

القرآن الكريم

﴿فَكُلُوهُ هَنِيئًا مَرِيئًا﴾



(النساء: ٤)

Question

Dear Respected Shaykh,

Regarding *Sūrah al-Nisā'*, āyah 4:

﴿فَإِنْ طَبْنَ لَكُمْ عَنْ شَيْءٍ مِنْهُ نَفْسًا فَكُلُوهُ هَنِيئًا مَرِيئًا﴾

I have always been curious what ﴿هَنِيئًا مَرِيئًا﴾ means.

No translation gives its exact meaning.

Please shed some light on its meaning.

Faḍīlat al-Shaykh Dr. V. Abdur Rahim (حفظه الله) replies:



Dear Br Abdullah Abdur-Raheem

وعليكم السلام

هَنْؤُ الطَّعَامِ يَهْنُؤُ هَنَاءً (u-u) means *to be wholesome, salubrious, healthy*.

This is said of food.

هَنِئٌ is *wholesome, healthy and salubrious*.

The word مَرُؤُ الطَّعَامِ يَمْرُؤُ مَرَاءً also has the meaning.

And مَرِيئٌ has the same meaning as هَنِئٌ.

Mostly, these two words are used together.

Offering food to someone, one may say:

كُلْهُ هَنِئًا مَرِيئًا

Meaning, 'Eat this, may it be wholesome and salubrious to you'.

Even nowadays when an Arab sees someone eating, he says: هَنِئًا.

In the *āyah* (4:4), the word ﴿كُلُوا﴾ has been used with the meaning of '*make use of*', but in view of its original meaning the words هَنِئًا مَرِيئًا have been used with it.

So the meaning of:

﴿فَإِنْ طِبْنَ لَكُمْ عَنْ شَيْءٍ مِنْهُ نَفْسًا فَكُلُوهُ هَنِيئًا مَرِيئًا﴾

is that *if the wives grant you part of their mahr of their own accord, accept it, and make use of it in a wholesome manner.*

Hope this has helped you to understand the *āyah* better.

abdur rahim