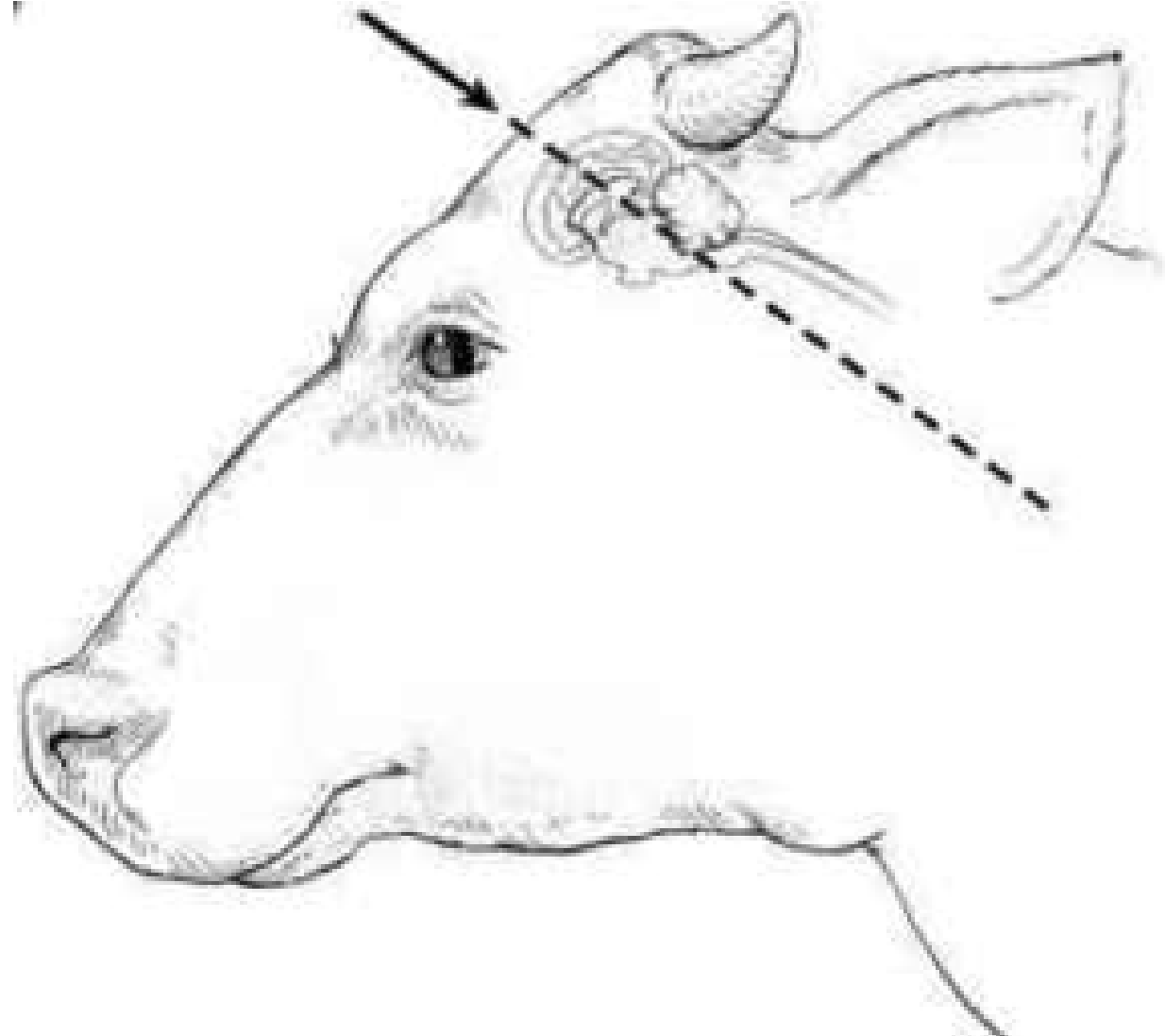
In regards to using electrocution for the death sentence, the Supreme Court determined that;
“The evidence shows that electrocution inflicts intense pain and agonizing suffering,” Supreme Court Justice William M. Connolly wrote for the majority in a 6-to-1 decision in 2008.



