The Chicago Center
Digest
Mishna Berura
THE DAILY RESOURCE FOR MISHNA BERURA YOMI
Thurs, Apr 13 2023 ■ כ"ב ניסן, תשע"ח
סימן תס"א סעיף ה'

Halacha Highlight

Blistered matzos

Rema Siman 461 Seif 5 (b)

מצה נפוחה

A ballooned matzah

Rema discusses another potential issue with matzah, a matzah nifucha. Mishnah Berurah (ס"ק ל"ג) presents two definitions of matzah nifucha. The first definition is that the dough split into two layers and the upper layer rose. The second definition does not involve the dough dividing into two parts; rather the matzah ballooned and formed a blister in the middle. He concludes by noting that Poskim are generally stringent regarding both definitions. Regarding a matzah nifucha, we do not differentiate between before Pesach and during Pesach and in both instances one must throw away the entire matzah, even the part that did not balloon. The reason the entire matzah is prohibited is not because of the concern that taste was imparted throughout the matzah; rather the concern is that the blister indicates that there was leavening that occurred in the dough. Furthermore, even if the blister appears at the edge of the matzah the entire matzah is prohibited (מ"ב ס"ק ל"ד).

Mishnah Berurah (שם) then adds that in order for a blister to render a matzah as a matzah nifucha the blister must rise higher than the size of a hazelnut, or in other terms larger than the size of an average thumb. If the blister is not so large the matzah is permitted. Additionally, this definition applies only if the blister causes the upper layer to rise higher than the rest of the top surface of the matzah. If, however, there is merely a hole the size of a hazel nut in the matzah but the top surface of the matzah is uniform, one is only required to remove the area on the hole but the rest of the matzah is permitted. Mishnah Berurah (ס"ק ל"ה) cites authorities who write that when it comes to our thin matzos one need not be concerned with small bubbles and holes in the matzah since they are the result of the heat rather than leavening (ע"ע פסקי תשובות אות י').

Overview

Siman 461 Seif 5 (b):

If a matzah rises in the middle it is prohibited but if it developed a crust similar to the crust that develops on bread when it bakes it is permitted. If two matzos rest on one another in the oven before they bake they are prohibited since it is similar to folded matzos. One must also be concerned that matzos should not touch one another in the oven while they are moist since the heat will not reach the place of contact and they will leaven.

- There are two interpretations for "rises." The first is that the matzah split into two and the upper part rose upwards. The second interpretation is that the dough itself rose similar to bread that rises as it bakes. Later authorities maintain that one should be stringent for both interpretations. (M.B. 33)
- The entire matzah is prohibited even the part that did not rise and even if the part that rose was on one of the edges. There is no difference regarding this halacha between before Pesach and during Pesach. Later authorities write that one need not be stringent unless the hollow is as large as a hazel nut or as large as an average sized thumb. (M.B. 34)
- Rema refers to a thin crust on top rather than a crust on the bottom. Some authorities write that there is no concern for bubbles and empty spaces in our thin matzos even though they are noticeable. (M.B. 35)
- There is a disagreement whether risen matzah prohibits in a mixture but all opinions agree that it is permitted for benefit. (M.B. 35)
- If the baker separated them immediately it would seem that it is permitted. (M.B. 37)
- B'dieved if they touched and adhered to one another they are permitted. (M.B. 38)