



Parshas Bereishis 5767

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Hilchos Yom Tov (cont.)

May I grind pepper on Yom Tov?

In respect of grinding, *halacha* makes a distinction between foods grown in the ground and other foods; foods that spoil when ground before Yom Tov, foods that will not spoil but will not be fresh and foods that will not be affected if ground before Yom Tov.

But surely grinding prior to kneading, is totally forbidden?

You are referring to the famous statement that *melachos* prior to kneading such as reaping, squeezing etc. are prohibited. Indeed the *Shulchan Aruch* states ¹ that grinding – *tochen* is prohibited on Yom Tov and yet we are saying that certain foods may be ground on Yom Tov. We will *b'eizras Hashem* explain.

Is grinding *ossur mid'oraisso* or *mid'rabanan*?

It is a *machlokes haposkim* (a dispute). The *shulchan Aruch* ² is of the opinion that it is *ossur mid'rabanan*, because *Chazal* were concerned lest one totally involves oneself with *melachos ochel nefesh* and not have time to enjoy Yom Tov. They therefore forbade *melachos* (even though they are for *ochel nefesh*) such as grinding because one normally grinds wheat etc. in bulk. One may grind foods that are normally ground before use, such as avocado and bananas, as there was no need to prohibit such an action.

¹ *Simon* 495:2.

² *Ibid.*

Other *poskim* ³ argue saying that the prohibited *melachos* are *ossur mid'oraisso*, because they are normally done in bulk for extended periods and the torah only permitted *melachos* that are done prior to consuming, such as baking and grinding certain herbs and spices. The basic rule is that from kneading onwards *melachos* are permitted.

Can you please categorize the various foods?

As mentioned, foods that would spoil if ground before Yom Tov may be ground on Yom Tov in the regular manner.

Bananas and avocado may be ground with a fork. ⁴

Onions may be diced into small pieces with a large knife.

Apples may be grated on a grater.

Based on the above this is permitted because one does not normally grind these items too far in advance because they would spoil.

Which foods would not spoil but would not be fresh?

Items such as coffee, horseradish and spices may be ground on Yom Tov but with a *shinui* – deviating from the regular manner. These items are much tastier when ground prior to use but will not spoil if ground in advance. Consequently *Chazal* permitted it albeit with a *shinui*. Hence, if one normally grinds horseradish onto a plate, one should grind it onto the table or onto paper. ⁵

³ *M"B simon* 495:13 and *Sha'ar Hatsiun* 18.

⁴ *SS"K* 7:2 based on *M"B simon* 504:11 and 19 and *Sha'ar Hatsiun* 18 and 36.

⁵ *M"B simon* 504:19, *SS"K* 7:3.

The *beter* to grind *b'shinui* or at all is only for Yom Tov, not for after Yom Tov.

Spices And Pepper

The *Mechaber* writes that one may grind spices in the normal manner, i.e. with a pestle and mortar, but pepper **may not** be ground in a pepper mill because it is an *urda d'chol* – a weekday action. He is lenient because he understands that these items lose flavor when ground in advance.

The *Rama* appends that it is customary to deviate from the norm when grinding spices, that means that one may not use the pestle and mortar rather one should grind pepper on a plate etc. The reason for this stringency is because some *poskim* rule that spices may not be ground on Yom Tov, even though they lose flavor, unless one was unaware that one would need pepper on Yom Tov. In other words, one should have prepared in advance. Since we *l'chatchila* follow that opinion, *halacha* is that these items must be ground *b'shinui*.⁶

The *Mishna Berura* adds those items that spoil when ground in advance, as mentioned above, may be ground without a *shinui*.

What about items that do not lose flavor?

Items that do not lose flavor should be ground before Yom Tov, such as nuts and sea salt (regular table salt is ground and if crystallized may be ground again) and one should not rely on the *halacha* that permits grinding *b'shinui*. If however one forgot to grind them before Yom Tov or miscalculated and one requires more than planned, one may grind them *b'shinui* as mentioned above.⁷

As mentioned, a pepper mill may not be used on Yom Tov and grinding is permitted for same day only.

May one grind eggs and meat on Yom Tov?

These items are not grown in the ground and may be ground in the regular manner. There may

be room in this case to use a kitchen grinder and a rav should be asked.⁸

Vort on the Parsha

The possuk says “and it was day one”, instead of saying “the first day”. See *Rashi*.

Rav Sternbuch *shlita* turns to the *Vilna Ga'on* (and the *S'forno*) who explains *bereishis barab* – *Hashem* created a *reishis*, a beginning. In other words, *Hashem* created time. Human beings cannot fathom a place or world without time because we are part of time, but *Hashem* created time, which before creation did not exist. Therefore, he adds, it is not said first day, which would allude to synchronization because it was the beginning of time not a day in time.

Food for Thought

May one grind bread and cookies on Yom Tov?

May I measure and weigh food on Yom Tov?

Is it permitted to use a sifter on Yom Tov?

Answers coming be"H next week.

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⁶ *M"B simon* 504:11.

⁷ See *SS"K* 7:4.

⁸ See *SS"K* 7:7 and footnote 25.

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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.