Mechanical Stunning

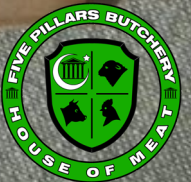
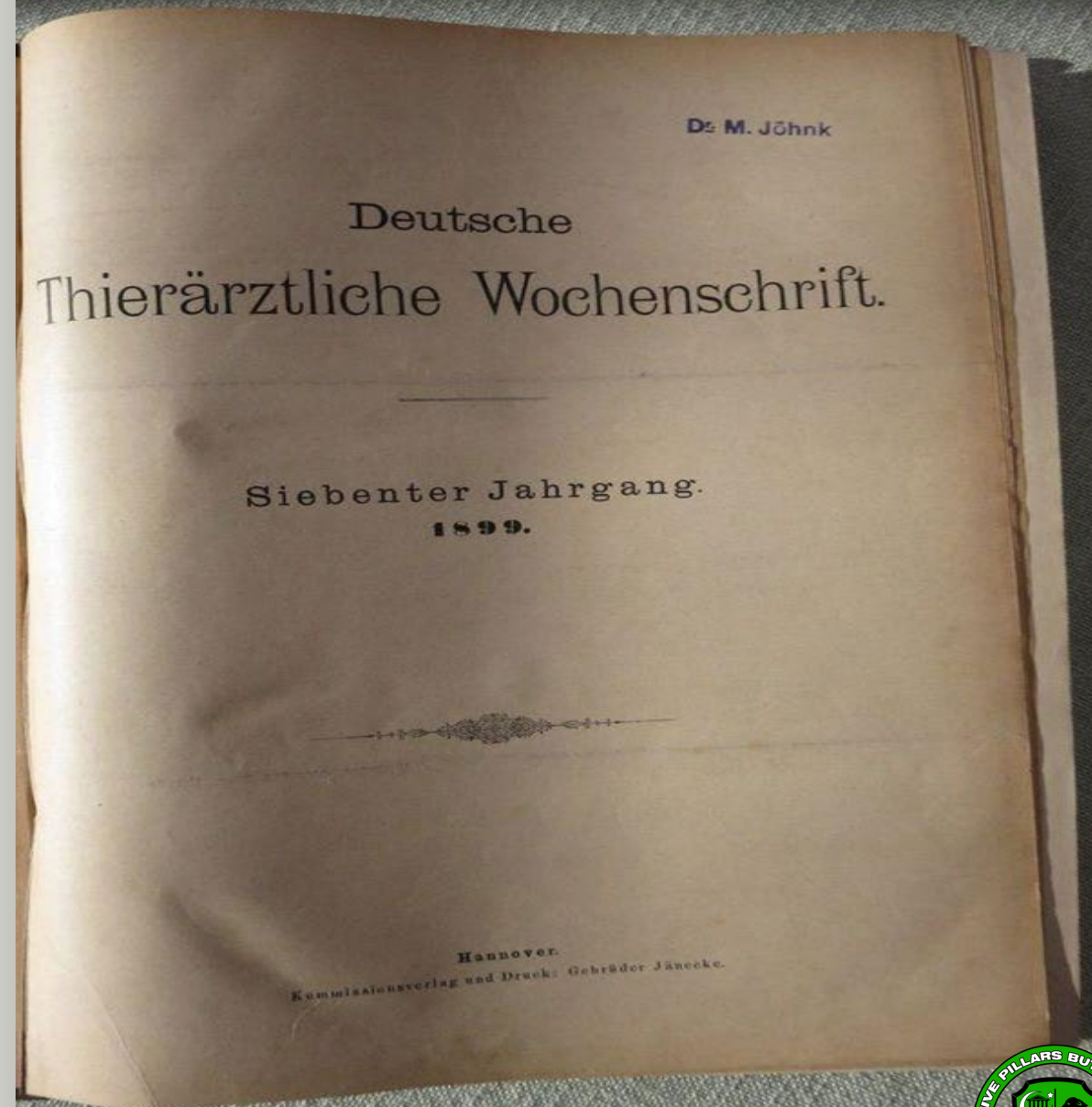
The fundamental principle of mechanical stunning includes the transfer of kinetic energy to the brain through a moving object which brings about the dysfunction or destruction of neurons followed by subsequent unconsciousness. Mechanical stunning of the animal is accomplished by utilizing a penetrating captive bolt or a nonpenetrative percussion stunner
(Vimini et al., 1983)

