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The Daf HaKashrus

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HaRav Moshe Wolfson, zt"l

OU Kosher joins Klal Yisroel in mourning the loss of HaRav Moshe Wolfson zt"l – the long-time mashgiach of Yeshiva Torah Vodaas and Rav of Emunas Yisroel in Boro Park. HaRav Wolfson directly and indirectly impacted many RCs and RFRs at the OU and offered chizuk for those in kashrus.



HaRav Wolfson, zt"l speaking at an AKO Conference at OU's Headquarters, November 2011.

L-R Dayan Yehuda Osher Steiner - Manchester Beis Din, HaRav Yisroel Belsky zt"l, R' Sholem Fishbane, and Rav Moshe Wolfson, zt"l.

(courtesy of AKO)

CONSUMER ADVISORY

SHIBOLIM GLUTEN-FREE MATZAH

BRAND: Shibolim

ISSUE: Shibolim Gluten Free Oat Matzah contains 24% oat flour.

Here are some of the halachos that one should be aware of:

One should wash Netilas Yadayim but without a beracha

The Beracha Rishona on Shibolim Gluten Free Oat Matzah is Hamotzi

The Beracha Achrona on Shibolim Gluten Free Oat Matzah is Borei Nifashos (assuming that one will eat less than 100 grams of matzah [about 3 1/2 matzos] within 4 minutes). In the event that one does eat 3 1/2 matzos within 4 minutes, Birchah Hamazon is said.



Does the beracha of Hamotzi said on this Matzah cover other foods eaten at the meal? If less than a kezayis of bread will be eaten at a meal, the other foods eaten at the meal require their own beracha. Therefore, if one is planning on eating less than 3 1/2 matzos within 4 minutes, a beracha should be said on the other foods before reciting Hamotzi on the matzah. However, if one already recited Hamotzi, it is questionable if a beracha can be said on other foods. Because of the doubt, a beracha is not said. Foods eaten directly together with the matzah do not require a beracha.

ברוכים הבאים



Welcome to **Rabbi Daniel Reines** who joins OU Kosher as a Rabbinic Coordinator. Rabbi Reines is a talmid of Yeshivas Bais Moshe of Scranton, Beth Medrash Govoah and Kollel Bnei Torah - Lakewood. He has smicha from BMG, Rabbi Moshe Heinemann and Rabbi Yosef Fund and is also a graduate of the ASK OU 15 Internship Program. Rabbi Reines hails from Venezuela and currently resides with his family in Lakewood, NJ. A native Spanish speaker, Rabbi Reines will be specializing in South American and flavor companies. He can be reached at reinesd@ou.org or (212) 613-8304. We wish him much hatzlacha in his new role



Welcome to **Rabbi Akiva Sauer** who joins OU Kosher as a Rabbinic Coordinator. Rabbi Sauer grew up in Los Angeles, and is an alumnus of Yeshiva Telshe Alumni in Riverdale, NY, Yeshivas Brisk and Beth Medrash Govoha. For the past 17 years, Rabbi Sauer was a member of the Highland Park Community Kollel, where he currently resides with his family. He also serves as the kashrus and eruv administrator for the Vaad of Raritan Valley. Rabbi Sauer will be specializing in oleochemicals and flavors. He can be reached at sauera@ou.org or (212) 613-0653. We wish him much hatzlacha in his new role.

צאצאכם לשלום

To **Rabbi Yosef Goldberg** who is retiring after many decades of service to OU Kosher. We wish him continued הצלחה מתוך בריאת הנפש ובריאת הגוף

To **Rabbi Scott Hoberman** who leaves for another rabbinic opportunity on behalf of the Klal. We wish him much success in his new role.

Mazal Tov!

מזל טוב

To our devoted Rabbinic Field Representative in North California, **Rabbi Amatzia Argentar** and his wife, on the birth of their son Tzvi Binyomin.

To our dedicated Rabbinic Coordinator, **Rabbi Dovid Dick** and his wife, on the birth of their daughter Nechama Ettel.

