

Surah 22, al Hajj (The Pilgrimage), Medina 103

The Text of the Quran & Yusuf Ali's Translation:

لَنْ يَنَالَ اللَّهَ لُحُومُهَا وَلَا دِمَاؤُهَا وَلَكِنْ يَنَالُهُ التَّقْوَىٰ مِنْكُمْ...^{up}

22: 37. It is not their meat nor their blood, that reaches God: it is your piety that reaches Him:

...كَذَلِكَ سَخَّرَهَا لَكُمْ لِتُكَبِّرُوا اللَّهَ عَلَىٰ مَا هَدَاكُمْ...

He has thus made them subject to you, that ye may glorify God for His guidance to you:

...وَبَشِّرِ الْمُحْسِنِينَ ﴿٣٧﴾

and proclaim the Good News to all who do right.

Muhammad Asad's Translation:

22:37 [But bear in mind:] **never does their flesh reach God, and neither their blood: it is only your God-consciousness** that reaches Him. It is to this end that We have made them subservient to your

needs, so that you might glorify God for all the guidance with which He has graced you. And give thou this glad tiding unto the doers of good:

Ali's Comments:

2815. The essence of sacrifice has been explained in n. 2810. No one should suppose that meat or blood is acceptable to the One True God. **It was a Pagan fancy that Allah could be appeased by blood sacrifice.** But Allah does accept the offering of our hearts, and as a symbol of such offer, some visible institution is necessary. He has given us power over the brute creation, and permitted us to eat meat, but only if we pronounce His name at the solemn act of taking life, for without this solemn invocation, we are apt to forget the sacredness of life. By the invocation we are reminded that wanton cruelty is not in our thoughts, but only the need of food. Now if we further deny the greater part of the food (some theologians fix the proportion at three-quarters or two-thirds) for the sake of our poorer brethren in solemn assembly in the precincts of the Haram (sacred territory), our symbolic act finds practical expression in benevolence, and that is the virtue sought to be taught.

We should be grateful to Allah for His guidance in this matter, in which many people have gone wrong, and we should proclaim the true doctrine so that virtue and charity may increase among men.