

Halacha Challenge

Rebbi Yosi holds that one cannot fulfill the mitzva of “achilas matza” with such matza. We have a rule that whenever there is a *machlokes* between Rebbi Meir and Rebbi Yosi, we follow the opinion of Rebbi Yosi². This case is no different – the Shulchan Aruch rules that one cannot use cooked matza on the Seder night for the mitzva of “*achilas matza*”³. (As a useful side note, due to the fact that cooked matza is not the real “matza”, the Mishna Berura rules that it is permitted to eat *k'neidelach* (matza balls) on *erev* Pesach (up until the beginning of the 10th hour), when we are prohibited to eat real matza⁴.)

R. Eliezer Meimitz (one of the early Rishonim), holds that since we cannot fulfill the mitzva of “achilas matza” with cooked matza, this shows that cooking something after it was baked, gives that originally baked item a new status – “*m'vushal*”⁵. As such, in *hilchos* Shabbos, we cannot apply the rules of “*ein bishul achar bishul*” or “*ein afiya achar afiya*” to a food item that was baked before Shabbos and then submerged into hot liquid on Shabbos. This is due to the fact that in such a case, there is “*bishul*” after “*afiya*”. Hence, according to R. Eliezer Meimitz, it is prohibited to put a baked item into a hot liquid in on Shabbos.

The Ra'avya (a Rishon), strongly disagrees with R. Eliezer Meimitz⁶. He points out that the Gemora in *masechet* Brachos gives a reason for why R. Yosi holds that a cooked matza cannot be used for the mitzva of eating matza on the first night of Pesach: “*d'bainan ta'am matza v'leika*” – it is required that the matza should have a **taste** of matza, and in a cooked matza this taste is absent. Hence, there is no proof from R. Yosi's ruling, that cooking a baked item gives it a new status of “*m'vushal*”.

The Rema writes⁷ that the *minhag* is to follow the opinion of R. Eliezer Meimitz. Furthermore, the *minhag* is to follow another *chumra* of R. Eliezer Meimitz, which is not to put baked items even into *kli sheini*. The Mishna Berura writes⁸ that in a case of adding pieces of bread into hot soup, if the soup was transferred from a pot into a bowl via a ladle (which didn't remain in the pot for a lengthy period of time⁹), the bowl has a status of *kli shlishi*, and adding bread to this bowl is permitted¹⁰. ♦

1. פסחים מא. 2. מגיד משנה פרק ו' בהל' חו"מ הלכה ו'. 3. שו"ע א"ח סימן תסא סעיף ד'. 4. מ"ב סימן תעא ס"ק כ'. 5. הובא בספר מרדכי פרק כירה סימן שב. 6. שם 7. רמ"א ס' שיח סעיף ה'. 8. מ"ב שם ס"ק מה. 9. שם ס"ק פז. 10. וכן הובא להלכה בשש"כ פרק א אות סח והערה רי' (במהדורה חדשה)

Kids Ask, Zeidy Answers

 Zeidy, why do we check for chometz davka with a candle?



You see, kids, besides getting rid the physical chometz, every Jew must get rid the spiritual chometz that's inside of him. The Torah teaches us that a Jewish neshama is called a candle (“*ner Hashem nishmas adam*”). One can find the spiritual chometz by looking with his neshama. So the use of a candle on the night of the bedika, reminds us of this idea.

[based on Nesivos Shalom]

Wonders of Creation

Sea Otter

by Alex Isaacson



Sea Otter's message to the world - "Relaxation is the key to success!"

The Sea Otter is indigenous to the northern and eastern coasts of the North Pacific Ocean. Adult sea otters typically weigh between 30 and 100lbs. This means that they are the heaviest members of the weasel family. However, they're amongst the smallest among marine mammals.

Unlike most marine mammals, the sea otter's primary form of insulation is an exceptionally thick coat of fur. It's the densest such covering in the animal kingdom. The Sea Otter has brown fur on its

body, while its head is a very light brown, almost grey color. It can walk on land, although it mostly lives in the ocean.

What's most interesting about this mammal are the peculiar and ingenious eating habits. While it preys mostly on marine invertebrates such as sea urchins, various mollusks, crustaceans, and some species of fish, it has a unique means of exposing its prey: it uses rocks to dislodge shells and open them up! This makes it one of the few mammal species to use tools.