Captive bolt (penetrative) stunning is unacceptable from a Halal perspective because it causes irreversible damage and can cause brain material to pass into the lungs through the jugular veins



In Deutsche Tierärztliche Wochenschrift (German veterinary weekly) volume 85 (1978), a research team from the Hannover University in Germany examined the halal method of slaughtering vs. stun method of slaughtering using an EEG and ECG (where electrodes were surgically implanted to various parts of the skull) allowing to monitor the brain and heart throughout.

The Halal method of slaughtering showed there was no change in the EEG for the first three seconds indicating that the animal did not feel any pain from the cut itself and the following three seconds were characterized like deep sleep. The EEG recording was zero with no pain at all yet at that moment the heart was still beating and the body was convulsing vigorously as a reflex reaction of the spinal cord. It is this phase, which is unpleasant to the onlookers who are falsely convinced that the animal



Using the Western method of slaughtering, the animals were apparently unconscious after stunning and appeared much more peaceful for the onlookers. However, the EEG readings indicated severe pain immediately after stunning even though there were no unsightly convulsions. There was stoppage of the heart whilst the animal still felt pain. With the halal method the animal ceased to feel any pain due to the brain starvation of blood and oxygen (brain death).

**-summarized by Dr Rateb Jneid, President
Australian Federation of Islamic Councils**

Full Study link

https://azkahalal.files.wordpress.com/2014/02/stunning_pain_religion_german_pub_schultze.pdf

