The Chicago Center
Digest
Mishna Berura
THE DAILY RESOURCE FOR MISHNA BERURA YOMI
Mon, February 7, 2022 ■ ו אדר א', תשפ"ב
סימן קנ"ח סעיף ב'-ד'

Halacha Highlight

Washing for food dipped in one of the seven liquids

Shulchan Aruch Siman 158 Seif 4

אם אוכל דבר שטבולו באחד משבעה משקין

If one eats a food that is dipped in one of the seven liquids.

Shulchan Aruch (סע' ד') introduces the halacha that one who dips food into one of the seven liquids and the food will be eaten while still wet he must wash his hands before eating that food. The procedure for washing is the same as if one was washing for bread except that the beracha is not recited (מ"ב סק"כ). Even if one is careful to touch the food on a spot that is not wet, one is required to wash out of concern that he may touch the wet part of the food as well (מ"ב ס"ק י"ט). Although Shulchan Aruch mentions dipping food into one of the liquids, Sha'arei Teshuvah (סק"ד) cites authorities who maintain that even if one washed a food to remove dirt from its surface one is required to wash if he will eat the food while it is still wet. The definition of wet is טופח על מנת להטפיח—the food is wet enough that it can wet a second surface which itself will be able to wet a third surface. Even if the food is that wet on only one spot the requirement to wash is in force (פסקי תשובות אות ח').

Rema writes that even if one only dips the top of the vegetable or fruit into one of the liquids he is required to wash. The reason is the concern that he may immerse the entire food. *Poskim* note that based on this explanation when there is no concern that one will immerse the entire food one is not required to wash. In this regard it would be comparable to a person who eats a dipped food with a utensil rather than his hands where the *halacha* is that one is not required to wash (מ"ב ס"ק כ"ו). For example, one who dips a cracker in soup or some other mezonos food in a hot liquid where there is no concern that one will immerse the food entirely since one does not want his finger to touch the liquid he would not be required to wash (פסקי תשובות אות י').

Stories to Share

The Morning Snack

ש"ע קנ"ח, ד': "צריך נטילה בלא ברכה..."

A certain student learned that one should wash his hands before eating anything dipped in the seven types of liquids, and wondered about whether he was obligated to do so, as we find in the Mishnah Berurah on today's mud. After all, most people are not careful in this regard now. But the Mishnah Berurah rules like the Magen Avraham that one must wash, and the Vilna Gaon even holds one should make a blessing.

The man realized that if it was truly an obligation he would have to wash every day, since he ate a pastry with his morning coffee and liked to dip the cake in the drink, but what choice did he have?

Surprisingly, when this question reached Rav Yosef Shalom Eliyashiv, zt"l, he ruled leniently. "Although the Mishnah Berurah rules that one may not eat food which was in one of the seven liquids without washing, I am lenient in this matter. Although it is certainly a good custom to follow the Magen Avraham in this regard, it is not an obligation. (קונטרס מצות הפסח, ע' כ"ד) But one who wishes to wash should not interrupt between washing and eating.

הלכות ברכת הנהנין וברכת המזון, ע' 24

Overview

Siman 158 Seif 2:

There is an opinion that maintains that if one will eat less than an egg's volume of bread he should wash but should not recite the *beracha*.

- If the bread was the volume of an egg without its shell all opinions agree that he must wash with a *beracha*. (M.B. 9)

Siman 158 Seif 3:

If one eats less than an olive's volume of bread there is an authority who maintains that he is not required to wash.

- Since the matter is subject to debate one should wash but not recite the *beracha*. (M.B. 10)
- If one eats some bread to counter a strong drink in a manner that does not require a *beracha* on the food there is a dispute whether he must wash. If the bread is less than the volume of an olive he certainly is not required to wash but normally when eating the quantity of less than an olive or an egg one should wash without reciting the *beracha*. (M.B. 10)

Siman 158 Seif 4:

If one eats food that is dipped in one of the seven liquids whose mnemonic is י"ד שח"ט דם (wine, honey, oil, milk, dew, blood and water) **and it is not dried off one is required to wash without reciting the *beracha* even if one's hand does not touch a wet part of the food.** Even if one immerses only the top of the fruit or vegetable he must still wash without reciting the *beracha*.

- This *halacha* applies even if one is eating vegetables, fruit or meat. (M.B. 11)
- It is considered eating a food that is dipped even if his intent was to clean the food. Foods that are not dipped or become wet do not require hand washing. Someone who dips his finger in one of these liquids and then licks his finger is not required to wash. (M.B. 12)
- Honey refers to bee honey. (M.B. 14)
- If a liquid congealed to the point that it is only moist rather than wet (אין בו טופח על מנת להטפיח) it is considered a solid. According to Tosafos this remains true even after the food melts except for wine, water and milk. There is a disagreement regarding honey and Chaye Adam rules that if one melted the honey with the honeycomb it never acquired the status of a liquid since there was never intent to drink it but if it was made ready for drinking it is a liquid and requires washing even if it is used for frying a food. Derech HaChaim asserts that if the food with honey is eaten with a fork it is unnecessary to wash. (M.B. 14)
- Oil is limited to olive oil. (M.B. 15)
- Melted butter is the same as milk. Congealed butter is a food rather than a liquid. Food fried in butter requires hand washing but Chaye Adam asserts that this is limited to where the butter was melted before the food was put into the butter. (M.B. 16)
- Perhaps the reference to blood refers to the consumption of blood for some medicinal purpose. (M.B. 17)
- Magen Avrohom in the name of Lechem Chamudos justifies the lenient practice of people not to wash before eating a food dipped in liquid but one should wash. (M.B. 20)
- One should wash the same way that he washes for bread but if he is eating less than an olive's volume it is unnecessary to be stringent and wash. (M.B. 20)