To our devoted IT analyst **Leah Kalikstein** on her engagement to Zadok Ozani of Toronto, ON. A special mazal tov the parents - to our financial manager, Mr. Danny Kalikstein and his wife.

To our dedicated collection manager, **R' Yitzy Kleinman** and his wife, on the birth of twins, Riki and Rochel.

To the Daf Hakashrus's devoted art director, **Mrs. Esther Schur** and her husband, on the birth of a daughter, Avigail.

Condolences

המקום ינחם

To **Rabbi Chaim Crupar** on the loss of his wife, Mrs. Hene Crupar, a"h.

To our RFR in Jackson, NJ, Rabbi **Arie Cymet**, on the petirah of his father Rabbi Dovid Cymet, z"l.

To administrative assistant **Mrs. Shelly Herbst**, on the passing of her brother, Mr. Abe Mavorah, z"l.

To the family of former RFR in Chicago, **Rabbi George Horovicz**, z"l on his recent petirah.



Davar She'BiMinyan

לא באתי אלא לעורר

Rabbi Eli Gersten RC, Psak and Policy

Shulchan Aruch (YD 110:1) writes that a “davar chashuv” (certain very important foods), such as loaves of bread of a ba'al ha'bayis, and sealed barrels of wine, if they were non-kosher, would not be batel even if mixed up among a thousand kosher similar looking items. Although ordinarily discreet items that become mixed together are batel “chad b'trei” (with a simple majority), this does not apply to a davar chashuv. Chazal view a mixture with a davar chashuv as though it is always 50% issur and refer to it as though the issur is kavua b'mikomo. The Rema adds that even if an item is not important, so long as it is a davar she'biminyan (items that are sold by number as opposed to weight or size), it too is not batel. The Shach (YD 110:9) discusses whether eggs qualify as a davar she'biminyan. Although eggs are not as chashuv as loaves of bread or barrels of wine, they can still qualify as a davar she'biminyan in places where they are always sold according to their number. However, in places where eggs are sold by the basket irrespective of the number of eggs, they would not be a davar she'biminyan.

Safek issur

Poskim (see Taz 100:1 and Shach 110:60) write that since we view a davar chashuv and a davar she'biminyan as an issur kavua, even if it is only a safek as to whether the item is assur, it would not be batel even in a thousand. For example, if there was a safek whether the chicken that laid an egg was a treifa, and this egg became mixed with a thousand kosher eggs, all the eggs would be assur. Shulchan Aruch (110:9) explains that this case is not judged as a sfek sfeika, since the sfeikos are dissimilar. One safek is whether the egg is assur, and one safek is based on it becoming part of a mixture. The Shach (110: sfek sfeika 17) writes that there is an exception to this rule if the item is only assur due to a “chumra yiseira”, such as “basar she'nisaleim min ha'ayin” (meat left unattended in a place

where it could have been switched by ravens or other animals). Although Rema (63:2) writes that in most cases we are not concerned for “basar she'nisaleim min ha'ayin”, Shulchan Aruch is machmir. Still, since this concern is a “chumra yiseira”, one need not be machmir once it is batel b'rov, even if the meat is a davar chashuv. Once the meat is mixed in with other pieces, each piece is mutar because of sfek sfeika. It would seem that this sevara would certainly apply to personal chumros. For example, if one has a chumra to only eat shmura matzah on Pesach, and a regular matzah became mixed up with similar looking shmura matzah, even though a matzah is a davar she'biminyan, each matzah would be mutar because of sfek sfeika.

Issur Machmas Atzmo

The Mordechai (Chulin 645) writes that the chumra that a davar chashuv or a davar she'biminyan is not batel even in a thousand, only applies if it is “issur machmas atzmo” (if it is intrinsically assur) and not if it is assur because of a bliya. For example, if a loaf of bread was made with kosher ingredients but was baked in a non-kosher oven, it would be batel b'rov. However, if a chametz matzah was mixed up with a thousand Pesach matzos, even if this mixture took place before Pesach, the Magen Avrohom (451:37) writes they would all become assur on Pesach, since a matzah is a davar she'biminyan.