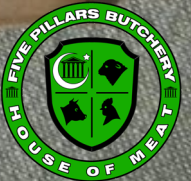
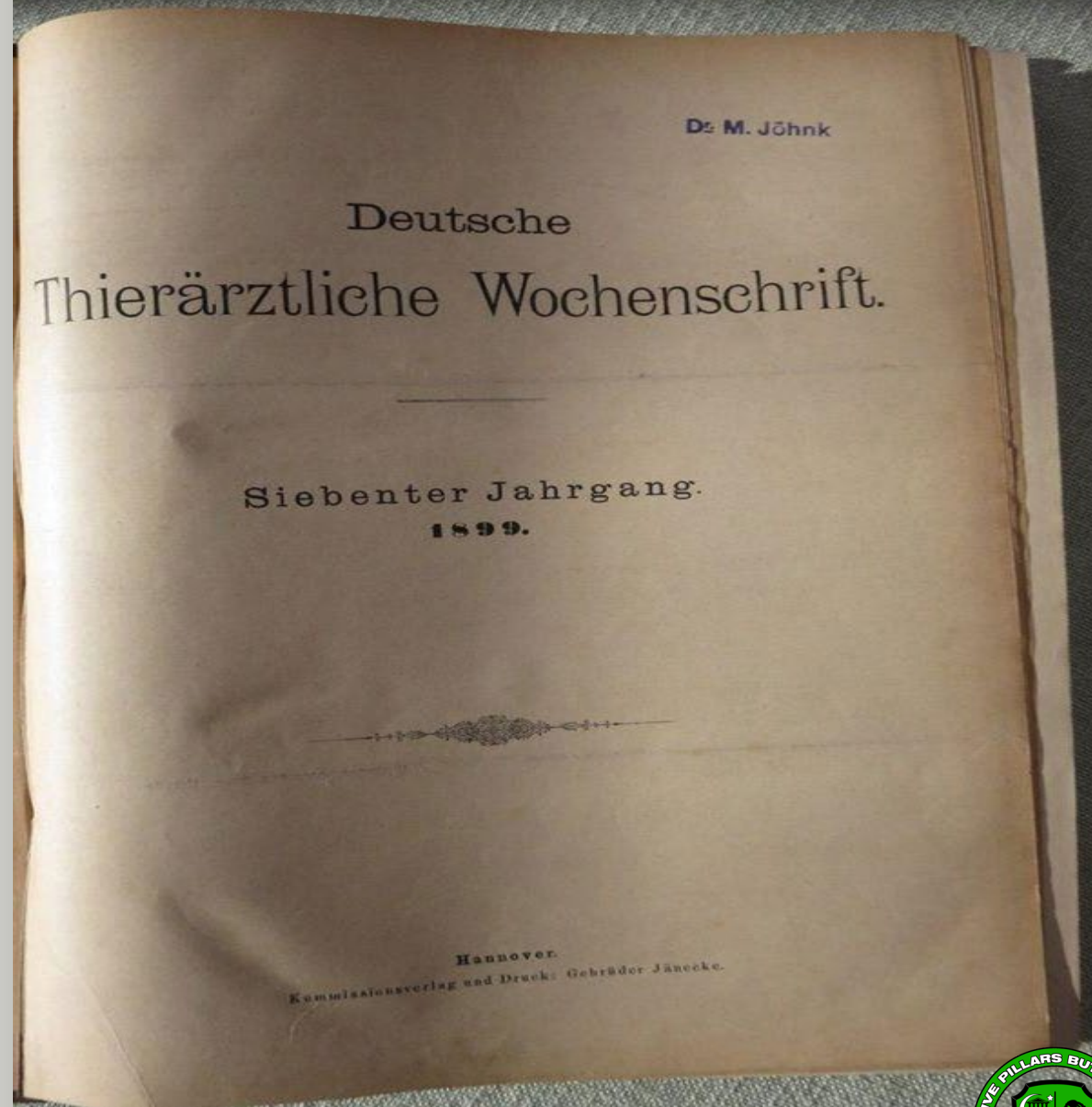
Islamic Services of America (ISA) a halal certifier and educator, also cites this source on their website

Why halal slaughter is humane

<https://www.isahalal.com/news-events/blog/why-halal-slaughter-humane>



Australian Federation
of Islamic Councils



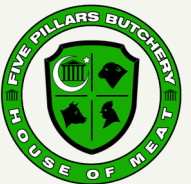
#3 PROVIDES A HEALTHIER PRODUCT

In traditional Halal slaughter, the animal's spinal chord is undamaged and the animal remains conscious. This allows for the heart to continue beating and active mobility of the animal's limbs; the slice cuts off blood and oxygen flow to the brain. According to the brain and behavioral responses, loss of consciousness occurs in 14 s in sheep by severing both jugular vein and carotid arteries without stunning, **(Gregory and Wotton, 1984a; Gregory et al., 2010; Gibson et al., 2015)**.

The heart beating and free movement of the limbs ensures that maximum drainage of blood flow occurs and removes the microorganisms and wastes, thus improving the meat's quality, taste, healthiness, and shelf life **(Nakyinsige et al., 2014)**.



Whereas with stunning, the bleeding is inefficient, because stunning impairs the bleeding process. **(Bartels, 1980, Petty et al., 1994)**

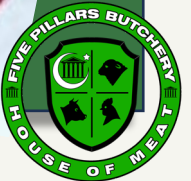


#3 PROVIDES A HEALTHIER PRODUCT

One study showed that cattle slaughtered without stunning had less residual haemoglobin retained in the muscles, and better bleeding efficiency than pneumatic-powered stunned cattle (Roça et al., 2001). In poultry, the blood volume lost from non-halal slaughtered chickens was significantly ($p < 0.05$) lower than from the halal slaughtered birds (Hakim et al., 2020).

