The Chicago Center
Digest
Mishna Berura
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סימן תס"ו סעיף ה'

Halacha Highlight

Perspiration

Rema Siman 466 Seif 5
וזעת אדם אינו מחמיץ
Human perspiration does not trigger leavening

Shulchan Aruch discusses which liquids cause wheat or flour to leaven. Amongst those in list are dew, urine and other bodily fluids like those that come from a person's mouth, nose, eye or ear. Rema presents a contrasting list of fluids that do trigger the leavening process. He lists blood, milk and perspiration. Mishnah Berurah (ס"ק כ"ח) explains that those items enumerated by Rema do not trigger the leavening process when by themselves but they are not exactly the same. Milk and blood are categorized as fruit juice in that they do not trigger the leavening process when by themselves but if mixed with water it will hasten the leavening process. Perspiration and excrement, on the other hand do not trigger the leavening process at all although there are some authorities that adopt a stringent approach even in this case.

Mishnah Berurah (ס"ק כ"ז) instructs the reader to look at 453:7 with the Mishnah Berurah concerning the question of whether an animal's perspiration triggers the leavening process. Shulchan Aruch there writes that when transporting flour one should not place the sack on the back of the animal unless it rests on a saddle or thick piece of leather. Mishnah Berurah (שם ס"ק ל"ד) explains that the flour will become warmed from the back of the animal and leaven at a faster rate. Additionally, animals typically perspire under the weight of what it transports and that perspiration may trigger the leavening process. However, *b'dieved* if one did place a sack of flour directly on an animal's back one should wait 24 hours before using the flour so that it can cool. Sha'ar HaTziyun (שם ס"ק נ"ו) explains that the reason one may be lenient *b'dieved* is that according to the letter of the law an animal's perspiration does not trigger the leavening process. However, since there are some *Poskim* who maintain that an animal's perspiration is the same as fruit juice if water was added one must be concerned that it will hasten the leavening process.

Overview

Siman 466 Seif 5:

Dew causes leavening as does urine, and fluids from one's mouth, nose, eye and ear. (But blood), milk and sweat do not leaven.

- Human urine triggers leavening but there is a debate whether animal urine does. (M.B. 23)
- Regarding these other body fluids it does not matter whether it comes from humans or animal. (M.B. 24)
- Excrement does not trigger leavening so if a sack becomes soiled from excrement it is sufficient to sift the flour and what remains is permitted. (M.B. 27)
- There is a dispute whether sweat or excrement has any capacity to generate leavening. (M.B. 28)