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Rav Yisroel Salanter zt"l, (1810-1883).

Yahrzeit date: 25th of Shevat (this year: Sunday, Jan. 26)

Rav Yisroel Salanter was born in Zager, Lithuania. He was a descendent of the Vilna Gaon. He became a close talmid of Rav Zundel of Salanter who introduced him to the classic works of mussar. In 1840, he became Rosh Yeshiva of the Rameillas yeshiva in Vilna, and later opened a yeshiva in Kovno. Toward the end of his life, Rav Salanter moved to Paris to help the Jewish community there. His most well

known work is "Iggeret haMusal", the Ethical Letter. A compilation of his thoughts was also recorded by one of his closest talmidim in a sefer Or Yisroel.

The following is a story that shows us how Rav Yisroel Salanter learned deep lessons from the simple events of life. Once, when R' Salanter was in Paris he was in a very fancy hotel. He ordered a cup of coffee and it cost him a number of francs. Rav Yisroel wondered to himself why he paid so much for a cup of coffee which should have cost merely small change. Why do they have the right to charge so much money?

After giving it some thought he decided they were right in charging the high price. True, the coffee itself was worth far less, but they were charging him for ambiance, the nice building, the expensive furnishings, the beautiful gardens surrounding him, and the attentive care of the waiters. All of this was included in the price. More than that he thought, not only did he enjoy all the accoutrements, but it even enhanced the taste of the coffee itself!

The lesson from this experience, said Rav Yisroel Salanter, is that we are in Hashem's luxury hotel. When we drink even a sip of water we must realize that we are getting far more. We have solid ground beneath our feet, plentiful fresh air, a beautiful sky, the smell of flowers, the chirping of birds, and all the beauty and conveniences of the creation. When we take a sip of water we should remember, not only do we owe Hashem a thank you for the water, but also for the ambiance of his luxurious world! ♦



Halacha Challenge

Grape Juice Slurpee

by Shlomo Epshteyn



This Shabbos, Shimmy is excited to eat his mother's fruit salad. His only problem is the grapes in the salad. He simply does not like the taste of the grape skin which tastes slightly bitter to him. Remembering the halacha which he learned last Shabbos, that it is permitted to suck out the juice from oranges, Shimmy is now wondering if he can do the same to the grapes - to hold a grape with his fingers and slurp out the grape juice. "A Grape Slurpee!" - exclaimed Shimmy in his mind.

Question

Is Shimmy permitted to make that Grape Slurpee?

Answer

Shimmy's Grape Slurpee is not a good idea. However, Shimmy can slurp out the juice from a grape after putting the grape entirely into his mouth.

Explanation

To summarize from the last week's article: squeezing grapes and olives by hand or with an instrument to obtain their juice / oil is the *melacha* of *Mefarek*, which is a *tolda* of *Dosh* (threshing). Regarding other fruits that people squeeze to obtain their juice (example: oranges), extracting the juice is forbidden *m'derabbanan*¹.

Many Rishonim¹ permit extracting the juice of any fruit by mouth. One of the reasons given for this leniency is that it is not "*derech s'chita*" to extract juices by mouth: The normal way for the *melacha* of *mefarek* to be performed is by hand or by an instrument, not by mouth². Since the

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Halacha Challenge

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melacha is performed in a completely abnormal way (*shinui gomur*),² it permissible to do so even *m'derabbanan*.

Even though many Rishonim are lenient in this *din*, some Rishonim³ are stringent. As such, the *halacha* of extracting juice by mouth, does not apply in the same way to all fruits. The Mishna Berura^{1*} rules that one may rely on those Rishonim who are lenient in this *din* if one is sucking out the juice from fruits by which *Mefarek* applies only *m'derabbanan*. However, one should follow the stringent opinion when sucking out juice / oil from fruits by which *Mefarek* applies *m'deoraisa* (i.e. grapes and olives). Nevertheless, the Mishna Berura writes that if a person put a grape or an olive entirely in his mouth, it is then permitted for him to suck out the juice from it. ♦

1* מ"ב סימן שכ"ה וס"ק יב .1. שבלי הלקט ועוד שהביא ב"י בסימן שכ"ה וכתוב בהגהות .2. מ"ב סימן שכ"ה י .3. ר"א ממיץ שהביא ב"י בסימן שכ"ה

Kids Ask, Zeidy Answers



Zeidy, we learned that Hashem gave every Jew two crowns for saying Na'ase V'nishma. How is it possible to wear two crowns at the same time?



I've got two possible answers for you, kids. The first answer is that the crowns were small and therefore both of them fit on a head. You might wonder why the crowns did not fall if they were small. I'll answer you that the Malachim actually tied* the crowns to bnei Yisroel's heads. That's

why the small crowns did not fall from their heads. [*based on Gemora Shabbos 88b]

The other answer is that the crowns were not made from physical material**. Just like you can shine two flashlights on the same spot, so too, the two crowns could be present at the same spot. [**based on *peirush* Rashi (Shabbos 88b) - the crowns were made from the radiance of the Shechina]

Wonders of Creation

Royalty Among Birds

by Alex Isaacson



The King Penguin is the second largest species of penguin behind the Emperor Penguin. It stands at just over 2ft tall on average and weighs between 24 – 35lbs. These penguins are primarily found in the South Atlantic. King Penguins breed on sub-Antarctic islands, at the northern reaches of Antarctica, as well as Tierra del Fuego, the Falkland Islands, and other temperate islands of the region. Their total population is estimated to be around 2.23 million pairs and appears to be increasing.

These penguins primarily eat small fish, mainly lantern fish, and squid. King Penguins rely less than most Southern Ocean predators on krill and other crustaceans. These birds are the ultimate divers. On foraging trips, they repeatedly dive to over 330 ft deep and have been recorded at depths greater than an astonishing 980 ft! This diving of course takes place after they've traveled as much as 17 miles away from their colonies to forage. It is able to forage at these depths while underwater for periods extending to 5 minutes due to something called "porpoise", a swimming technique used to breathe while maintaining speed. Like all penguins however, it is flightless. ♦

Riddles & Parsha Qs

Riddle



At first, you don't have it. Then, you get it as a gift. When you loose it, you get another as a replacement-for free! If you loose it again, then you need pay for a replacement. What is it?

[For a hint, see Rashi in this week's *sedra* on the parsha of a non-Jewish slave]

Answer to last issue's Riddle:

(Riddle: I am too young to be parve. Who am I?)

I am an undeveloped chicken egg inside a chicken.

An undeveloped egg inside a chicken is considered to be a part of the chicken. Later, when the egg matures, it becomes parve, since it is considered as a separate entity (even though it is still inside the chicken).

Source: Shulchan Aruch Yoreh De'ah 87:5