The Chicago Center
Digest
Mishna Berura
THE DAILY RESOURCE FOR MISHNA BERURA YOMI
Mon, March 28, 2022 ■ כ"ה אדר ב', תשפ"ב
סימן תמ"ז סעיף ט'

Overview

Siman 447 Seif 9:

Although regarding mixtures involving other prohibited foods if the foods are dry the prohibited substance is nullified at a ration of 2:1, in a mixture of chometz and matzah even if the ratio is 1000:1 it is not nullified. Some say that chometz is the same as other prohibited foods in this regard.

- Shulchan Aruch refers to where a piece of chometz became intermingled with pieces of matzah because if the case involved loaves the matzah could not be nullified since items that are sold by unit are not nullified. (M.B. 92)
- This stringency is limited to a mixture on Pesach but if it happened before Pesach, even in the afternoon of erev Pesach it would nullified at a ration of 2:1. However, the mixture must be consumed before Pesach because if it is not the chometz reawakens. (M.B. 93)
- If a chometz utensil becomes intermingled with Pesach utensils on Pesach it is prohibited to use all those utensils and even if it happened before Pesach it is appropriate to be stringent. If the chometz utensil was not ben yomo and not using the pots will diminish one's joy on Yom Tov one may be lenient if the mixture occurred before Pesach. (M.B. 93)
- Later authorities agree with the first opinion. If one of the pieces was eaten already it is permitted to eat the remaining two pieces. (M.B. 95)

Stories to Share

The Actual Mitzvah

ש"ע תמ"ז, ט': "חמץ במצה אפילו אבלף לא בטיל..."

On today's daf we find that chometz mixed with matzah does not become nullified. This is only regarding chometz, not gebrokts.

The mother of the Sar Shalom of Belz was very old, and one Pesach night she sat beside him at the table. He was eating soup, and she was eating matzah. Since she had no teeth, she needed to soften the matzah, so she reached over and... dipped her matzah into the soup of Rav Shalom of Belz! And the Sar Shalom continued to eat his soup, as if nothing had happened, even though he was very particular about gebrokts.

Rebbe Yankele of Pshevarsk zt"l would be so inspired when he told this story, and would finish it by saying: "A chossid of our time would have pushed the bowl away, crying 'Gebrokts, gebrokts!' But if you think it over you see that honoring your mother is a Torah commandment, and gebrokts is just a stringency..."

מובא באוצר כיבוד אב ואם, עמוד ת"ק-תק"א

A young man once mentioned, in the presence of the Chazon Ish, that his practice was to turn to the side during birkas hamazon because his mother doesn't cover her hair. The Chazon Ish rebuked him for this, saying that since the bottom-line halachah is that closing one's eyes is sufficient when faced by a married woman's uncovered hair (as brought in Mishnah Berurah 75:5), it is forbidden for him to be strict with himself with regards to his mother.

The Chazon Ish added, "The Torah equated your mother's honor with Hashem's, and turning away from her is insulting to her!"

מעשה איש, חלק א', עמוד מ"ב, אות #3

Halacha Highlight

A chometz utensil that becomes intermingled with others

Shulchan Aruch Siman 447 Seif 9

יבש ביבש

When two dry foods mix

Shulchan Aruch teaches that when a piece of dry chometz becomes intermingled with pieces of dry matzah, the entire mixture is prohibited. Even though when it comes to other prohibited foods the prohibited food is nullified at a ratio of 2:1, when it comes to chometz on Pesach halacha adopts a more stringent position and even at a ratio of 1000:1 the chometz is not nullified. Shulchan Aruch then mentions a dissenting opinion that maintains that when it comes to dry mixtures there is no difference between chometz and any other prohibited food and even chometz is nullified at a ratio of 2:1. Mishnah Berurah (ס"ק צ"ה) writes that the consensus of later authorities is that halacha follows the first opinion and a piece of dry chometz is not nullified when intermingled with pieces of matzah.

Mishnah Berurah (ס"ק צ"ג) writes that the case of a chometz utensil that becomes intermingled with Pesach utensils is another example of a dry mixture. Therefore, if a chometz utensil became intermingled with one's utensils he may not use any of those intermingled utensils. However, if the chometz utensil was not ben yomo and refraining from using the utensils would diminish one's joy on Yom Tov one may be lenient if the utensils became intermingled before Pesach. Many authorities contend that even if the utensils became intermingled on Pesach as long as the chometz utensil was not ben yomo one may be lenient if adopting the stringent position will prevent one from experiencing the joy of Yom Tov. A common example of this is one who has a certain number of spoons for Pesach and at some point realizes that he now has more than that number of spoons. Since one of his chometz spoons became intermingled with his Pesach spoons, adopting a stringent position would leave him without spoons. In the event that not having those spoons will detract from one's joy on Pesach he may be lenient and use the spoons (פסקי תשובות אות י"א הע' 45).