

דרך קצרה

Brief summaries of cRc Kashrus Policies

LIBUN GAMUR REQUIREMENTS

Shulchan Aruch says that *libun gamur* is accomplished when the utensil is so hot that sparks fly from it (ניצוצות ניתזין) and *Mishnah Berurah* says that another indication that *libun* has occurred is when the surface of the metal begins to peel (תשיר קליפתו).

Rav Belsky reported that Rav Yaakov Kaminetzky asserted that only pure iron will emit sparks or peel, but with the metal alloys used in modern pots and pans we will never see these signs of *libun*. Instead, we rely on a third description of *libun gamur* provided by *Teshuvos Maimonios*, that *libun* is accomplished when the metal turns red hot.

Rav Heineman explained that this interpretation can be inferred from the word "*libun*", whose literal translation is "whitening". This refers to the fact that when metal is heated sufficiently, it emits electromagnetic radiation which we see as a change in color, first red, then orange, yellow, and eventually white. As it is almost impossible to heat a utensil until it turns white without melting it, we understand that *Chazal* intended that we should heat the metal until the "whitening" process begins. This means that the utensil does not have to become white hot, rather, it must begin becoming white, i.e., red hot. Based on this explanation, he said that the utensil does not have to turn

cherry red, but rather as soon as it exhibits any redness – such as might be detected in a darkened room – *libun* has been accomplished.

The *Poskim* explain that *libun* is fundamentally different than *hag'alah* in that *hag'alah* draws the non-kosher *ta'am* out of the utensil, while *libun* incinerates it in place. For *hag'alah*, the concept of כבולעו dictates that whatever temperature *ta'am* was when it went in, is the temperature the *hag'alah* water must reach to extract it. However, since *libun gamur* incinerates the *b'lios* there is a fixed level of heat required to accomplish that goal, regardless of how hot the non-kosher food was. In this context, Rav Schwartz said that 800° F is hot enough while Rav Schachter thought that it had to be approximately 950° F.

In the coming installment, we will see three examples of where and how libun gamur is accomplished

CRC POLICIES

51. If metal is heated to the point that it is red-hot, is that sufficient for *libun gamur*?

Yes



52. Assuming the answer to the previous question was "yes", how "red" does it have to become?

Slightly red, even if that can color is only noticeable in a dark environment

53. What temperature is hot enough to be considered *libun gamur*?

800° F

מראה מקומות

שולחן ערוך סימן תנ"א סעיף ד'
תשובות מימוניות, הל' מאכלות אסורות אות ה'
משנה ברורה תנ"א ס"ק כ"ט