The Chicago Center
Digest
Mishna Berura
THE DAILY RESOURCE FOR MISHNA BERURA YOMI
Thurs, May 18 2023 ■ כ"ז אייר תשפ"ג
סימן תק"ד סעיף א'

Overview

Siman 504 Seif 1:

It is permitted to pound spices in the normal manner since if they were pounded before Yom Tov they would lose their taste. Salt may not be pounded on Yom Tov unless one inclines the mortar or pounds it on a plate or something similar so that one deviates from his normal habit since if one pounds the salt before Yom Tov it will not lose its taste. One may not grind pepper or mustard with their millstones since that is considered a weekday activity, (rather) **they should pounded in a mortar like other spices.** However, the custom is to deviate somewhat when pounding spices and this is the proper way to instruct people.

- Although grinding grain is prohibited according to all opinions, pounding spices is permitted and certainly grinding garlic, onion and cress. (M.B. 1)
- In *siman* 321:8 it was explained that this is limited to grinding sea salt which starts coarse, as opposed to salt that begins in small crystals and becomes coarse after it is cooked for which there is only an issue of *mar'is ayin* and there are authorities who are stringent in accordance with that view. (M.B. 5)
- If salt is intermingled with other spices it is permitted to pound the mixture. (M.B. 6)
- For example, to use a wooden pestle. (M.B. 7)
- Some Poskim write that the same is true concerning other spices that do not lose their taste and especially when one knew before Yom Tov that he would require that spice and must employ a deviation when pounding these spices. (M.B. 8)
- Coffee may not be ground in its regular grinder and one should instead use a mortar. (M.B. 9)
- One must be cautious not to grind any more than what is needed on that day. (M.B. 10)
- The reason is that there are authorities who maintain that even spices that would lose their taste require a deviation if one knew that he would need them on Yom Tov and l'chatchila we are concerned for that opinion. Garlic, onions and cress need not be ground before Yom Tov since they would lose their taste altogether. Some contend that according to this custom there is no difference whether one knew before Yom Tov or not that he would require these spices and in all cases one should employ a deviation so that he will remember not to grind any more than is needed on that day. (M.B. 11)

Halacha Highlight

Grinding fruits and vegetables

Rema Siman 504 Seif 1

ומיהו נוהגין לשנות קצת בדיכת תבלין

However, the custom is to deviate slightly when pounding spices

Shulchan Aruch rules that it is permitted to pound spices without employing any deviation. His reasoning is that if one were to pound them before Yom Tov they would lose their flavor. This is in contrast to salt that does not lose its flavor if it is pounded in advance and thus one may not pound salt on Yom Tov unless he employs some sort of deviation while doing so. Mishnah Berurah (סק"א וג') explains that although grinding grain, for example, is certainly prohibited on Yom Tov, it is permitted to pound spices even if one knew before Yom Tov that he would need them on Yom Tov since they will lost their taste if they are pounded in advance. Rema notes that the custom is to employ some sort of deviation when pounding spices on Yom Tov and one should rule in accordance with this custom. The rationale behind the custom is that there are authorities who maintain that even though spices will lose their taste if they are pounded before Yom Tov, nevertheless, they may not be pounded in the normal manner on Yom Tov if one knew that he would need them on Yom Tov. Some authorities write that according to this custom one must always employ a deviation, regardless of whether he knew he would need the spices before Yom Tov or not (מ"ב ס"ק י"א). Sha'ar HaTziyun (ס"ק י"ח) notes that even according to the strict version of this custom it is not necessary to employ a deviation when pounding garlic since it will lose all of its taste if ground in advance.

Poskim write that when it comes to fruits and vegetables, e.g., apples, banana, potatoes (cooked or raw), avocado, that will lose their taste if they are ground in advance, it is permitted to grind them on Yom Tov without a deviation. Some *Poskim* maintain that when grinding apples and potatoes on Yom Tov one should employ a deviation since they do not lose much taste when ground in advance (פסקי תשובות אות ג').