One notable exception to this rule is pas akum and bishul akum. Although pas akum and bishul akum are “issur machmas atzmo”, still the Shach (112:23) cites the Issur V'Heter (43:7) that it would be batel b'rov even if it is a davar chashuv. For example, if 900 eggs which were bishul akum became mixed with a batch of 1000 eggs that were bishul Yisroel, all the eggs would be mutar due to bitul. Even if an egg is viewed as a davar she'bi-

Continued on page 4

minyan, it would be batel, since bishul akum is a more lenient issur.

What Types of Items are Considered a Davar She'biminyan?

The Pri Megadim (Sifsei Daas 101:7) writes that it is not necessary for a davar she'biminyan to be an important item; all that is necessary is that it is not miyus (disgusting). For example, although unplucked chickens are counted individually, they would not be considered a davar she'biminyan, because an unplucked chicken is considered grotesque. On the other hand, a single egg can be considered a davar she'biminyan even though it is a relatively inexpensive item.

The Mechaber lists sealed barrels as being a “davar chashuv” that is not batel. The Shach (110:4) writes that this refers specifically to large barrels. However, small barrels of wine even if they are sealed, or large barrels of wine if they are not sealed would not qualify. The Rema however writes that we are machmir that also a davar she'biminyan is not batel. Seemingly, this should mean that even a small bottle of inexpensive wine, should not be batel. Moreover, even bottles of milk (for example a bottle of chalav akum mixed with 1000 bottles of chalav Yisroel) should likewise not be batel. Indeed, the Minchas Yitzchok (5:60) writes that a bottle of milk is a davar she'biminyan and is not batel even in 1000. However, this ruling of the Minchas Yitzchok is difficult. The Rema elsewhere (YD 134:2) writes explicitly that only large barrels of wine which are important (expensive) will not be batel. However, if they are small and not important, they are batel. Certainly, a bottle of milk

which is small and inexpensive, should be batel even according to the Rema. The Yad Yehuda (katzar 110:5) as well discusses expensive glass bottles of wine and concludes that they should be considered a davar she'biminyan. The implication being that only expensive bottles of wine, since they are used to honor people would not be batel, but a bottle of milk or juice or general canned items would never qualify as a davar she'biminyan. However, this needs an explanation. We explained above that a davar she'biminyan does not need to be expensive, and even an egg can qualify. How do we resolve these seemingly contradictory rulings?

Rav Shalom Weiss (Kol Torah 5768), the son of the Minchas Yitzchok, points out that there is teshuva from Rav Shlomo Kluger (Tuv Taam V'Daas [Tlisa 2:29]) which disagrees with his father's ruling. Rav Shlomo Kluger also discusses the status of bottles of wine and suggests that they should be batel b'rov based on the Rema mentioned above. What about the concern that it is a davar she'biminyan? Rav Shlomo Kluger explains that a bottle of wine is not a davar she'biminyan, since it is the bottles that are being counted, not the wine; and the bottles themselves are not issur. The only time the wine will not be batel is if there is a significant quantity of wine, such as barrel's worth. Then it would qualify as a davar chashuv. Even then, it would only be a davar chashuv so long as it is in a sealed barrel; otherwise, it loses its chashivus. Even regarding a bottle of expensive wine, Rav Kluger posits that it is not chashuv enough, but concludes that one should not be maikel unless it is a case of hefsed mirubah. However, regarding a bottle of milk, it would seem quite clear that this would not be a davar she'biminyan.

VITAMINS



THE Ingredient PANEL

Riboflavin (Vitamin B2) - an easily absorbed micronutrient found naturally in many foods, including liver, milk, and leafy vegetables. Because of the important role it plays in maintaining animal and human health, it is also manufactured synthetically through a process of fermentation and then added to various food products as a fortifier. Since it is fermented, riboflavin requires proper kosher certification.

Pepsin - a protein found in the gastric juice of pork and beef and a primary ingredient in many antacid medicines. It is also used as a coagulant in processed cheese. It is generally not kosher.

CORRECTION

(from the last Ingredient Panel)

Niacin - Thanks to Rabbi Menachem Alder for pointing out that niacin is no longer a Group 1 (acceptable from any source).

