20843 - What Happens If Muslims Eat Pork?

the question

When I was small, I went abroad with my family. During the plane trip, we were given biscuits and we ate them, not knowing they contained lard (made from pig). As soon as my mother found out, she forbade us from eating them anymore. As far as I can remember, we did not wash our hands or mouth using water and earth (6 times with plain water, once with water mixed with earth) as the Prophet
instructed whenever a Muslim has contact with pigs or anything derived from pigs. A few years later, again when I was abroad, I accidentally ate pork. Again, I did not wash my mouth using water mixed with earth.
My question is, these two incidents happened a few years ago and there are no remains of the pork that we ate either in smell, taste or colour on either our hands or in our mouths. Do we still have to clean them now? I am afraid Allah will not accept any of our prayers because of these two incidents long ago.
Please help me in clarifying this matter.

Summary of answer

If Muslims eat pig meat without intending to, there is no sin on them. The correct view is that pig-related impurity should be washed only once.

Detailed answer

Praise be to Allah.

What Happens If Muslims Eat Pork?

There is no sin on you for eating pig meat without intending to, because Allah says (interpretation of the meaning):

“And there is no sin on you concerning that in which you made a mistake, except in regard to what your hearts deliberately intend. And Allah is Ever Oft-Forgiving, Most Merciful.” [al-Ahzab 33:5]

And the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said: “Allah has forgiven my ummah for mistakes, forgetfulness and that which they are forced to do.” Narrated by Ibn Majah, 2043; classed as sahih by al-Albani.

The Muslim should be cautious with regard to food, especially if he is in a non-Muslim country whose people eat impure foods.

How to cleanse after eating pork

With regard to how to cleanse oneself of pig-related impurity , some scholars are of the view that it should be washed seven times, one of which should be with earth, by analogy with dogs.

But the correct view is that pig-related impurity should be washed only once. Al-Nawawi (may Allah have mercy on him) said in his commentary on Muslim (Sharh Muslim): “Most of the scholars were of the view that pig-related impurity does not have to be washed seven times. This is the view of al-Shafi’i, and it has the strongest evidence.”

This is what Shaykh Ibn ‘Uthaymein thought most likely to be correct, as he said in al-Sharh al-Mumti’, 1/495): “The jurists (may Allah have mercy on them) likened (pig-related) impurity to dog-related impurity, because pigs are dirtier than dogs, so the ruling should apply even more so.

This is a weak analogy, because pigs are mentioned in the Quran and they existed at the time of the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him), and there is no report which likens them to dogs. So the correct view is that pig-related impurity is like any other kind of impurity, and there is no need to wash seven times, one of which should be with dust or dirt.”

The correct view concerning washing other types of impurity is that whatever will remove the impurity is sufficient, and there is no specific number of times it must be washed.

No matter what the correct view with regard to cleansing oneself after touching pigs, you do not

have to wash any part of your bodies now, and that does not have any effect on your prayers.

And Allah knows best.