The Chicago Center
Digest
Mishna Berura
THE DAILY RESOURCE FOR MISHNA BERURA YOMI
Shabbos, May 25, 2024 ■ י"ז ניסן, תשפ"ד
סימן תק"ט סעיף ב'-ד'

Overview

Siman 509 Seif 2:

If the spit one wishes to use is too long, it is prohibited to cut it or burn it. One may not sharpen a knife on its sharpener but one may sharpen it on wood, earthenware or stone but one may not rule as such for others so that they should not use the knife sharpener. This is true when the knife may be used with difficulty or if it was nicked but if one cannot use it altogether it may not even be sharpened on wood out of concern that one will sharpen it with a knife sharpener.

- By doing so one makes it into a utensil. (M.B. 9)
- One may also rub it against another knife to sharpen it. (M.B. 11)
- Meaning, a stone other than one used as a sharpener. (M.B. 12)
- It is permitted to use any of these items to rub off the fat and one may rule publicly that it is permitted. (M.B. 13)

Siman 509 Seif 3:

Birds that are filled with meat or eggs may be sewn closed on Yom Tov provided that one prepare the thread and insert it in the needle before Yom Tov. One must be cautious not to cut the thread on Yom Tov. The custom is to burn the end of the thread after sewing the chicken closed.

- It is considered a preparatory activity that could not be done before Yom Tov. (M.B. 15)
- If it is inserted on Yom Tov there is the concern that he will cut it to size which is prohibited since it could have been done before Yom Tov. If the thread was not inserted before Yom Tov it is prohibited to insert it on Yom Tov unless it was inserted before Yom Tov and removed on Yom Tov, in which case it is permitted to reinsert it on Yom Tov. (M.B. 16)
- Shulchan Aruch refers to cutting it to size before sewing with it but once it was used to sew the chicken closed one may cut the extra thread. (M.B. 17)
- It is also permitted to cut it since it could not have been done before Yom Tov but the custom is to burn it. (M.B. 18)

Siman 509 Seif 4:

It is permitted to cut the binding of kids or fowl that were prepared as *mekulasin* as well as the threads used to sew it closed. It is also permitted to burn the cord or cloth used to tie closed fowl.

- It is permitted in this case since it is after one sewed it closed and one is not repairing anything and even on Shabbos it is permitted. (M.B. 20)

Halacha Highlight

Sewing food on Yom Tov

Shulchan Aruch Siman 509 Seif 3

מתר לתפרם ביום טוב

It is permitted to sew it closed on Yom Tov

Shulchan Aruch (סע' ג') rules that it is permitted to sew closed fowl that was filled with eggs or meat. Mishnah Berurah (ס"ק ט"ו) explains that sewing filled fowl closed is considered a preparatory food activity that could not have been done before Yom Tov and thus it is permitted on Yom Tov. The Nesivos (בספרו קהלת יעקב וכן הקשה החיי אדם כלל פ"ז סע' ב') questions why sewing filled fowl closed is permitted when sewing is not one of the *melachos* that is permitted for the sake of food. He answers that the reason it is permitted is that the *melacha* of sewing does not apply to foods since the stitch is not permanent and thus is not categorized as sewing. For this reason, he writes that it is certainly prohibited to sew a bag closed so that one could store in it food. Similarly, it is prohibited to tie together with a permanent knot the ends of the material used to sew the fowl closed since tying knots is not permitted for the sake of preparing food. Additionally, those *melachos* that are not permitted for food are prohibited because they are generally performed for long term, but if they are performed in one's house for eating they are permitted if performed to prepare food.

In the event that one could have sewn the filled fowl before Yom Tov and stored it in the refrigerator so that it should not spoil until the time that one is ready to bake it, Rav Yosef Shalom Elyashiv writes (הלכות מועדים פ"ג הע' 80) that one should behave stringently and do so before Yom Tov rather than sew it closed on Yom Tov. Although many *Poskim* maintain that food loses taste if cooked before Yom Tov and stored in the refrigerator and thus may be cooked on Yom Tov, nevertheless, there is a difference between actual cooking and preparatory activities that could be performed in advance without compromising the taste of the food.