MYM LITERATURE

The Wide World of Halal

by Arif Kabir

Where Muslims come home to reflect

The Wide World of Halal

By Arif Kabir
November 12, 2009

While on Google, I was typing in "Muslims Can" and was surprised with the search suggestions that I received:

Whatever happened to being optimistic? It seems that whenever people think or write about Islam, especially when it comes to culinary

matters, they concentrate on what is not allowed: "I can't eat hamburgers, I can't drink alcohol, I can't etc, etc, etc." Shaykh Magdy Warda, a prolific speaker in the United States, once discussed this in a Khutbah at PGMA and said that we start to think that everything is Haraam, then we're stuck in a small "Haraam box". It's extremely small, but once you're trapped inside of it, the world around you seems so stark and Haraam; it's as if you can't do anything...

However, once we get out of the Haraam box, we see the wide world of Halal all around us – You can do everything except a few miniscule things! You can eat everything out there from chocolate truffles to Chinese chow mein or drink anything from Coca-Cola to mocha cappuccinos, provided you stay away from just a meager list of items that turn out to be bad for you. If we were to really compare the amount of Halal vs. the amount of Haram out there, the Halal would dominate. Like really dominate.

One may argue that in the West especially, it's becoming increasingly hard to find Halal foods because a lot of Haram ingredients gets added to the food that was originally Halal. But to this, remember that there is a Halal alternative to all the Haram that they pose out there. For example, a lot of people substitute turkey with ham for pepperoni pizzas and buy from Muslim companies instead of the local supermarket. Hey, if you really can't find an alternative, then go make one! (Of course, I do get a commission if you go ahead with the idea:).

> *"O you who believe! Eat of the lawful things that We have provided you with, and be grateful to Allah, if it is indeed He Whom you worship."*
>
> *Qur'an 2:172*

Take a good look at the world around you. All Praise is to the Lord who gave us so much to benefit from!