The OU certifies a foreign company that manufactures niacin via a fermentation process using glycerin as the main ingredient as well as lactose.

Maintaining Kedusha in the Workplace

Rabbi Gavriel Price, Rabbinic Coordinator

The recent OU Kashrus conference featured a session called “Ben Torah in the Workplace.” The speakers focused on remaining true to our identity as Torah Jews, recognizing our contribution to klal Yisroel as a way of connecting to our inner חשיבות, and maintaining our sense of kedusha.

After the session, members of the OU rabbinic staff shared practical advice, as well as great understanding, in contending with some of the specific challenges of traveling. Being away from home, family, and the local beis medrish creates a void that needs to be acknowledged and addressed. Here are their observations:

Being in a hotel by yourself is very lonely. The TV is a huge draw because it makes you feel like you aren't alone. It is very hard to learn in such circumstances, and easy to watch. As we all know, TV is not a kosher way to spend your time due to the inappropriate images that will inevitably show up -- even on the news. Learning may not be easy either since you may have flown many hours or driven many hours or both – beyond also having visited a factory or two .

Your body may be very tired and your mind foggy.

There are several areas to address:

Learning

The best advice is to have a phone chavrusah that is expecting you at a certain time. That is the most effective way to make sure that you will get some learning in. If you are traveling often, it is an absolute must to have a set phone chavrusah.

Further:

- Choose an easier לימוד
- שנים מקרא is an obligation (remember that)
- Bring with you a Torah biography or Jewish magazine

Avoiding TV

Assuming you cannot, or in any event are not, learning, a speech on Torah Anytime which is light is a good idea, especially while eating (a good example is Rabbi Krohn). Later, a fun but Toradik (meaning frum) podcast is a good option instead of TV. Good options today are:

- Inspiration for the Nation
- Meaningful Minute
- Kiddush Club
- Coach Menachem
- Jewish history soundbites
- Rabbi Dovid Katz (history)
- Behind the Bima
- Rav Aharon Lopiansky (History and Tanya)

Here are some non-Jewish but nevertheless “kosher” podcasts:

- Intelligence Matters
- Motivational Speech

Tefilah

Count how much time it takes you to daven when you are in an actual shul. Do your best to daven as long as it takes you to daven in shul.

Dress the same way you would dress in shul.

Work

Do your EIR's and report-writing while it is fresh in your mind. The more you delay writing a report, the harder it gets. If you are too tired to write a lot, jot down a first draft. You will be glad that you did.

Do your billing while you're at the hotel.

Chesed

There are so many people out there who need chizuk. In the normal routine of our lives at home, we often don't have the time. But when you are in a hotel room, there are a lot of people whom you can call to let you know they are being thought about.

There is not one chesed organization that can't use volunteers to help make phone calls. Participating in such an organization, besides its inherent worth, builds up our sense of being a ben Torah.

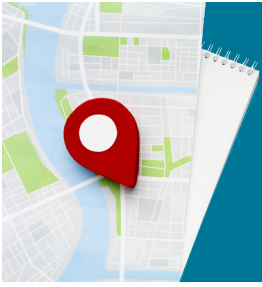
Health

Take a jog or otherwise exercise; take a swim.

Practical Wisdom

- Call your family every night and speak to everyone.
- Do not go out to eat with plant staff.
- Do not get a drink with them.
- The radio is a more kosher way of taking away loneliness than a TV
- Having a hobby, like drawing or playing an instrument, is a healthy way of developing yourself.
- Try, if possible, to plan out your evening before you get out of your car in the hotel parking lot (if you can think about this while driving to the hotel, all the better).

B'ezras Hashem these recommendations should stand us in good stead.



ASK OU & Community Relations Update



Lakewood, NJ

Rabbi Avi Juravel demonstrating melicha to the talmidim of the 4th grade in Yeshiva Toras Menachem of Lakewood.



OU HQ

Rabbi Mordechai Stareshesky introduces students of Immanuel College, London, England, to world of modern kosher certification.

