



PO Box 1076 Jerusalem 91009 * Tel. 972-2-628-4101

Yeshivat Ateret Yerushalayim

IN THE HEART OF THE OLD CITY OF JERUSALEM

On the Air with Ha-Rav Shlomo Aviner

Rav Aviner answers questions of Jewish Law and faith on the radio in Israel on Tuesday & Thursday nights (To listen: www.kimizion.org/shiur/shut.html). On the Air presents a sample each week.

6 Nissan – #28

Prepared by Rabbi Mordechai Friedfertig

RavAviner-subscribe@yahogroups.com

archived at www.ateret.org.il/new/home.php

Questions in this issue: PESACH QUESTIONS

1. Dried Fruit on Pesach
2. Kosher medicine
3. Permission to sell chametz in stores on Pesach
4. Ashkenazi and a pot which had kitniyot cooked in it
5. Selling chametz in a rented apartment

Dried Fruit on Pesach

Q: We have an opened bag of dried fruit which is kosher for Pesach from last Pesach. Can we use it this Pesach?

A: Dried fruit requires kosher certification for Pesach since there are sometimes ingredients with flour. If there is kosher certification for Pesach but the bag was open over the course of the year, we do not use them on Pesach. We customarily do not use anything on Pesach which was open during the year, even if it has kosher certification for Pesach. We did not say that it is an obligation, but it is the custom, since the possibility exists that something with chametz fell on them or something stuck to them. Why take the risk? We are not so poor that we cannot buy new ones. We put it on the side and even include it with the items to be sold for mechirat chametz, and we can use them after Pesach.

Kosher medicine

Q: Do medicinal pills require kosher certification during the year and for Pesach?

A: A general rule: All medicine which lacks taste is kosher since it is not food, and it is also kosher for Pesach. And we even turn medicine which has taste into medicine which lacks

taste. How? We wrap the pill in a thin piece of paper. There are authorities who even permit medicine with taste since the ingredients which give the taste are kosher or not chametz. The non-kosher and chametz ingredients lack taste and kosher ingredients with taste are added. This is the opinion of Rav Shlomo Zalman Auerbach in the book "Halichot Shlomo" (6, 4 and in notes). As a result, almost all medicine is kosher and almost all medicine is kosher for Pesach. There are organizations which publish catalogues with long lists of which medicines are kosher for Pesach as a kindness for people, since they could sum it up in one sentence: 99% of medicines lack taste and are kosher. People are concerned, however, so they publish long lists.

Permission to sell chametz in stores on Pesach

Q: What should we do regarding the secular courts ruling that it is permissible to sell chametz in stores on Pesach?

A: This is very bad. Nonetheless, they do not force anyone to eat chametz. Those who do not want to eat chametz, and this is the majority of Israel, will not eat chametz. Those who want to eat chametz will eat chametz even if the stores are closed. This law is obviously very severe, but we do not live alone in this country. What can we do? In order to change something, we need to convince. If this does not work, we use the strength of the law, but the law does not help us in this case. The only way is to persuade people. The way to do this is to teach Torah and the light of Torah will heal all illnesses. Hashem gave us the Torah as a medicine to heal all of the sicknesses of our Nation: the chametz which they sell on Pesach, the Shabbat which they desecrate, the kashrut which they do not observe, the problems of raising children, the problems between husband and wife, the education which lacks faith and many other areas. There are problems less severe than selling chametz on Pesach and problems much greater. The medicine for all of the illnesses is the Torah. The Gemara in Eruvin (54a) says: If you have a pain in your head, learn Torah. If you have a pain in your stomach, learn Torah... And the same applies here. If you have a pain from the secular court, learn Torah. If you have a pain from the Government, learn Torah... The Torah will fix it all. We do not speak harshly, since this drives people farther away. We must first remember that every Jew is a loved one and a friend. The first mitzvah is the love of fellow Jews, we then must increase the light of Torah.

Ashkenazi and a pot which had kitniyot cooked in it

Q: Is it permissible for an Ashkenazi to eat at the house of a Sefardi food which is non-kitniyot but was cooked in a pot which had kitniyot cooked in it?

A: Before the fact, we do not use a pot in which kitniyot were cooked in order to cook non-kitniyot foods. After the fact, one may eat the food, since the taste of the kitniyot is nullified by the other food. It is therefore permissible to eat food without kitniyot at their house.

Selling chametz in a rented apartment

Q: How can one sell the chametz in a rented apartment if the contract says that one may not sublet (part of selling chametz requires renting the spot of the chametz to the non-Jew)?

A: The contract does not forbid this type of sublet. This was not the owner's intent.