The Chicago Center
Digest
Mishna Berura
THE DAILY RESOURCE FOR MISHNA BERURA YOMI
Tues, Feb 27 2024 ■ י"ח אדר א' תשפ"ד
סימן שכ"א סעיף י"ג

Halacha Highlight

Squeezing honey from a honeycomb

Shulchan Aruch Siman 321 Seif 13
אסור לרדות חלות דבש מהכורת
It is prohibited to remove a honeycomb from a hive

Shulchan Aruch rules that it is prohibited to remove honeycombs from a hive on Shabbos since it resembles the *melacha* of detaching – תולש. Mishnah Berurah (ס"ק מ"ז) explains that the honey develops in the hive so Chazal considered the hive to be its place of growth. Rema explains that the prohibition applies only while the honeycomb remains attached to the hive but if it became detached before Shabbos or if the honeycomb was ground before Shabbos so that the honey is floating in the hive it is permitted to remove it on Shabbos since doing so no longer involves detaching something from its place of development.

Mishnah Berurah (ס"ק מ"ח) in the name of Magen Avrohom explains that as long as the honeycombs were detached from their place of attachment before Shabbos they can no longer be considered attached to the hive. Therefore, it is permitted to remove them from the hive in order to eat the honey that is on the outside. Biur Halacha (ד"ה אבל אם נתלשו) comments that although Mishnah Berurah cited one of Magen Avrohom's statements, he did not cite Magen Avrohom's other ruling permitting one to also squeeze the honey from the honeycomb directly into food. The reason he did not mention that ruling as well is that Rabbeinu Tam would prohibit such a practice. Rabbeinu Tam maintains (ע' סי' ש"כ סע' ה') that it is prohibited to squeeze the juice from unripe grapes into a food and Magen Avrohom maintains that when the action constitutes the normal manner of selecting for that food it is prohibited and the fact that one is selecting the food from the refuse does not render it permitted. In the case of honey from a honeycomb the same principle applies. Since squeezing the honeycomb to extract the honey is the normal manner of selecting the honey, it is not considered an unusual manner of selecting and thus is prohibited even if the honey is squeezed directly into food.

Overview

Siman 321 Seif 13:

It is prohibited to remove a honeycomb from a hive since it resembles detaching something that grew from the ground. This is true only if the honeycomb remains attached to the hive but if it was detached before Shabbos or if it was ground during the day so that the honey flows in the hive it is permitted to remove it on Shabbos.

- It is prohibited even if one will not separate the honey from the wax which is *mefarek* and will merely take the honeycombs from the hive. (M.B. 46)
- In other words, the honeycombs were detached from their place of attachment but remain in the hive and thus it is permitted to remove them from the hive to consume the honey that is attached to it but it is prohibited to grind it to remove the honey and even if the honey flows out on its own it is prohibited until after Shabbos out of concern that it will lead to grinding the honeycombs by hand. (M.B. 48)