

How Clean Is Clean?

[CTרך המכבדים – PART 1]

A basic first step in *kashering* is to remove residue of *issur* from the utensil, and most people assume that in order to consider the utensil "clean enough" for *hag'alah* they are required to remove every last remnant of residue, but in fact it appears that this is not the case.

The *Mishnayos* at the end of *Terumos* discuss someone who wants to take a bin or jug that was used for *terumah* grain or oil, and convert to using it for *chullin* (i.e., non-*terumah*). It teaches that they do not have to pick out every single kernel from the bin but can instead just sweep the bin as they typically do, and then fill it with *chullin*. This is referred to as cleaning "ממבדים (the way people typically sweep). [We will explain this term, כדרך המכבדים, in a future installment**].

Several explanations are given for this leniency, but the one which appears to be accepted as the halacha is that of *Rash*. He says that the reason it is permitted to leave

some residue of *terumah* is because (a) the little bit remaining will be *batel b'shishim* into the next food, (b) he has no specific interest in the *terumah* mixing into his *chullin*, and (c) therefore, allowing the *bitul* to happen qualifies as *ain kavonoso l'vatel* and is not a violation of *bitul issur l'chatchilah*.

The cases in the *Mishnah* are all ones where removing the residue is all that is required before the bin or jug can be used for *chullin* (since those items are not used with hot products). But Rav Belsky said that the logic of *Rash* also applies when cleaning a utensil which has been used for <u>hot</u> non-kosher food. Any tiny bits which are left behind after a בדרך המכבדים cleaning will be small enough to be *batel b'shishim* in the *hag'alah* water (and the subsequent kosher product), and therefore they do not have to be removed as part of the cleaning.

cRc Policies will follow in future installments

מראה מקומות

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