

of meat. Thus we learn through Herodotus and Plutarch that the Egyptians were forbidden to eat pork for the reason that it produced an excess of humors and eruptions. The animals which served as offerings to the gods and as food for the priests had to be carefully inspected. Only the meat of "clean" animals could be used in offerings and eaten. The use of "unclean" meat, on the other hand, was forbidden. Moreover, sacrificial animals were required to be perfectly healthy and free from defect. Such animals were certified by a mark on the horns (a strip of paper sealed with clay). Death punishment was prescribed for priests who slaughtered an animal which was not certified in this manner. The meat of cows was not eaten by the Egyptians, since the cow was the sacred animal of Isis. Likewise, the meat of other animals which were considered sacred was forbidden food. Among the Egyptians the hog was the most unclean of all animals. Even accidental contact with it made one unclean, and led to exclusion from the temple until purification.

Moses commanded the Israelites to eat no fat and no blood and to avoid the meat of hogs. Concerning sacrificial animals, it is stated in Leviticus, Ch. xxii, v. 22: "Blind, or broken, or maimed, or having a wen, or scurvy, or scabbed, ye shall not offer these unto the Lord." Furthermore, "unwholesome meat, carrion, and anything which has defects shall not be slaughtered, and that which remains of sacrificed animals after the third day shall be burned with fire." Animals which were torn by other animals were regarded the same as carrion. The meat of animals which were affected with wasting diseases could not be eaten. The eating of blood was forbidden because Moses considered the blood as the seat of life which belonged to the Creator from whom all life originated. By offering the blood of animals, believers reconciled their souls with God. The High Priest purified himself in order to enter the holy of holies once a year. The eating of fat was forbidden because, like blood, it was intended for sacrifice. According to Tacitus, the consumption of pork was forbidden to the Israelites, not only from religious grounds, but also because the origin of "lepra Arabum" was ascribed to it. The animals which were permitted to be used as food included all of the ruminant ungulates, all fish which bear fins and scales, and birds which do not feed on carrion. Eating the meat of young animals was forbidden. A legal regulation was directed against the slaughter of such animals: "When an ox, or a lamb, or a goat is born, it shall be with its dam for seven days and thereafter it