

Al-An'am (The Cattle) [6:142]

وَمِنَ الْأَنْعَامِ حَمُولَةٌ وَفَرَشَاتٌ كُلُوا مِمَّا رَزَقَكُمُ اللَّهُ وَلَا تَتَّبِعُوا خُطُوبَاتِ
الشَّيْطَانِ إِنَّهُ لَكُمْ عَدُوٌّ مُّبِينٌ ﴿١٤٢﴾

Of the cattle are some for burden and some for meat: eat what Allah has provided for you, and follow not the footsteps of Satan: for he is to you and avowed enemy.

MUHAMMAD HUSAIN TABA TABAI (AR)

And among cattle some are bearers of burden and some (low fit) only for spreading ; eat of what God provides you with , and do not follow the footstep of Satan; verily he is your declared enemy.

“Al Hamulah” is the word used for the large quadrupeds that have the strength to carry loads and “Al Farash” is the small animals and they walk closer to the earth or they spread like a mat over the earth.

Eat of what God provides you with means these animals are permitted to be eaten. The permission is like the previous verse that says, “Crops of different taste and shape”.

God says, *Follow not the footstep of Shaitan, He is your declared enemy*

Do not make the permitted to be that which is banned by following the Shaitan and this has been previously explained, that following Shaitan ignorantly will make you do so.

MIR AHMED ALI (AR)

Farsh implies those animals (goats, sheep etcetera) which are thrown down on the ground for slaughter. Farasha means to spread on the floor. Also beds and mats are made from their skins and wool.

AYATULLAH KAMAL FAQIH IMANI AND SEVERAL SCHOLARS

The objective meaning of the Arabic word 'farsh', in this verse, is some cattle like sheep which for the nearness of their bodies to the ground are considered as spread; or that some spreads are waved from their wool, down, and hair.

The usage of wool, hair and skin of cattle is also pointed out in Sura An-Nahl, No. 16, verse 80. It says:

" And Allah has given you a place to abide in your houses, and He has given you tents of the skins of cattle which you find light to carry on the day of your march and on the day of your halting, and of their wool and their fur and their hair (He has given you) household stuff and a provision for a time."

In the previous verse, the names of a few fruits were mentioned, and here, in this verse, some of the blessings of cattle are referred to. Thus, bearers of burden and spread have been connected to the fruits and gardens which were mentioned in the previous verse.

" And of the cattle some are bearers of burden and some (low fit) for spreading. ..."

Most of the commentators have rendered the 'bearers of burden' into those cattle which carry burdens, and 'spreading' into cattle which do not carry burdens. In the former verse agriculture was referred to, and in this verse it points to keeping cattle.

Therefore, the existence of the world and all His created things are purposefully and wisely tamed to humankind.

Concerning cattles, the general law and principal is that their meat is lawful to be consumed, except that there is a reason for their prohibition.

"... Eat of what Allah has provided you with, and do not follow the footsteps of Satan, verily he is a manifest foe for you."