The Chicago Center
Digest
Mishna Berura
THE DAILY RESOURCE FOR MISHNA BERURA YOMI
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סימן רי"א סעיף א'

Overview

Siman 211 Seif 1:

If one has many varieties of fruit that share the same beracha and one of the fruits is from the seven species, it takes precedence even though it is not the one that he prefers to eat. If none of the fruit are from the seven species, he should recite the beracha on the one that he prefers to eat. If there are foods that do not share the same beracha, even if one of them is one of the seven species, e.g. raddish and olives, one may eat first whichever one he chooses, even if it is not preferred. According to some authorities in this case one should give precedence to the one that he prefers. A food is "preferred" if it is the food that he generally prefers even if at this time he prefers the other food.

- There is a disagreement whether we follow the opinion that asserts that one of the seven species should be given preference or whether one may choose any food he wants. (M.B. Introduction)
- There is another disagreement what should be done when the foods do not share the same beracha. May one choose either food or is precedence given to the one that is more preferred. (M.B. Introduction)
- There is a disagreement what qualifies as "preferred," the one that is generally preferred or the one that is currently preferred. (M.B. Introduction)
- The food that appears closer to the word ארץ in the pasuk ארץ חטה ושעורה וגו' takes precedence. (M.B. Introduction)
- העץ and האדמה take precedence over foods that require שהכל. (M.B. Introduction)
- This applies when one intends to eat both foods, but if both foods are not present or if one does not intend to eat them both, the rules of precedence do not apply. (M.B. 1)
- This is true even if the fruit of the seven species was cut in half and the other fruits are whole. If one has two fruits from the seven species or two fruits that are not from the seven species, one should give precedence to the one that is whole even if the other one is preferred. (M.B. 4)
- In other words this fruit is generally more preferred. (M.B. 6)
- Since one does not exempt the other, the question of precedence does not apply. (M.B. 7)
- If one had a שהכל food with an olive one would recite the beracha on the olive. (M.B. 8)

Halacha Highlight

Reciting a beracha on a whole food

Shulchan Aruch Siman 211 Seif 1

היו לפניו מיני פרות הרבה

If one has many varieties of fruit before him

Shulchan Aruch begins to elaborate on the rules for determining which food takes precedence when one has many foods in front of him that he intends to eat. According to the opinion presented in this seif, if one of the foods is from the seven species it is given precedence even though it is not the food that one prefers. The reason a food from the seven species is given precedence is that Eretz Yisroel is praised in that it produces these foods (מ"ב סק"ג). Mishnah Berurah (סק"ד) adds that precedence is given to the food from the seven species even if one has only half of that fruit and the other fruit that are available are whole.

Mishnah Berurah goes on to explain that in the event that one has two foods that are from the seven species or two foods that are not from the seven species, one should give precedence to the food that is whole ahead of the food that is not, even though the food that is not whole is preferred. Sha'arei Teshuvah (סי' ר"ב סק"א) clarifies an important issue related to this matter. He writes that if a food has an inedible shell or peel, the removal of the shell or peel does not diminish from the food's status of being considered whole. For example, if one cracks open the shell of a nut but the nut remains whole, it has not lost its classification as a whole food that takes precedence over a food that is not whole. Accordingly, Kaf HaChaim (סי' ר"ב סק"ד) writes that when eating a food that has a peel that must be removed, one should peel the food before the recitation of the beracha to minimize the delay between the beracha and eating. Additionally, one must exercise caution that he does not break the food as he peels it so that it should not lose its status as a whole fruit (חיי משה).

- This opinion maintains that the rules of precedence apply in this case as well but h maintains that precedence is given to the food that one prefers rather than the one that is from the seven species. If both fruits are equally preferred one should recite the beracha on the one that is from the seven species. Biur Halacha writes that the second opinion should be followed. (M.B. 9)
- Poskim indicate that one should recite the beracha on the food that is generally more preferred and he should then eat some of that food. Afterwards he should eat the food that he prefers to eat now and then go back and eat the rest of the first food. (M.B. 10)