Blood undergoes putrefaction quickly due to its high protein content and high pH (7.35 - 7.45) (Mucciolo, 1985).

In the case of incomplete bleeding in slaughtered bulls, the remainder of the blood stays in the muscles with a pH of about 7, thus leading to an increase in meat pH and water activity of the meat. The increase in pH and water activity facilitate the growth and multiplication of microorganisms that cause spoilage of the produced meat (Lahucky et al., 1998).



#4 CENTERS OUR CONNECTION WITH THE CREATOR

Bismillah translates to “In the name of God”. Muslims say bismillah before starting many things in their day to day lives:

- Entering a room
- At the beginning of prayer
- Before eating and drinking
- Before slaughtering an animal



Allahu Akbar translates to “God is the Greatest”. Muslims say Allahu Akbar to express their amazement and to call on God

- During joyous moments
- Moments of feeling oppressed
- When recognizing the natural beauty in the world
- Before slaughtering an animal, seeking permission to take it's life



ALLAHU AKBAR



There is an underlying violent nature of working in a slaughterhouse that poses a risk to the psychological well-being of employees. Cases of cumulative trauma disorder have been reported.

Furthermore, slaughterhouse employees often lack adequate resources to cope with the strenuous environment. In addition, violence against animals has been linked to psychological health problems in humans.

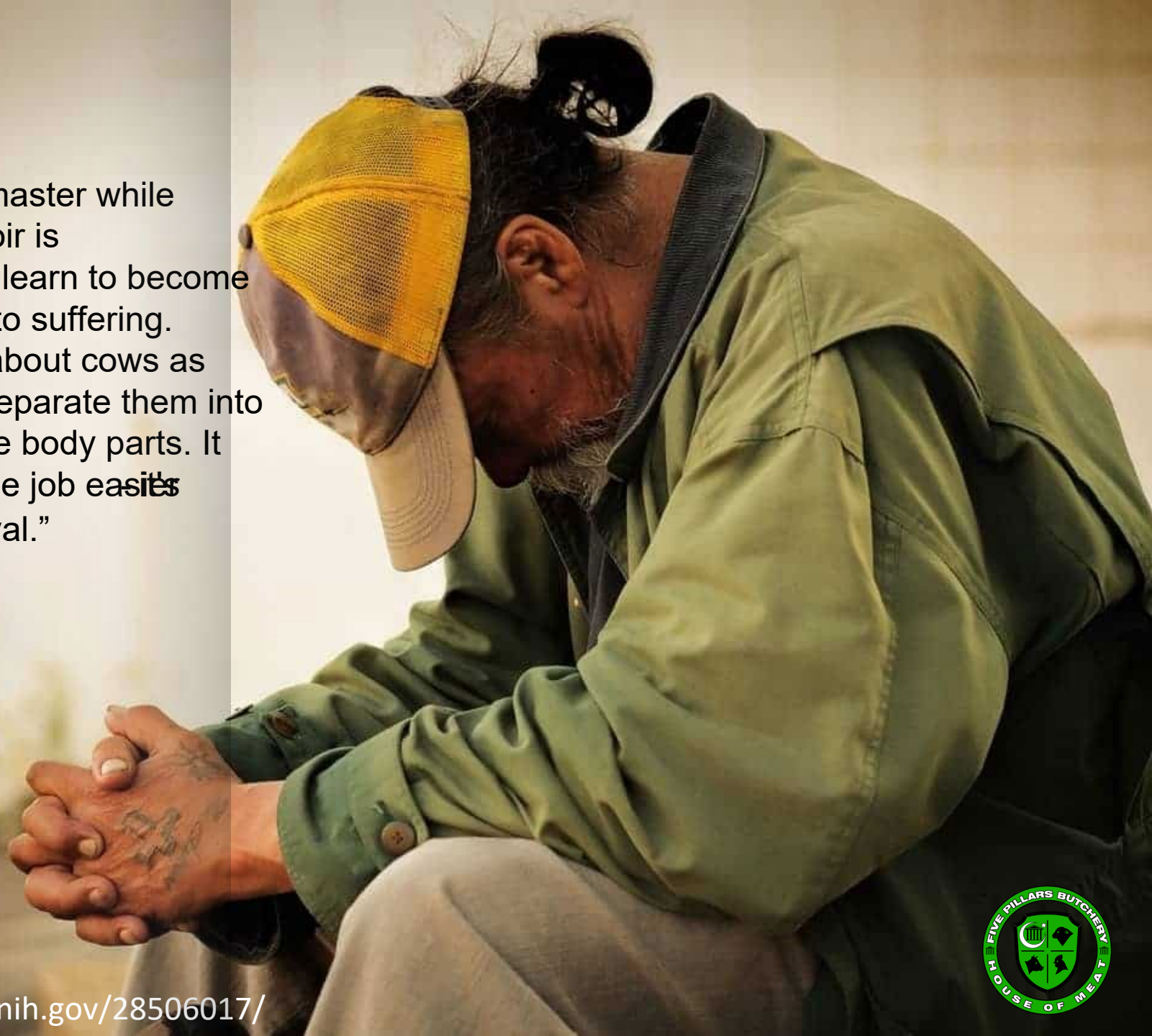
Worker interviews describe important indicators of factors leading to PTSD and symptoms of the lesser-known “Perpetrator-Induced Traumatic Stress” (PITS) syndrome, such as increasing dissociation and nightmares.

