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

Overview

Siman 211 Seif 6:

If one has a cooked food made from flour of spelt, oats or rye as well as grapes, figs or pomegranate, since one will recite מזונות on the cooked dish, it takes precedence even though the other foods are from the seven species and the grains are not from the seven species. Nevertheless, since they are important in that they can be made into bread and one recites המוציא they take precedence even though one did not make them into bread.

- Even though the grains are subcategories of wheat and barley, since they are not mentioned in the pasuk they do not have the same importance of being one of the seven species that is mentioned explicitly. (M.B. 34)
- The priority of berachos is as follows:
  1. המוציא
  2. מזונות on cooked wheat
  3. מזונות on cooked barley
  4. מזונות on oats or rye
  5. הגפן
  6. Dates
  7. Grapes
  8. Figs
  9. Pomegranate
  10. העץ
  11. האדמה
  12. שהכל
- The list above does not change if a food lower on the list is more preferred
- If one food is העץ and the other is האדמה, one recites the beracha on the one that is preferred
- If both are equally preferred, one gives precedence to a food from the seven species
- If neither is from the seven species and neither is more preferred, one should give precedence to העץ.
- If both foods are האדמה or שהכל, precedence is given to the one that is more preferred
- The definition of preferred for Ashkenazim is the food that one generally prefers
- If both are generally preferred one chooses the one he more prefers now

Halacha Highlight

Prioritizing the five grains

Shulchan Aruch Siman 211 Seif 6

היה לפניו תבשיל מקמח כסמין ושבלת שועל ושיפון

If one has a cooked dish made from the flour of spelt, oats or rye

Shulchan Aruch discusses cooked foods made from spelt, oats or rye. He rules that reciting the beracha on these foods takes precedence even ahead of foods from the seven species such as grapes, figs and pomegranate. Although these grains are not from the seven species, they still take precedence since they are important being that one could make bread out of these grains. Mishnah Berurah (ס"ק ל"ד) notes that although spelt is a subcategory of wheat and oats and rye are subcategories of barley, nevertheless, since they are not mentioned by name in the Torah, they do not have the importance of being one of the seven species. Poskim rule that, when given the choice, one should recite the beracha on spelt ahead of the oats or rye since spelt is a subcategory of wheat which appears earlier in the pasuk than barley. However, when given the choice between barley and spelt one would recite the beracha on barley since it is mentioned explicitly in the pasuk even though spelt is a subcategory of wheat (פסקי תשובות אות ט').

It is important to be aware that if one will eat baked goods made from the five grains and cooked food made from the five grains, precedence is given to the baked goods rather than the cooked foods. The rationale is that the baked goods are more important since if one were to make his meal out of them he would recite המוציא as opposed to cooked foods for which one would never recite המוציא and ברכת המזון. Rice follows after the other grains. Even cooked grains take precedence over rice and this is true even if one prefers the rice. Moreover, fruits from the seven species also take precedence over rice. The one exception to this rule is that if one prefers rice more than the fruit from the seven species one recites the beracha on rice before reciting the beracha on the fruit (פסקי תשובות שם ואות י').

- Berachos on food take precedence over berachos on smells. (M.B. 35)