The Chicago Center
Digest
Mishna Berura
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סימן תס"ב סעיף ז' סימן תס"ג סעיף א'

Halacha Highlight

Salt

Shulchan Aruch Siman 462 Seif 7
יש לברר המלח מחטים
One should check the salt for wheat

Shulchan Aruch (תס"ב סע' ז') writes that one should check salt to assure that there is no wheat in it. The reason is that when the salt liquefies it will slowly enter the wheat and thereby cause it to leaven. Mishnah Berurah (ס"ק כ"ד) explains that Shulchan Aruch refers to sea salt which is treated like water for these matters and thus can trigger the leavening process. However, salt that is mined from the ground, according to many later authorities, is treated like fruit juice rather than water and does not trigger the leavening process. Nevertheless, he concludes that it is appropriate to check even mined salt for wheat. In the event that this were to occur, not only would the wheat be prohibited but the salt that surrounds the wheat must be disposed of and the remainder may be retained until after Pesach. If it was discovered on erev Pesach the salt around the wheat must be removed and disposed but the remainder may be used.

Above Shulchan Aruch (סי' תנ"ה סע' ה') noted that the custom is to refrain from adding salt to the dough that is used to make matzah. Rema there adopted a more stringent position and ruled that matzah that was made with salt is prohibited even b'dieved. Mishnah Berurah (שם סק"מ) explains that the salt heats up the dough so that it leavens more quickly. However, if one added only a small amount of salt and baked the matzah immediately, most authorities agree that b'dieved it is not prohibited. According to Pri Chadash, even if one did not bake the matzah immediately, it is permitted b'dieved. This debate relates to whether it is permitted to eat matzah that was made with salt but even Rema agrees that such a matzah is permitted for benefit. If salt merely fell on dough but one did not knead it into the dough Shulchan Aruch HaRav (סע' ל') writes that the salt must be removed and the dough remains permitted.

Overview

Siman 462 Seif 7:

One should remove salt from wheat kernels because when the salt becomes moist it slowly enters into the kernel and causes it to leaven.

- Shulchan Aruch refers to sea salt but salt that is mined from the ground, according to many authorities is categorized as fruit rather than water. (M.B. 24)
- The wheat will in turn impart taste to the salt and prohibit it. If one did not separate them and finds wheat amongst his salt, as long as it is dry the salt may be used on Pesach. If the kernels were softened and it is after midday on erev Pesach he must remove a כדי נטילה from around the place where the wheat was resting. If it is found on Pesach one should not use any of the salt and one should also dispose of the salt that immediately surrounded the wheat. B'dieved, if one used the salt the food is not prohibited unless one used the salt that surrounded the wheat. Later authorities write that one should also separate wheat from spices. (M.B. 25)

Siman 463 Seif 1:

It is permitted to singe two ears at the same time without concern that liquid will exit one ear and enter the other since it is fruit juice that does not cause leavening.

- It is also permitted to place a jug filled with moist grain into a hot oven so that the grain should become parched. (M.B. 1)