“I dream about the cattle, when you stun it, it just falls down, after falling down, when you open the door it will ask you: ‘Why are you killing me?’”

Prevalence of **Serious Psychological Distress** among workers was 4.4%, compared to United States population-wide prevalence of 3.6%.

Prevalence of mild and moderate psychological distress among these workers (14.6%) was also higher than national estimates.

“One skill that you master while working at an abattoir is disassociation. You learn to become numb to death and to suffering. Instead of thinking about cows as entire beings, you separate them into their saleable, edible body parts. It doesn't just make the job easier, it's necessary for survival.”



<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/28506017/>



Prayer can foster a sense of connection, whether it's to a higher power, what a person finds important in life or their values, Bremner says. Prayer can reduce feelings of isolation, anxiety and fear as well.

A 2009 study on the effects of prayer on depression and anxiety found that members of a group had lower rates of depression and anxiety and were more optimistic after sessions in which they prayed for one another, compared to the control group (which had no prayer sessions).

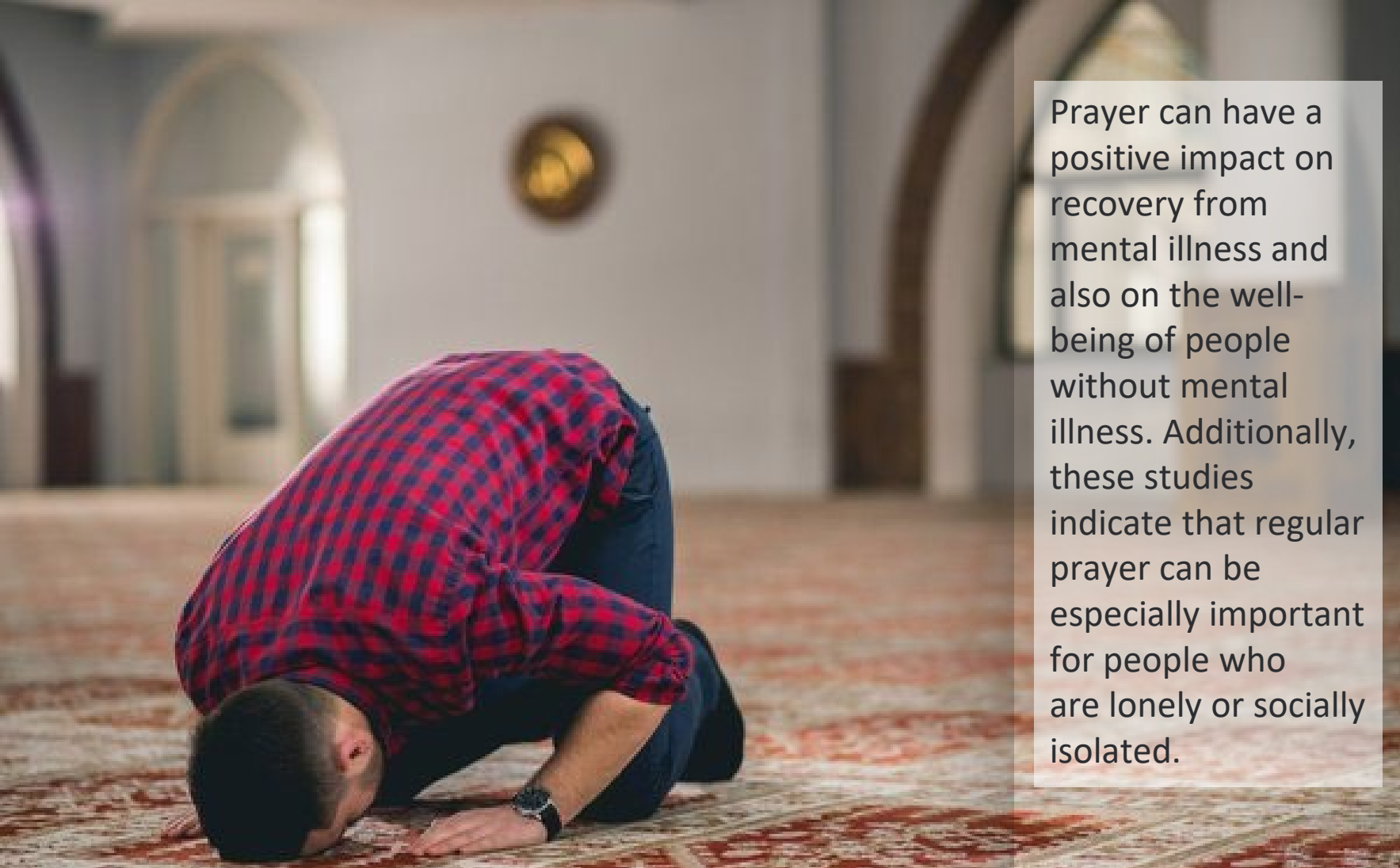
Kevin Masters, a professor of clinical health psychology at the University of Colorado, Denver says, "We are now quite aware that psychological experiences are intimately associated with important physiological processes, including immune system functioning."

