

WEEKLY HALACHA SERIES ON HILCHOS SHABBOS

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Is it permitted to pour hot water into a thermos on Shabbos?

The issue involved is *hatmana* – storing food in wrappers to maintain its heat. As we have previously learned, it is forbidden to totally enwrap a hot food on Shabbos with intention to maintain its heat. However, there are two reasons why it is permitted to pour water into a thermos: 1) *hatmana* is forbidden only when applied to the original pot, but if the water has been transferred to a second pot, it is permitted.¹ 2) *Hatmana* must be done to a pot, the pot itself is not *hatmana*, and since the thermos is considered as one pot with a few linings it is not *hatmana*.²

The fire under my blech went out, and I would like to enwrap my pots within my bed linen, may I?

No you may not because *hatmana* – enwrapping, when done on Shabbos, is forbidden even when there is no heat source present. You may however, partially enwrap the pots.³

Is it permitted to warm my baby's bottle by placing it inside a pot of hot water?

Most *poskim* agree that it is not permitted to immerse the entire bottle into hot water in order to warm the bottle for the same reason as in the previous answer. You may however, insert the bottle leaving the top uncovered.⁴

May I reheat food by placing it on the radiators spread around the house?

Yes you may because it is not the normal cooking method.⁵ It is comparable to placing cold food on top of a pot that is already on the fire.⁶ However, only dry, cooked food may be reheated; a liquid, or a solid with gravy is forbidden to reheat.

Is it permitted to steep cold, cooked chicken inside cholent which is on my plate?

As far as cooking goes, even if the chicken would reach the heat of *yad soledes bo*⁷ it is not a problem for a few reasons, but even as far as *hatmana* goes, there is no *issur* when enwrapping a food within a food.⁸ As far as fully immersing a cooked egg within hot water a *shaila* should be asked.

¹ *Siman* 257:5, and *M" B* 29.

² *Chazon Ish Siman* 37:32.

³ *Siman* 257:1

⁴ *M" B* 258:2

⁵ *Iggros Moshe Orach Chayim* Vol. 4, pg. 139-34

⁶ *Siman* 253:5

⁷ See sheet #2.

⁸ *Sh'miras Shabbos Kehilchasa* 1-72 and in the footnote.

What is the halacha with regards to immersing the kishke inside the cholent?

We find a few opinions in the *poskim* regarding this matter. See the footnote.⁹ HaRav Shlomo Zalman Auerbach Ztz"l held that it is permitted since *hatmana* is usually done for the sake of storing heat, and without enwrapping the food from the outside the heat would be lost. Here the *kishke* is not enwrapped in the cholent for the sake of storing heat, rather it is there to get heated by the flame beneath the pot just as the cholent is heated by the flames.¹⁰

A Vort on the Parsha

We know of the famous blessings Ya'akov Avinu blessed Ephraim and Menashe by crossing his hands and placing his right hand on Ephraim and his left hand on Menashe. He explained to Yosef that Ephraim will be greater than Menashe and therefore he merits his right hand.

The question is then why did he not tell Ephraim to stand on his right side, thereby avoiding the need to cross his hands?

HaGaon HaRav Chayim of Volozhin explained that a person tends to magnify another person's faults and shortcomings, and minimizes his strength and good points. That is symbolized by my right opposite your left – I notice your shortcomings, and my left opposite your right – only my weak and unimportant side recognizes your strong side.

Ya'akov Avinu taught us that we should emphasize another person's strong points and good character by placing my right side opposite his right, and play down his

⁹ *Shevet HaLevi* vol. 3 siman 47. *Minchas Yitschak* vol. 8 siman 17. *Sh'vus Yitschak* pg 251.

¹⁰ *Sh'miras Shabbos Kehilchasa* 3rd vol. 42-242.

weaknesses by placing my left opposite his left.

Food For Thought

Is one permitted to put chalah or matza into a bowl of soup?

Is one permitted to make Nescafe in a k'li shaini? What about ground coffee?

I like putting soup nuts (soup almonds) in my soup, is there anything I must be aware of?

Can I spread mayonnaise or butter inside a boiling hot potato?

Answers coming next week.

Iggeres HaGra - (part 4)

I don't have to elaborate on this most serious sin of all. "All man's toil is for his mouth" (Koheles 6:7). Our Sages said that all man's mitzvos and teachings are not enough to counterbalance what comes out of his mouth. "What should be a man's pursuit in this world? He should be silent" (Chullin 89a). One must seal his lips as tight as two millstones. Idle words are like powerful weapons which can reach from one end of the world to the other. Now this is true concerning mere excessive speech. Where forbidden speech is concerned - e.g. lashon hara, mocking, swearing, vowed, fighting and cursing - especially in the synagogue, and on Shabbos and Yom Tov - for every utterance of this type it is impossible to imagine the pain and suffering one will receive (Zohar)! No word is lost; everything is recorded.

In memory of HaRav Elozor Menachem Mann Shach, ztvk"l

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Note: The purpose of this series is intended solely for the clarification of the topics discussed and not to render halachic decisions. It is intended to heighten everyone's awareness of important practical questions which do arise on this topic. One must consult with a proper halachic authority in order to receive p'sak.