

Relationship Between Islamic Teachings (*Haram* of The Pork Consumption) and Human Health (Biology)

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Abstract

Each religion has its own teaching or rules including Islam. Islam is revealed by Allah SWT to spread goodness and salvation or so called *Rahmatanlil'alamiin* (blessing to the entire universe), so that the teachings won't harm the believer, one of the teachings of Islam is the *haram* to consume pork. The prohibition has no such clear reason in Al-Qur'an. The reason can only be clarified by using science method that is appropriate to the problem. One of the science that can clarify the reason is biology. In this paper the authors will correlate the teachings of Islam (*haram* of the pork consumption) and human health (biology). The method used is the analysis of the results research and literature study. It can be seen that the teachings of Islam *haram* of the pork consumption, because pork contains parasites.

Keywords: Teachings, Islam, Pork, Humans.

Introduction

According to the Great Dictionary of the Indonesian Language, religion is a system that regulates the belief order to the Almighty God, as well as rules and prohibitions that have been determined by those beliefs that relate to human and human relations and their environment. Some people, when asked about religion, the answer is the handle of life that they embrace which gives peace (Baharuddin, 2013: 73). Indonesia is a plurality country in terms of religion. There are more than five religions adopted by Indonesian society, one of them is Islam.

The term Islam means salvation or obedience. Islamic teaching essentially carries out various aspects in human life. The sources of the teachings are Al-Qur'an and Hadith (Baso, 2013: 129). One of teachings in Islam are the *haram* to eat pork, that already explained in Al-Qur'an Q.S al-An'am verse 145. The regulations in Islamic religion, particularly prohibitions, must be have a reason that should be examined by studying existing science. One of the science is biology.

Biology is a science that studies about life and interaction between living things to their environment (Enger & Rose, 2002: 11), including the study about parasites that harm other living things, such as the tapeworm parasite (*Taeniasolium*). The tapeworm

parasite nests inside pig's muscles so when human eats pork, they could be infected by that parasite. Facts showed that science (biology) and Islamic teaching are related. Muzaffar states that the linkage or integration between religion and science is something that may happen nowadays. The aim of this study is to determine the relationship between the *haram* of the pork consumption to human health.

Method

The method used in this paper is analysis of study result from Jurnal Fauna Tropika "Endoparasites of Javan Warty Pig (*Sus verrucosus*) and their Prevalence in Surabaya Zoo" and literature study method using Quraish Shihab's *Tafsir* to interpret the Al-Qur'an verses.

Discussion

The results and discussions in this paper will explain the Al-Quran verses that explains the prohibition of pork for consumption and the interpretation of the verse, the second part will explain pork in biology, including the analysis of research results of the Jurnal

Fauna Tropika "Endoparasites of Javan Warty Pig (*Sus verrucosus*) and their Prevalence in Surabaya Zoo", and the third part explains the relationship of pork consumption and human health.

1. Prohibition of Pork Consumption in Islam

Islamic religion has *haram* the believer to consume pork, it has been explained in Q.S Al-An'am verse 145 as follows:

قُلْ لَا أَجِدُ فِي مَا أُوحِيَ إِلَيَّ مُحَرَّمًا عَلَى طَاعِمٍ يَطْعَمُهُ إِلَّا أَنْ يَكُونَ مَيْتَةً أَوْ دَمًا

مَسْفُوحًا أَوْ لَحْمَ خِنْزِيرٍ فَإِنَّهُ رُجْسٌ أَوْ فِسْقًا أُهِلَّ لِغَيْرِ اللَّهِ بِهِ ۗ فَمَنْ اضْطُرَّ غَيْرَ بَاغٍ

وَلَا عَادٍ فَإِنَّ رَبَّكَ غَفُورٌ رَحِيمٌ.

Meaning: Say, "I do not find within that which was revealed to me (anything) forbidden to one who would eat it unless it be a dead animal or blood spilled out or the flesh of swine—for indeed, it is impure—or it be (that slaughtered in) disobedience, dedicated to other than Allah. But whoever is forced (by necessity), neither desiring (it) nor transgressing (its limit), then indeed, your Lord is Forgiving and Merciful. (Q.S. Al an'am: 145).

Moreover, there are also another verses of Al-Qur'an that explain the prohibition of pork consumption; Q.S Al-Maidah verse 3 and Q.S Al-Baqarah verse 173. The verse Al-Qur'an and translation above is enough to explain that pork is *haram* or prohibited for consumption. Quraish Shihab's interpretation about that prohibition is because pig is dirty and *najis*. Pigs are omnivore that eat either dead or rotten things, including human and animal feces. Therefore, pigs easily spread disease that can be transmitted to humans.

2. Pigs in Biology Science

Pigs are omnivorous mammals. Pigs are an intermediate hosts for the development of parasitic animal's life cycles such as tapeworms (*Taenia solium*). *Taenia solium* enters the invertebrate animals in the phylum Platyhelminthes classes cestoida. *Taenia solium*'s life cycle started when the eggs or gravid proglotids in feces passed into environment. Then the embryonated eggs and/or gravid proglotids ingested by pigs. Then it develops into a larva that forms a cyst (oncosphere) and the oncosphere hatch, penetrate intestinal wall, and circulate to musculature. Humans infected by ingesting raw or undercooked infected meat and the larvae develops to adults inside the human's body (Campbell: 2008).

Pigs are not only contaminated by tapeworms, but also contaminated by other parasitic animals

and protozoa. This is evidenced by the study "Endoparasites of Javan Warty Pig (*Sus verrucosus*)" by Kartika and Nugroho (2007). The result shows that there is only feces from one pig among seven warty pigs that's not contaminated by endoparasites, while six other are contaminated. Endoparasites found in warty pigs are *Ascaris* sp. (round worms), *Oesophagostomum* sp. (nodular worms), oocyte of *Eimeria* sp. (protozoa), trophocyte forms and cysts from *Balantidium coli* (protozoa). If humans consume pork that has been contaminated by these parasites, they will be infected that causes diarrhea and other disease.

3. Correlation between the *Haram* of the Pork Consumption and Human Health

Pig is an animal that *haram* to consume because Allah has explained it in Al-Qu'ran that they are dirty and *najis*. While biology explains that pig is an animal that is easily infected with parasites. Moreover, pigs also known as greedy animals because they eat anything, including their feces. Pigs are also an intermediate host for the development of tapeworm parasites (*Taenia solium*). Thus it can be clearly known that Islam forbids the believer to consume pork because pigs are easily contaminated or infected by parasites that endanger human health.

Conclusion

The *haram* of pork consuming based on the reasons that they are dirty and *najis* because they are a carriers of several diseases, it is evidenced that pork contains various parasites such as *Ascaris* sp. (round worms), *Oesophagostomum* sp. (nodular worms), oocytes from *Eimeria* sp. (protozoa), and the trophocytes forms and cysts of *Balantidium coli* (protozoa). Biology has explained the process of the parasite's transmission, so it clearly explains the reason why Islam prohibits the believer to consume pork.

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