"Rituals in general serve a calming function," said Ryan Bremner, an associate professor of psychology at the University of St. Thomas in Minnesota. "They distract the mind which might otherwise go down one of those rabbit holes of useless worry, and they give us a sense of influence or control over something that may not be

Incorporating prayer and maintaining God consciousness within such physically and emotionally strenuous work, can help minimize the negative impacts that many workers within the slaughter industry experience.



“There are strong associations between religiosity and both health and happiness,” Bremner said.



Prayer can have a positive impact on recovery from mental illness and also on the well-being of people without mental illness. Additionally, these studies indicate that regular prayer can be especially important for people who are lonely or socially isolated.

One large population [study](#), led by Harvard Professor Tyler VanderWeele, found that young adults who prayed daily tended to have fewer depressive symptoms, and higher levels of life satisfaction, self-esteem, and positive affect, in comparison to those who never prayed.

Another [study](#) examined the perspectives of over 2,000 adults with mental illness in California, finding that over 80 percent agreed or strongly agreed that spirituality was important to their mental health. Moreover, over 70 percent indicated that prayer was helpful to their mental health.



Chapter 6 “The Livestock”

“There is not a moving (living) creature on earth, nor a bird that flies with its two wings, but are communities like you. We have neglected nothing in the Book, then unto their Lord they (all) shall be gathered.”
Surrah Al-Anam 6:38





QUESTIONS WELCOMED!!!

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