

Living Shabbos

Dosh 3 – Sechita: Juicing Fruit and Removing Excess Oil

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1 – I have a sore throat and would like to drink hot water with lemon and honey on Shabbos. I know I can't squeeze lemon directly into the tea, but can I cut a lemon slice over the tea?

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2 – My wife doesn't like extra oil in food to the point that she'll often dab some off. Is she allowed to use a napkin to press out excess oil from schnitzel on Shabbos?

1. רמב"ם הלכות שבת כא:יב

מפרק חייב משום דש, והסוחט זיתים וענבים חייב משום מפרק, לפיכך אסור לסחוט תותים ורמונים הואיל ומקצת בני אדם סוחטים אותם כזיתים וענבים שמא יבוא לסחוט זיתים וענבים, אבל שאר פירות כגון פרישין ותפוחים ועוזרדין מותר לסחוטן בשבת מפני שאין בני סחיטה

A person who extracts [food from raw produce is liable for performing a derivative of] threshing. One who squeezes olives and grapes is liable for extracting. Therefore, it is forbidden to squeeze berries or pomegranates. Since some people squeeze them [for juice] like olives and grapes, [were this to be allowed,] one might come to squeeze olives and grapes. It is, however, permitted to squeeze other fruit - e.g., quince, apples, and crab apples - on the Sabbath, since they are not usually squeezed.

2. שבת דף קמד:

אמר רב יהודה אמר שמואל: סוחט אדם אשכול של ענבים לתוך הקדרה, אבל לא לתוך הקערה. אמר רב חסדא ... אלמא קסבר משקה הבא לאוכל אוכל הוא.

Rav Yehuda taught that Shmuel said: A person may squeeze a cluster of grapes on Shabbat into a pot with food in it, however, he may not squeeze the liquid into an empty bowl. ... The Gemara deduces: Apparently, he holds that liquid that comes into food is not considered liquid, but rather, it is food.

3. שבת דף קמה:

גופא. כבשים ששחטון, אמר רב: לגופן מותר, למימיהן פטור, אבל אסור. ושללקות, בין לגופן בין למימיהן מותר. ושמואל אמר: אחד זה ואחד זה, לגופן מותר, למימיהן פטור, אבל אסור.

We learned that with regard to pickled vegetables that one squeezed, Rav said that if he squeezes them for themselves, it is permitted, and if he squeezes them for their liquids, he is exempt from bringing a sin-offering, but it is prohibited to initially do so; and with regard to boiled vegetables, if he squeezes them both for themselves and for their liquids it is permitted. And Shmuel said: Regarding both pickled and boiled vegetables, squeezing for the vegetables themselves is permitted; squeezing them for their liquids, one is exempt, but it is prohibited to initially do so.

4. ביצה דף ג.

אמר ליה אבוי: משקין שזבו טעמא מאי? גזרה שקמא יסחוט.

Abaye said to him: With regard to liquid that seeped from fruit, what is the reason that the Sages prohibited it? It is a decree lest one purposely squeeze the fruit, and thereby perform the prohibited labor of threshing.