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

Overview

Siman 457 Seif 1:

Since one must be careful regarding the quantity of dough that one makes so that it should not become chometz, it is preferred if one makes a smaller quantity. Therefore, it is proper to bring the batches of dough together when separating challah so that they touch one another since one of them may not contain the quantity of flour requiring the separation of challah. If it is not possible to separate challah while it is dough due to the rush, one should separate it immediately after it is baked. One should place all of the matzos in a basket and the basket will combine them together and this is the preferred method. If the dough contained the quantity to separate challah and one forgot to separate it, he should separate it later and it is unnecessary to combine them in a basket. If one separated challah from one batch of dough but not from another batch and they became intermingled, one must take challah from each one. Alternatively, one could knead another batch of dough and separate challah from it on behalf of the others. If one can identify one batch of dough from which challah must be separated, one may separate challah from it on behalf of the others.

- In other words, once one kneaded dough, a second person should continue to knead that while the first person kneads another batch of dough [or two people should knead different batches of dough in separate bowls so that combined there is certainly a quantity which requires one to separate challah.] (M.B. 2)
- The two batches of dough should touch one another so that if one separates them, one will pull a piece off of the other. This connection makes it as though they are a single batch of dough and it is sufficient to separate challah once for both of them. (M.B. 3)
- In places where they knead numerous batches of dough, one should separate challah from each batch separately. The custom is for a different woman to separate challah from each batch and each woman recites the beracha. If one person will separate challah from each batch he recites only one beracha as long as he does not interrupt with conversation that is not related to kneading the dough. (M.B. 4)
- It is preferred to separate challah from dough rather than after it is baked. (M.B. 5)
- This applies even to challah that is separated from dough outside of Eretz Yisroel. (M.B. 6)
- If the basket is large one must bring them close so that they touch. If the quantity of each batch of dough requires challah to be separated from it there is no reason for them to touch one another. However, this is true if the pieces of dough are not in utensils but if they are the utensils must be brought close to one another and the utensils must be open on the top. If each batch of dough does not contain the minimum volume of dough for challah they must be placed in a single utensil or the two utensils must be covered with a cloth. (M.B. 7)
- Rema means that one forgot to separate challah when it was still dough which is the preferred time to do the mitzvah. (M.B. 8)
- If each one has the minimum volume for challah one could separate challah from one batch of dough for the others but they must all be in front of the person at that time. If a single batch of dough was divided into different matzos one may separate challah from one for the others even if they are not in front of him. (M.B. 10)
- If one realizes on Yom Tov that he forgot to separate challah on erev Yom Tov, then, if each dough did not contain the minimum volume but combined them in a bowl on Yom Tov many authorities maintain that one may separate challah on Yom Tov since that is when the obligation began. If they were combined before Yom Tov or if it contains the minimum volume for challah it is prohibited to separate challah on Yom Tov. If one recognizes from which batch of dough each matzah was made one may eat them on Yom Tov and leave a piece from which to separate challah and burn during Chol HaMoed. If one did not keep track one must leave a piece of each matzah and after Yom Tov combine those pieces in a bowl and separate challah from one of those pieces. Alternatively, one could knead a small volume of dough on Yom Tov and combine that with the other matzos in a bowl and then separate challah from that dough on behalf of the others. This is allowed since the obligation to separate challah from that dough began on Yom Tov. (M.B. 10)
- One should have in mind when separating the challah that it should be on behalf of the other batches and they must all be in the same house. (M.B. 12)

Halacha Highlight

Separating challah on Yom Tov

Rema Siman 457 Seif 1

ואינו משהה אותם כל כך

Or if he does not allow them to remain for so long

If one made dough that contains the minimum volume to be obligated to separate challah but forgot to separate the challah before baking the dough, Rema rules that he may separate the challah after the matzos are baked. Mishnah Berurah (סק"י) addresses the case of one who realizes on Yom Tov that he forgot to separate challah on erev Yom Tov and provides the following guidelines. If each batch of dough did not contain the minimum volume of dough that obligates one to separate challah, one may, according to many authorities, separate challah on Yom Tov since the obligation to separate challah began on Yom Tov. However, if the different pieces of dough were joined together before Yom Tov or if each batch of dough individually contained the minimum volume of dough necessary to separate challah so that the obligation to separate challah began before Yom Tov, one may not separate challah on Yom Tov. A solution to this quandary is to prepare another batch of dough on Yom Tov that does not contain the minimum volume of dough to require one to separate challah and then combine that dough with the matzos in a basket and separate challah from that dough on behalf of itself and the other matzos.

The reason it is prohibited to separate challah from dough on Yom Tov is that the act of separating challah gives the appearance of fixing the dough or sanctifying something. The reason why the decree against separating challah does not apply to dough that was made on Yom Tov is that since it is permitted even l'chatchila to knead dough on Yom Tov they also permitted the separating of challah as well. If one forgot to separate challah and will eat from that dough on the second day of Yom Tov he should carry out the following procedure. He should separate challah on the first day of Yom Tov and stipulate, "If today is not Yom Tov the separated piece should be designated as challah but if it is Yom Tov he separation should have no halachic ramification." On the second day he should make a comparable stipulation and is then permitted to eat the matzah on the second day (שו"ת אג"מ או"ח ח"ד סי' צ"ז).