

The Adélie Penguin

There are 3.79 million breeding pairs of Adélie penguins in 251 breeding colonies. They build rough nests of stones. Two eggs are laid; these are

incubated for 32 to 34 days by the parents taking turns (shifts typically last for 12 days); one goes to feed and the other stays to warm the egg. The parent who is incubating does not eat. Most astonishingly, Adélie penguins living in the Ross Sea region in Antarctica, migrate an average of roughly 8,100 miles during the year, as they follow the sun from their breeding colonies to winter foraging grounds and then back again. Fortunately, Hashem made this gargantuan task a bit easier by giving it the ability to travel at speeds of up to 45mph!

-- by Alex Isaacson

Kids Ask, Zeidy Answers



Great question, kids!

The lettuce grows in two stages: In the 1st stage it is sweet, but at a later stage in its growth it becomes bitter. The farmers harvest lettuce when it's still in the first stage. That's why our lettuce

does not taste bitter. This truly reflects our labor in Mitzrayim: At first, we worked willingly, and then we were enslaved.

[Halachos of Pesach, by R. Shimon D. Eider]

Zeidy - why do we use Romaine lettuce for *marror*? It's not bitter!

MENUCHA SUPPORTERS



challenges

Cleaning the Lettuce for the Seder

We're continuing to discuss questions that can come up during the Pesach seder. (This year, in particular, needs special attention, due to the fact that the first day of Pesach will fall out on Shabbos.) In this issue, we'll explore the question of preparing the lettuce used for *Marror* at the seder.



"*Korech!*" - announced Abba. Everyone at the seder started to make their matza-marror sandwiches using the lettuce leaves that *Imma* washed on erev Pesach. However, pretty soon, it was clear that there was not enough lettuce for everyone's *korech* sandwich. *Imma* started to calm everyone down - "Don't worry. I have more lettuce in the fridge. I just need a few minutes to prepare it." "One second, *Imma*" said Abba, as he quickly walked to his halacha seforim. "I need to check if it's permitted to wash the lettuce—especially, on this Yom Tov which fell out on Shabbos."

Q. What can be done to prepare the lettuce for the *korech* sandwiches?

..... cont. on pg. 2

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ANSWER (reviewed by Rav Chaim Malinowitz): One should prepare enough lettuce before Yom Tov. In case of necessity to prepare the leaves on Yom Tov, one should do the following (right before (or during) the seuda):

Step 1: Detach the leaves from the lettuce head.

Step 2: Select the good leaves.

Step 3: Wash each leaf separately under a running water (not through soaking) to remove the dirt and sand that cling to the leaves*. [1]

Step 4: In a case where the instructions on the bag of lettuce indicate that the leaves must be washed in soap water, one should check the leaves manually (without rinsing (or soaking) the leaves with soap water), and if a bug is found, remove it by cutting away the part of the leaf where the bug is present. [2]

The lettuce leaves are now ready for consumption.

Note: These instructions are for lettuce that was grown in a bug-free environment.

* Even though a Mishna in *masechet Shabbos* (20:3) states that one may not soak *karshinim* (spelt) [3] to remove its *pesoles*, most of the *poskim* permit rinsing off dirt from fruits and vegetables if it's done right before the *seuda*. Rav Moshe Feinstein zt"l explains that removing the dirt from a fruit or vegetable through soaking it in water (like in the case of the above cited Mishna) is an action of *Borer* (i.e., the way it is done in an agricultural, mass production setting). However, merely rinsing off the dirt from a fruit or vegetable is considered as '*derech achila*' - a way of preparing a food item immediately prior to eating it.[1] (*Derech achila* is permitted even when *pesoles* is being selected from the edible part, if it's impossible to get to the edible part in a different way.)

[1] אג"מ א"ח ח"א סי' קכה, שש"כ ג:כב [2] שש"כ ג:מ [3] פי' הרמב"ם על המשניות

Riddle

"Reb Leib - can I eat matza now?"
"No, Shmuli. We don't eat matza on erev Pesach."

A few hours later... "Nu, Reb Leib - can I eat matza now?" "No, Shmuli. We don't eat matza until we finish *Magid*."

A bit later, after *Magid*, Shmuli washed and finally ate the matza. Some time later, before he fulfilled the mitzva of eating the *afikoman*...

"R' Leib - I a bit hungry, can I eat more *matza* now?" "No, Shmuli. Since it is Pesach and you..."

What did Reb Leib say to Shmuli?

Last week's riddle

Red, yellow, green are my best colors.
Who am I? Traffic light? Think again.
I will tell you one thing, though:
We'll meet at the Pesach Seder,
And I'll remind you of the painless birth!
Who am I?

Answer: An Apple! One of the reasons for why we put apples in charoset is to remind us of the painless child birth that the Jewish women had in Mitzrayim when they would give birth under apple trees. [Peirush Rav, Pesachim 10:3]

Sweet & Short



Tell to Your Soul

Insights on the Haggada and the Seder

From a Parent to a Child - The Best Segula for Emunah

והגדת לבנך - "*And you should tell to your son*" (Shemos 13:8) Is this verse telling us that the story of *yetzias Mitzrayim* should be told by the parent to his children, simply because a parent knows more? Based on the Rambam, we learn that it is not so. Even when a child knows more than a parent, it's still better for the story of *yetzias Mitzrayim* to be told specifically by a parent. The reason for this is because on the first night of Pesach, there is a special *segulah* for *emunah* when the story of *yetzias Mitzrayim* is related specifically by a parent to his child.

[Nesivos Shalom, Pesach, §7]

Haggada Means "Continuation"

The root of the word Haggada (הגדה) has several meanings. One of them is "continuation" (see Targum Onkolos on Bereishis 37:28). Hence, when the Torah tells us "*And you should tell to your son*" (Shemos 10:11), it is teaching us that when a child hears the story of *yetzias Mitzrayim* from his father, whom himself heard him from his father, and the latter heard it from his father, etc., a strong *emunah* is instilled in the child's heart, since he sees the 'continuation'.

[Nesivos Shalom, ibid.]



30 Days Before the Chag

Laws of Pesach

Buying a Lamb to Be Used For the Korban Pesach*

- ◆ One should not buy a lamb that's "too old". A lamb that is more than 1-year old cannot be used for Korban Pesach. [Rambam, Hilchos Korban Pesach 1:1]
- ◆ One should not buy a lamb that's "too young." If the lamb is small and fragile to a point where his bones are soft and can be easily broken when a person eats his flesh, then it should not be used for Korban Pesach. [ibid. 10:9]

Due to these halachos, one should buy his lamb from a shepherd who can be trusted.

* *Let's hope that Moshiach will arrive shortly, and hence, this year, the above mentioned halachos will be relevant to us. Certainly, if a person studies halachos that pertain to areas which are only applicable at the time when the Beis Hamikdash is standing, he is showing to Hashem his emunah in Moshiach's imminent arrival.*