The Chicago Center
Digest
Mishna Berura
THE DAILY RESOURCE FOR MISHNA BERURA YOMI
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סימן תקנ"ב סעיף א'-ב'

Halacha Highlight

Seudas Hamafsekes

Shulchan Aruch Siman 552 Seif 1
לא יאכל אדם בסעודה המפסקת
One may not eat during the *seudas hamafsekes*

Shulchan Aruch (סע' א') writes that on *erev* Tisha B'Av during the final meal that one eats after midday one may not eat meat, drink wine or eat two cooked foods. The reason is to increase the mourning, recall the destruction of the *bais hamikdash* and thereby become distressed (מ"ב סק"א). Rema adds that one should also drink less than one would normally drink during the course of a meal (מ"ב סק"ד) and refrain from eating radish or salty foods which people commonly eat, in order to exercise abstinence. Mishnah Berurah (סק"ד) writes that one should also refrain from drinking beer during the *seudas hamafsekes* unless he is weak. Sha'arei Teshuva cites authorities who prohibit eating pickles. *Poskim* explain that the reason one should refrain from radish is not that it is considered a cooked food if it was pickled, (כבוש כמבושל) it is an exercise in abstinence from excess pleasure (פסקי תשובות אות ב' הע' 4). For this reason the restriction is not limited to after the meal, it applies even during the meal.

Sha'arei Teshuva cites Machazik Beracha who writes that Teshuvas Zera Emes ruled that one may not drink coffee of tea during the *seudas hamafsekes* unless one is ill. Machazik Beracha notes that common custom in Eretz Yisroel, Egypt and surrounding areas is that even healthy people are accustomed to drink coffee and suggests two rationalizations for the practice. One explanation is that the restriction is specifically against eating two cooked foods but does not include beverages. Alternatively, beverages that are heated are not considered cooked foods to be included in the restriction. Furthermore, one cannot consider drinking coffee something pleasurable since everyone drinks coffee, even poor people. Beverages that are made to be sweet are encompassed by this restriction and must be avoided during the *seudas hamafsekes*.

Overview

Siman 552 Seif 1:

On erev Tisha B'Av one should not consume during the last meal that is eaten after midday meat, drink wine or eat two cooked foods. Even regarding other beverages one should drink less than he normally does. Similarly, after the meal one should not eat after the meal radish or salty foods which are foods that one normally eats, in order to exercise abstinence.

- This is done to increase mourning and remember the destruction of the Bais Hamikdash and feel distress. (M.B. 1)
- If one normally drinks four cups he should drink only three. One should not drink beer but if he is weak it is permitted. (M.B. 4)

Siman 552 Seif 2:

The custom is to be stringent even regarding salty meat that has been around for two days and a night, fowl and fish as well as wine from the press that has not been around for more than three days.

- Even though the rationale for the restriction is that the korbanos are no longer brought, the custom is to include these foods in the restriction. (M.B. 5)
- There are places where fish is treated as meat and additionally, it is a food served to kings. (M.B. 6)