Lastly, throughout most of its range, this creature is known as a keystone species. This is important because a keystone species is one that has a positive effect on population control. Sea Otters control the population of the sea urchins, which would otherwise inflict extensive damage to the forest ecosystems. ♦

Riddles & Parsha Qs



Riddle

Levi makes his own matza from his own wheat that he grows in his own field. This year, in order to fulfill the obligation of having Shmura Matzos at his Seder, he called to the two of his sons (both are over bar-mitza and frum), and said “watch for me the wheat from the time of harvest, all the way till the matzos are baked to make sure that no water gets in (except for the water needed for baking).” The sons fulfilled the mission very well. However, these matzos cannot be used at the seder, because they are not Shmura Matzos! How could this be?

Answer to last issue's Riddle:

(*Riddle*: Zevy sat down to eat lunch. He looked at his fingers and then at his plate and said, “I better not eat this fatty chicken skin. Otherwise, I might become a *metzora!*” How could this be?)

Zevy had a spot (that could render him as a *metzora*) at the tip of his finger. The whole spot, however, was not visible at one glance (i.e. he needed to turn the finger in order to see the other side of the spot). Such a spot can only make a person tamei (i.e. *metzora*) if the finger will fatten up so that the whole spot is visible at one glance.

Special thanks to Be'er Mayim Chaim for the story

The Monkey on a Risky Mission

The following is one the most famous stories from the Kozhnitzer Maggid.

There was a certain Jew who worked hard for his landlord, the puritz. One day, the puritz said, "It's lucky for you that I support you. Otherwise, you would starve!" In his simple faith, the Jew answered, "What are you saying? There's a G-d in Heaven and He provides for all His creatures. If the puritz won't serve as G-d's agent, G-d will find me another."

The puritz angrily banished the Jew from his property. This occurred right before Pesach. This poor Jew now had no money to buy the necessary provisions. The puritz had a huge treasury where he kept all his gold. He would go in from time to time to count and polish his coins. He would spit on each coin and then polish it till it shone. The puritz' pet monkey would go with the puritz into the treasury and watch him. He saw his master put the coins close to his mouth; he thought that the puritz was eating the coins! Monkey see, monkey do. The monkey copied his master. It stole alone into the treasury and feasted on the gold coins. The monkey ate so many coins that it died.

When the puritz came into his treasury and saw the dead monkey, he didn't realize the cause of its death. His anger had not abated, and he commanded his servant to throw the monkey into the Jew's house, to teach him a lesson. "If I don't provide for him, no one will!" The servant threw the monkey in through the window. When it landed, its stomach burst and all the gold coins came pouring out. Then the Jew was able to buy an abundance of provisions for Pesach.

On the seder night, the puritz sent his servant to see how the Jew was suffering without food. But the servant reported that the Jew's house was full of food and drink. The puritz later sent for the Jew and asked him from where he'd had money. The Jew told the puritz how someone had thrown a dead monkey into his house and that hundreds of gold coins had burst from it. The puritz then admitted, "Now I truly see that it's Hashem who provides for us all." And the Jew had all the necessities for Pesach in abundance! ♦

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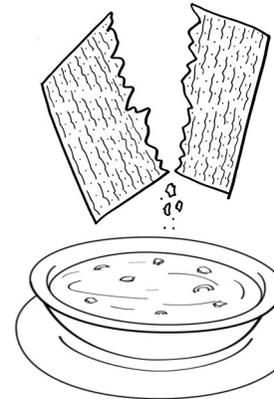
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Halacha Challenge



Putting Matza into Hot Soup

compiled by Shlomo Epshteyn

Everyone has their "Pesach delicacy" that they look forward to each year. What is Leib's favorite menu item on Pesach? Hot chicken soup with crunchy matza inside!

This Friday night (on Chol Hamoed Pesach), Leib was happy to see hot chicken soup in his bowl.

After thanking his mother, he took a large piece of matza and was about to crumble it into his soup, when his older brother Mendel screamed out: "Yeish bishul achar afiya!" Leib turned to Mendel and replied: "What's that?"

Question

Can Leib put the matza into his hot chicken soup?

Answer

If Leib's mother used a ladle to serve the chicken soup, then Leib can go ahead and crumble the matza into the soup. This is provided that prior to serving the soup, the ladle was not left in the pot for a lengthy period of time.

Explanation

This *shaila* is related to a famous *machlokes* of Tanaim, Rabbi Meir and Rabbi Yosi, whether one can fulfill the *mitzva* of "achilas matza" during the Seder with a matza which was at first baked and later on cooked in liquid.¹

This week's issue is dedicated

by the Pitzele Family l'ilui nishmas of their grandfather David ben Yaacov
by Joseph van der Plaats, l'ilui nishmas of his mother Betye bat Shlomo