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Digest
Mishna Berura
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סימן תקכ"ז סעיף ה'-ו'

Halacha Highlight

Cooking an edible food

Shulchan Aruch Siman 527 Seif 5
ועל דגים קטנים שבשלן
And on small fish that one cooked

Shulchan Aruch (סע' ה') rules that one may use small fish that were cooked for one's *eruv*. Mishnah Berurah (ס"ק י"ט) explains that Shulchan Aruch is referring to fish that had been rendered edible by salting so that further cooking is not necessary. Nevertheless, if one cooks these fish they may be used to make an *eruv*. This is in contrast to the laws of *bishul akum* where the *halacha* is that such fish cooked by a gentile would not be prohibited since they were edible before the gentile cooked them (שו"ע יו"ד סי' קי"ג סע' י"ב). Bais Yosef (כאן) explains that *bishul akum* is prohibited out of concern that one will develop a relationship with a gentile who cooked a food and thereby made it edible. If the food was already edible one will not feel a strong sense of kinship or relationship. To qualify for the *eruv tavshilin* all that is necessary is for one to take a food that was cooked. The fact that it was edible before it was cooked is irrelevant.

Maharsham (דעת תורה סע' ה') was asked whether one may use cooked cheese as the cooked food for his *eruv tavshilin*. He ruled that it may indeed be used. He explained that although the cheese was edible even before it was cooked, nevertheless, Bais Yosef maintains that all that is necessary is for the food to be cooked and it is not essential for the cooking to be necessary for the food to be edible. Mishnah Berurah (שם) includes in this category fruit that is cooked. Although the fruit may have been edible before it was cooked, nevertheless, once it is cooked it may be used for the *eruv*. Rosh Yosef (גמ' ביצה ט"ז. ד"ה גמרא), however, expresses uncertainty regarding fruit that is better when eaten raw than cooked. Perhaps when food loses quality when cooked it is not categorized as cooked and may not be used. He does not reach a definitive conclusion about the matter.

Overview

Siman 527 Seif 5:

The cooked food that was mentioned could be roasted, boiled out, pickled or smoked. One may even use small fish which are cooked by merely washing them in hot water. It is also acceptable to use cooked apples (or other cooked fruit) **or small cooked fish.**

- A food that was salted may not be used even though salting is comparable to cooking. However, foods at the bottom of a barrel that were in brine may be used since they are considered pickled. (M.B. 13)
- Pickling in water or other liquid requires 24 hours but in vinegar or brine, it is considered cooked if it is in the liquid the amount of time it would take to boil the liquid. (M.B. 15)
- This assumes that people eat cooked apples with bread. (M.B. 18)
- Even though the fish were first rendered edible by salting, nevertheless, once they are cooked they may be used. The same is true concerning apples that are cooked even though they could be eaten raw. (M.B. 19)

Siman 527 Seif 6:

On *erev* Yom Tov one may rely on lentils at the bottom of a pot as well as fat that one scraped off a knife, assuming that there is an olive's volume of food.

- This is true even if one did not intend to leave the food at the bottom of the pot provided that he intended to use it for his *eruv* before Yom Tov. (M.B. 20)