The Chicago Center
Digest
Mishna Berura
THE DAILY RESOURCE FOR MISHNA BERURA YOMI
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סימן ר"ד סעיף ב'-ה'

Overview

Siman 204 Seif 2:

When one drinks vinegar one does not recite a beracha since it is harmful.

- Shulchan Aruch refers to one who drinks vinegar that is so strong that it bubbles when thrown on the ground but if it is not that strong one must recite a beracha since one derives pleasure from it. (M.B. 24)

Siman 204 Seif 3:

If it smells like vinegar but tastes like wine it is considered wine and one recites בורא פרי הגפן.

Siman 204 Seif 4:

If people refrain from drinking wine because it is vinegary, one does not recite בורא פרי הגפן (rather one recites שהכל).

- The taste began to turn vinegary to the point that people would refrain from drinking it. (M.B. 26)

Siman 204 Seif 5:

One recites בורא פרי הגפן when drinking wine sediment. If one added three parts water and ended up with four parts of liquid, the beverage is diluted wine, and one recites בורא פרי הגפן, but if one found less than this amount, even though it tastes like wine, it is mere sharpness and one only recites שהכל. This is true regarding their wines that were strong, but our wines that are not as strong even if one added three parts water and ended up with four parts liquid one does not recite בורא פרי הגפן. It would seem that this matter is determined by the dilution rate of wine in that place as long as the wine is not mixed with six parts water since if that is the case it is nullified altogether.

- This refers to drinking the sediment without adding water and since it contains wine one recites בורא פרי הגפן. (M.B. 27)
- This halacha would not apply to the sediment of raisin wine since it was already mixed with water and adding additional water would certainly nullify the wine taste. (M.B. 28)
- This is true for wine sediment since the liquid that is extracted is not so significant, but regarding wine it is possible to add even six parts water and still retain the status of wine, as long as it tastes like wine. (M.B. 29)
- Rema is difficult to understand why he is presenting a more lenient position with regards to the ratio of sediment to water and Agur's position cited by Rema was, in fact, stated with regards to wine rather than wine sediment. (M.B. 31)
- If there are not six parts water to one part wine, one recites בורא פרי הגפן as long as it tastes and smells like wine and people would drink it diluted to that degree. (M.B. 32)
- This is true even if it has the taste of wine since it is no more than the sharpness of the wine but does not constitute actual wine. (M.B. 33)

Halacha Highlight

Diluting wine with water

Shulchan Aruch Siman 204 Seif 5

אבל יינות שלנו שאינן חזקים כל כך

But our wines that are not so strong

Shulchan Aruch (סעי' ה') discusses making wine by pouring water over wine sediment so that the water absorbs the taste of the grape sediment. He rules that as long as the water that is added is not more than three times the wine that comes out of the sediment, one may recite בורא פרי הגפן. He then qualifies this ruling and asserts that this is true only regarding the wine which was made in the past, but our wine is not as strong and even if the mixture is one part wine and three parts water one would not recite בורא פרי הגפן. Rema then adds that the wine should not be a sixth or less of the water in the mixture. Mishnah Berurah notes that Rema's comment is difficult to understand, since Shulchan Aruch just finished asserting that we must be more stringent nowadays since our wines are less concentrated so it doesn't follow that Rema would express a more lenient opinion allowing the wine to be 1/6 of the mixture. He therefore suggests that the source for this ruling is Sefer HaAgur, and if one reads what he writes inside, it will be evident that he was referring to wine that is pressed out of grapes rather than wine which is being manufactured by pouring water over grape sediment. Accordingly, there is no disagreement between Shulchan Aruch and Rema and they both agree that even nowadays one may dilute one measure of wine with up to five measures of water (מ"ש ס"ק כ"ט ול"א).

Kaf HaChaim (אות ל"א) disagrees, and contends that Rema disagrees with Shulchan Aruch, and Shulchan Aruch's ruling that nowadays one may not recite בורא פרי הגפן if one mixed three parts water with one part wine applies to regular wine as well as wine made by pouring water over grape sediments. According to Kaf HaChaim one should be cautious not to mix a greater quantity of water into wine since according to his opinion it may then lose its status of wine (פסקי תשובות אות ח').