

Kashrus in the Kitchen

I – Taam Ki'Iker: Taste is of the Essence



1 -- My friend just moved into an apartment and wants to know why he has to purchase two sets of dishes, one for meat and another for dairy. He said he'll be careful to clean them well between use. What am I supposed to tell him?



2 -- It sounds crazy, but I was cooking chicken soup for Shabbos and my daughter, all upset and throwing a tantrum, threw her string cheese and it landed in the soup. If I took out all the cheese, can we still eat the soup?



3 – I've heard of "nullification in 60". What's the deal... is it just some magic number created by the rabbis?

1. פסחים דף מד

(Bamidbar 6:3 "He shall abstain from new wine and aged wine; he shall not drink [even] vinegar made from new wine or aged wine, nor shall he drink anything in which grapes have been steeped, and he shall eat neither fresh grapes nor dried ones"). Soaked comes to establish the principle that the taste of a forbidden food is like that of its substance. As, in a case where one soaked grapes in water and the water has the taste of wine, a nazirite is liable for drinking this mixture, as it assumes the status of wine ... And Rabbi Akiva, from where does he derive the principle the taste is like that of the substance itself? ... from the required purging of the vessels of gentiles (Bamidbar 31:21). Isn't the purging of vessels of gentiles necessary only to cleanse them from the mere taste that was absorbed through the process of cooking? Even so, these vessels are prohibited. Here, too, it is no different.

במדבר ו:ג "מִיַּיִן וְשֵׁכָר יִזְיֵר חֹמֶץ יַיִן וְחֹמֶץ שֵׁכָר לֹא יִשְׁתֶּה וְכֹל־מִשְׁרֵת עֲנָבִים לֹא יִשְׁתֶּה וְעֲנָבִים לְחַיִּים וַיִּבְשִׂים לֹא יֹאכְלוּ" ("מִשְׁרֵת" לִיתֵן טַעַם כְּעֵיקָר. שְׂאֵם שָׂרָה עֲנָבִים בְּמַיִם, וַיִּשׁ בָּהֶן טַעַם יַיִן - חֲיִיב ... וְרַבִּי עֲקִיבָא טַעַם כְּעֵיקָר מִנָּא לִיהָ? ... יְלִיף מִגִּיעוּלֵי גוֹיִם: גִּיעוּלֵי גוֹיִם, לָאוּ טַעְמָא בְּעֻלְמָא הוּא, וְאַסוּר? הֲכֹא נִמְי לֹא שָׁנְא).

2. במדבר לא:כג

Whatever is used in fire you shall pass through fire and then it will be clean.... and whatever is not used in fire you shall pass through water.

כָּל־דָּבָר אֲשֶׁר־יֵבֵא בְּאֵשׁ תַּעֲבִירוּ בְּאֵשׁ וְטָהַר... וְכֹל אֲשֶׁר לֹא־יֵבֵא בְּאֵשׁ תַּעֲבִירוּ בְּמַיִם:

3. חולין דף צח

Rabbi Ḥiyya bar Abba says that Rabbi Yehoshua ben Levi says in the name of bar Kappara:
All the forbidden foods in the Torah are nullified when they are mixed with kosher food that is sixty times their volume ... as it is written with regard to the nazirite's ram: "And the priest shall take the cooked foreleg of the ram" (Numbers 6:19). And it is taught in a baraita: The verse states: "Cooked" ... The one who said that non-kosher food is nullified in sixty times its volume of kosher food holds that we assess the ratio of meat and bones of the foreleg to the meat and bones of the rest of the ram, and this is a ratio of one to sixty.

אמר ר' חייא בר אבא אמר ר' יהושע בן לוי משום בר קפרא כל איסורין שבתורה בס' ... מזרוע בשלה דכתיב) במדבר ו, יט (ולקח הכהן את הזרוע בשלה וגו' ... מאן דאמר בששים סבר בשר ועצמות בהדי' בשר ועצמות משערינן והוה ליה בששים

4. דברים יד: כא

You shall not eat any carcass. You may give it to the stranger who is in your cities, that he may eat it, or you may sell it to a foreigner; for you are a holy people to the Lord, your God ...

לֹא־תֹאכְלוּ כָל־נֶבֶלָה לְגֵר אֲשֶׁר־בְּשַׁעְרֵיכֶם תִּתְּנֶנָּה וְאָכְלָהּ אוּ מָכַר לְנֹכְרִי כִּי עַם קְדוֹשׁ אַתֶּם לַיהוָה אֱלֹהֵיכֶם ...