

# KASHRUT BULLETIN # 2

WHOEVER GUARD HIS MOUTH AND HIS TONGUE, GUARDS  
AS WELL HIS SOUL FROM SUFFERING (Mishle 21:23)

**There is no sin so severe as forbidden foods, since entire Jewish communities were lost and turned to evil ways because of eating treifos and neveilos.**

(Divrei Chayim-Yoreh Deah)

## THE RAMBAM ATTRIBUTES HERESY AND DISBELIEF TO THE SIN OF FORBIDDEN FOODS

May it be known that the foundation of Israel's sanctity and purity is their painstaking observance of the laws of kashrut. We find this stated explicitly in the Torah at the end of Parshath Shemini (Lev. 11:44)

*For I am the L-rd your G-d, and you shall sanctify yourselves and be holy, for I am holy; and you shall not defile your souls with any creeping thing that creeps on earth.*

Thus the Torah is very explicit, that by abstaining from forbidden foods we sanctify ourselves, and by laxity in this field, we, G-d forbid, defile our souls.

In order to rationalize the matter, we present an episode concerning Rabbi Moshe ben Maimon, The Rambam. This episode is quoted in the books, Tzafnath Paneach and Degel Machanay Ephraim (Parshath Ekev). These rabbis heard from the Baal Shem Tov o.b.m. that the people of a certain country sent a letter to the Rambam, asking him to prove to them from the Torah that the dead will come to life. The proofs mentioned in the Gemara were not sufficient for them, since they felt that all the verses quoted by the Gemara could be explained otherwise.

## NON KOSHER FOOD DEFILES THE SOUL OF THE PERSON

The Rambam refused to reply to them, but delegated the task to his disciple, Rabbi Shmuel ibn Tibbon. The latter wrote as follows: "According to science, all food and drink are converted to blood. From the blood, it goes into the liver, and from the liver, the purest goes into the heart.

From the heart, the best and most refined blood enters the brain, the seat of a person's intellect and life. One who is cautious in the field of forbidden foods, is assured that his blood will be pure and clear, and he will have a pure heart. His brain will be pure enough to

attain a pure spirit of life, which is the divinity of all the worlds, which keeps them all in existence. The more one watches himself and sanctifies his eating habits according to G-d's Torah, the more his intellect sanctifies all his two hundred forty-eight limbs.

**THE HIGHEST DEGREE OF TUMAH [IMPURITY] IS  
DISBELIEF IN G-D AND HIS TORAH. THIS PERSON IS  
REGARDED AS DEAD**

Likewise, if one is lax in this respect, his intellect becomes defiled and is regarded as dead, which is the highest degree of uncleanness. Thus the holy spirit of all the worlds leaves him, leaving him vulnerable to all sorts of false doctrines and ideas. Therefore, the rabbis of the Talmud were extremely conscientious in their observance of these laws, so as not to defile themselves with food and wine of gentiles.

Consequently, their intellect was brilliant, the holy spirit of the Almighty rested upon them, to enable them to explain every hidden meaning of the holy Torah. Since He and his Torah are one, a divine power rested upon them and the light of their souls joined these two components to form a three stranded cord, which will never be torn. These people (he addressed them euphemistically), however, are surely unclean. Consequently, their blood is unclean, and their hearts and brains have become clogged by dint of the forbidden and unclean foods. They, therefore, are inclined to believe in apikorsus, denial of the Torah teachings, and have been unable to accept the sweetness and pleasantness of our Sages' words, built on their divine intellect. Since they have become brazen and have left the faith, the destroyer will come upon them and will destroy them and theirs."

Not long afterwards, a powerful king invaded their country and put them to death, scattering all their belongings. (This is a faithful translation of Degel Machanay Ephraim).

*"The most upright butcher is a partner of Amalek."*

*(Kiddushin 82a)*

*AN IGNORANT PERSON IS FORBIDDEN FOR HIM TO  
EAT MEAT (PESACHIM 49b)*

## WHO CAN CONTRADICT THE WORDS OF THE PELE YOETZ?

*It is extremely difficult to find meat that is kosher according to all views. I, therefore, derive much pleasure from the pious that are careful not to eat meat. (Pele Yoetz, taref).*

*Whoever wishes to avoid all risks, should be smart to eat only fowl (poultry) and not bovine meats - because the pitfalls are all too common and numerous with them. [And for eating the forbidden fat of bovine meat we become liable to the punishment of karet and this punishment does not apply to the consumption of poultry] (Shulchan Hatahor, Rabbi Aaron Roth o.b.m. (author of Shomer Emunim, Tohoras HaKodesh, etc)*

**ARE YOU REALLY WILLING TO RISK YOUR LIFE BY CONSUMING FOODS THAT ARE NOT KOSHER ACCORDING TO ALL OPINIONS, AND ARE BASED ON ALL POSSIBLE LENIENCIES IN KASHRUT LAWS USED BY THOSE WHO MANUFACTURE THEM? DID YOU KNOW THAT THE RABBIS OF THE EREV RAV ARE IMMersed IN THE BUSINESS OF ISSUING KASHRUT CERTIFICATES TO ALL KINDS OF FOODS? DO YOU KNOW THAT A LOT OF MONEY AND CORRUPTION EXISTS IN THE FIELD OF KASHRUT? PURE AND SIMPLE JEWS HAVE FALLEN PREY TOO MANY TIMES TO THE WRONGDOINGS OF THE EREV RAV! SAVE YOUR SOULS AND WATCH WHAT YOU EAT SO THAT YOUR EMUNA IN HASHEM WILL BE LEFT PURE AND NOT BE CONFUSED BY FOOLISH NOTIONS THAT ARE TOO PREVALENT IN OUR TIMES. MAY HASHEM GIVE US THE STRENGTH TO AVOID ALL THE DAMAGE THAT THE RABBANIM OF THE EREV RAV TRY TO INFLICT ON THE JEWISH PEOPLE, AMEN**