The Chicago Center
Digest
Mishna Berura
THE DAILY RESOURCE FOR MISHNA BERURA YOMI
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סימן שי"ט סעיף ט"ו-ט"ז

Overview

Siman 319 Seif 15:

If one placed mustard in a strainer to filter it, it is permitted to add an egg even though the yellow will fall to the bottom with the mustard and the white will remain above.

- This is done on *erev* Shabbos since it is prohibited to filter mustard on Shabbos since the refuse will remain in the strainer. (M.B. 57)
- This is not considered selecting food from refuse since the yellow part which is being strained is not done to eat it; it is done to improve the appearance of the mustard. There is a dispute whether one may strain an egg in order to eat the yellow part and one should adopt a stringent position. It is permitted to remove the yellow part by hand if one intends to eat it immediately. (M.B. 58)

Siman 319 Seif 16:

It is permitted to drink water that contains worms through a cloth on Shabbos since selecting and filtering applies when it is done in advance of eating or drinking but if one prevents refuse from entering his mouth while he is drinking it is not the *melacha* and it is permitted.

- It is not laundering since the cloth is not dirty but according to the opinion that is stringent even when the cloth is clean this would be prohibited but only when drinking water to the exclusion of other beverages. Elya Rabba contends that the stringent opinion would permit drinking water in this case and in a pressing circumstance one may rely upon the lenient position if he does not intend to launder the garment. (M.B. 59)
- The reason we are not concerned that he will squeeze out the water is that water only touches the garment at the point of contact with his mouth and for that small amount the concern for squeezing out the liquid does not apply. (M.B. 60)
- If a fly or something else falls into one's drink or food one may not remove the fly by hand or utensil unless he also removes some of the drink or food with the fly. (M.B. 61)

Halacha Highlight

Separating an egg

Shulchan Aruch Siman 319 Seif 15
אף על פי שהחלמון יורד למטה
Even though the white falls to the bottom

Shulchan Aruch (סע' ט"ו) discusses one who wishes to crack open an egg onto a strainer that contains mustard with the intent that the yellow part of the egg will go through the strainer together with the mustard. Shulchan Aruch rules that it is permitted even though in the process one will separate the yellow part of the egg from the white/clear part of the egg. Mishnah Berurah (ס"ק נ"ח) in the name of Tur explains that it is not considered as though one is separating food from refuse since the yellow that part that is separated from the white part is not separated for the purpose of eating. Machatzis HaShekel (ס"ק ט"ז) further explains that since one's intent in separating the yellow from the white part of the egg is to improve the appearance of the mustard rather than for the purpose of eating the yellow part of the egg, we do not consider the yellow part of the egg to have any greater importance than the white part of the egg. Consequently, when one separates them it is not considered as act of separating food from refuse.

Biur Halacha (סע' ג' ד"ה היו) further explains that when separating the two parts of the egg in this case, not only is it not considered as though he is separating food from refuse, it is not even considered as though he is separating one food from another food. The rationale for this is as follows. Obviously, the white part of the egg is not considered food since it remains in the strainer with the refuse left behind from the mustard and will not be eaten. The yellow part of the egg that passes through the strainer is also not considered food since its purpose is to color the mustard rather than to be consumed. As such, separating the yellow part of the egg from the white part of the egg does not make either part more edible and thus cannot be considered an act of separating one food from another.