



Menucha

בס"ד

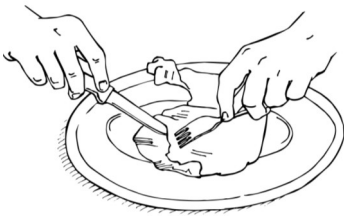
*The Shabbos Table Companion
for the Whole Family*

Volume 1
Issue 4
פרשת וישלח

Halacha Challenge

Chicken Skin

by Shlomo Epshteyn



After attending a nutrition lecture, Rivky decided to exclude chicken skin from her diet. All was fine until the Friday night seuda. All of the chicken pieces on the serving platter had chicken skin on them! She thought to herself in apprehension, "If I remove the chicken skin, than I am selecting the bad from the good, and selecting the bad from the good is the melacha of borer!" Is Rivky correct in her thinking?

Devar Halacha Reviewed by HoRav Malinowitz

While eating chicken, it is permitted to remove the skin¹. It is permissible to do so using the eating utensils².

Mekor Halacha

There are two potential problems with removing chicken skin. The first is the *melacha* of *mafsheet* (skinning an animal). The second issue is the *melacha* of *borer* (sorting).

Poskim hold that the *melacha* of *mafsheet* does not apply at all to the cooked chicken skin. In the process of building the Mishkan (the process from which we learn all of the *melachos* of Shabbos) animals were skinned to obtain hides to the cover of the Mishkan. Thus, skinning an animal in order to use its hide for some purposeful application is the *melacha* of *mafsheet*. This *melacha* does not apply to cooked skin (e.g., chicken skin in our case), since it is impossible to utilize cooked skin for a lasting beneficial use³.

Selecting *p'soles* (an undesired part of a mixture) when mixed with *ochel* (a desired part of a mixture) usually constitutes *borer*. However, the general rule is that one is permitted to remove food coverings (e.g., egg shells, onion peels, orange rinds, and chicken skin) as long as the edible part under the covering will be eaten immediately after the shell is removed. The Be'ur Halacha explains that removing such coverings is different from a typical selection of *pesoles* from *ochel*, due to a combination of various reasons, one of which is because peeling a shell is *derech achila*—the normal way to prepare a given food item for immediate consumption. (Don't miss the next issue, as it will delve into the topic of using eating utensils to help the selection process.)

[It is interesting to note that HaRav Moshe Feinstein zt"l held that it is permitted remove the chicken skin even for non-immediate consumption. He held that the *melacha* of *borer* does not apply at all here. He writes in a *teshuva* "The skin of a chicken that is suitable for eating is considered to be a part of the meat. [Removing this skin] is like cutting off a piece from a large piece of meat"⁴. However, contemporary *halacha seforim*, after citing this *teshuva*, do not rule in accordance with it⁵.]

1. Hilchos Shabbos by R' S. Eider [X F 12, (p.169)] 2. *ibid.* [X F 11, (p.167)] 3. Kitzur Hilchos Shabbos [Mekoros 30:1]
4. Igros Moshe (O.C. part 4, cl. 74 [Borer, 8]) 5. Hilchos Shabbos [X F 12, (p.169)] and others

Exocoetidae - the Flying Fish

by Alex Isaacson

Exocoetidae is a family of marine fish known as flying fish. There are about sixty-four species grouped in 7-9 different classes. Flying fish can make powerful, self-propelled leaps out of water into air, where their long wing-like fins enable gliding flight for considerable distances above the water's surface. This uncommon ability is a natural defense mechanism to evade predators.



Flying fish live in all of the oceans, particularly in tropical and warm subtropical waters. Their most striking feature is their pectoral fins, which are unusually large, which enable them to evade predators by leaping out of the water and gliding a few feet above the water's surface. Their "flights" can typically traverse up to 160ft.

To glide upward out of the water, a flying fish undulates its tail some 70 times per second. It then spreads its pectoral fins and tilts them slightly upward to provide lift. At the end of a glide, it folds its pectoral fins to reenter the sea, or drops its tail into the water to push against the water to lift itself for another glide, possibly changing direction. The curved profile of the "wing" is comparable to the aerodynamic shape of a bird's wing. The fish can increase its time in the air by flying straight into, or at an angle to, updrafts created by a combination of air and ocean currents.



Solve This Riddle

Riddle

One small step for Jewish people across the border is a giant leap for their four-face pals from 300 to 80.

Which border are they crossing? Who are their pals? What's leaping from 300 to 80?



Answer to last issue's riddle:

(Riddle: You don't need to look far to see that Lavan was not a man of truth. Just take a closer look at how the Torah refers to him: לבן הארמי -Lavan the Aramean)

הרמאי can be rearranged as – הרמאי (the trickster).