

KELIPAT HA SIRCHOT

PEELING OFF THE ADHESIONS OF THE LUNGS

Given that today the usage is to peel off the adhesions that form on the lungs, we feel obligated to bring the opinion of many great Rabbis and Tzaddikim of former generations regarding this matter.

This custom of peeling off the adhesions began in the lifetime of the author of the Shevut Yaakov Ztk'l. Then arose a Bodek (who checks for the Kashrut of the slaughtered animal) in the city of Prague who started peeling off the adhesions, since some great Rabbis had thus permitted, but most of the Rabbanim (nearly all) raised worlds in order to forbid this practice, and declared that doing so would make the meat a doubtful case of Terefah.

In the book Yad Eliyahu (Siman Kattan 43) it is written that the author himself heard from the Gaon Rabbi Chaim of Volozhin Ztk'l that when the Bodek started peeling off the adhesions, a great upheaval transpired among the great Rabbis and they wished to disqualify that Bodek but due to our many sins, the actions of the Satan were successful and the Shochet (Bodek) was successful in keeping his post.

The Tzaddik and Gaon Rabbi Yonatan Zecher Tzaddik ve Kaddosh LiBracha writes in his book (Palti Siman 39) regarding the story of that Shochet, and in Prague there was a great opposition against the Shochatim who peel off the adhesions but due to our many sins, the treachery got strengthened, many of the Rabbonim joined forces with the evil Shochatim, and with the help of the authorities, they were successful in overpowering the Jews who were fearful of Hashem and his Mitzvot who were opposed to the peeling off of the adhesions, but were not able anymore to stop this practice.

Rabbi Yonatan further writes in his book that the author of the Shevut Yaakov, that at that time had stood on the side of the Shochatim, and even published the Heter on his book Shevut Yaakov, acknowledged that the

mistake was great only that at that time, there was no possibility to go against the destructive forces, but in reality concludes the Shevut Yaakov anyone who fears Hashem and listens to His word, and who is careful about his soul will stay away from eating that meat for it endangers the person's soul.

The Pri Megadim Ztk'l writes that the Shochatim that practice the peeling off of the adhesions to the lungs are in fact feeding the Jews with Terefot.

The Chatam Sofer Ztk'l writes in his book (Siman 39) that whoever wishes to guard his soul will distance himself from eating meat from an animal like this.

In the book Torat Yekutiel it's written that the Shochatim who peel off the adhesions feed the Jews with Terefot, and that it's forbidden to eat any food that was cooked in the same pots where there was cooked any meat coming from animals whose lung adhesions had been peeled.

The Alter Rebbe, Baal ha Tania Ztk'l writes in the strongest of terms in a letter he sent to the Judge of Berditchev when he learnt that the Judge wanted to permit this practice, that He had never even thought of permitting this practice, and he wanted to make known that it's strictly forbidden to permit this practice.

The Tzemach Tzedek ha Kadosh writes on (Yore Deah Siman 24) that it's forbidden to be lenient especially with regard to this.

The author of the Yismach Moshe Ztk'k writes in his book Heshiv Moshe (Yore Deah Siman 28) that all the permission and Heterim given with regards to the lung adhesions, the roots of these Heterim originate in mistake.

The Divre Chayim comments that how is it possible to permit something that had always been forbidden by the Geonim and great Rabbonim of previous generations, because even if the prophet Eliyahu will come and permit something that was previously forbidden, it's forbidden to listen to

his words, and whereas in all the communities of Israel have always taken care to forbid this practice there's no place for talking of permission to treat the prohibition lightly.

The Gaon the author of Yeshuot Yaakov writes (Yore Deah Siman 39) that he argued the fine points of this law with the Vilna Gaon that wanted to permit this, and told him in the strongest terms that it was not possible to give a Heter in this area, and therefore he concludes that it is strictly forbidden to be lenient regarding the adhesions.

The Rosh Yosef writes (Chidushim Siman Kattan 240) in whose city the peeling of the adhesions was a widespread practice, that if he would find one Shochet who would not peel off the adhesions he would do everything in his power in order to aggrandize him and give him honor as much as possible, and prayed that the Holy One blessed be He would help his people in that Shochatim will learn not to peel off the adhesions.

The holy Vilna Gaon Ztk'l (Biur ha Gra 39, 26) was very strict in the laws of lung adhesions.