

# KASHRUT BULLETIN # 33

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)

*There are many people in the city where I live that are G-d fearing and meticulous about their religious practice. I am sure that if they eat meat then there's no problem at all. So what am I to do about it?*

**DON'T GO AFTER THE MULTITUDE IN ORDER TO SIN**

We find in the holy work, Shne Luchot ha Brit the following:

I will list several matters that need special attention, so that you should be stringent in matters most of the populace treats lightly, and "you shall not follow the majority to do evil"...First of all, the examination of the knife used for slaughtering.

## **A G-D FEARING SHOCHET**

Rabbenu Yonah writes in Shaarei Teshuvah, quoted by Beth Yosef (Tur Yoreh Deah, end of ch. 18): And it will be pleasant for those who admonish, who warn the people that they should be conscientious in their observance of the laws of shechitah in every detail, and that they should choose a G-d fearing shochet, for many Jews depend on him for their observance of the precepts of shechitah and bedikah, etc, and many of the experts are far from possessing fear of sin, and whoever does not fear, will not be particular in the examination of the slaughtering knife etc, in addition to the fact that a person devoid of fear will not be careful with examining the trachea and the gullet after the shechitah, in addition to other necessities and details (Rabbenu Yonah).

## **WE NEED TO KNOW WHERE THE MEAT WE EAT COMES FROM**

I myself, since I became an adult, have been very upset about this matter, that people eat whatever meat is brought before them, etc. and sometimes they accept any shochtim, even though he does not excel in piety nor in expertise.

And even in a large city, everyone who fears G-d should talk to the chief Rabbi, to investigate how good the local shochet's knife is, even if he is a G-d fearing man, because, in addition to piety, shechitah requires tremendous expertise. I once saw a truly pious Jew, who would not eat meat unless he himself had slaughtered the animal. Once he came to a large city known for its piety and sanctity. The scholars of the city begged him to partake of their meat, slaughtered by the expert shochet, "What do you think about this knife?" The shochet replied, "It is kosher." He said to the shochet, "Examine it again." He examined it again and again said it was kosher. Then the guest showed the knife to the scholars and said, "Look, here is a knick." And as he said, indeed it was, so that the scholars were astonished.

See how far the matter extends, for a person must excel in fear of G-d and in the understanding of the examination of the knife. It was not for naught that the Rabbis of the Talmud examined the knife by themselves, not to believe any shochet even if he was a G-d-fearing man, for the examination of the knife requires deliberation and fear of heaven (Shne Luchot ha Brit ha Kadosh).

How much a person must be careful of what he puts into his mouth, and especially in our times, since we have gone down thousands of steps backward since the time of Shne Luchot ha Brit. May the Lord guard us and save us from any pitfall or inadvertent sin, but everyone must watch himself as far as he can, and then, whoever comes to purify himself is assisted by heaven.

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Let's quote here what was said by the Tzaddik and Kaddosh The Rebbe of Shapran ZTK'L in front of a great congregation in Williamsburg, New York: "Due to our many sins today, if the supervising Rabbi is G-d fearing, when he goes to check what goes on in the slaughterhouse where he gives the Hechsher, then he only sees through one eye (And the other one is blind) and if the Rabbi is not G-d fearing, when he enters the place, then he is blind with his two eyes".

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**DO YOU KNOW WHO THE SHOCHATIM WHO SLAUGHTER THE ANIMALS THAT YOU EAT MEAT FROM ARE? DO YOU IF THEY ARE G-D FEARING? WOULD YOU TRUST THEM WITH YOUR MONEY? NO? THEN WHY DO YOU TRUST THEM WITH YOUR SOULS AND THAT OF YOUR WIFE AND CHILDREN? WHY DO YOU TRUST THEM WITH YOUR SHARE IN THE LIFE OF THE WORLD TO COME?**

**NOWADAYS YOU ALSO NEED TO TRUST THE OWNER OF THE FACTORY WHERE THE ANIMALS ARE SLAUGHTERED AND YOU ALSO NEED TO TRUST THE BUTCHER WHO SELLS THE MEAT TO YOU**

**ARE YOU SURE YOU WANT TO RELY ON THESE PEOPLE?**

**THE MOST UPRIGHT BUTCHER IS A PARTNER OF AMALEK**

See further the last chapter of Kiddushin (82a): "The most upright butcher is a partner of Amalek." Rashi explains that many cases of questionable kashrut come to his hand, and in trying to save money, declares them kosher, and - sell them as such. We can see to what extent the Rabbis evaluate the pitfalls resulting from the butchers, that they did not hesitate to use the sharpest epithet when referring to them. The expression, "partner of Amalek," is, by far, the sharpest epithet used in the Talmud. One's hair can stand on end when one thinks about how far this matter extends. For a question of doubtful kashrut the Rabbis called him such a name, and not only a usual butcher, but "the most upright butcher " so that no one can be confident in himself and say that since he appointed a reliable butcher, no pitfalls can result from him, and it is accepted that a Torah scholar does not allow any pitfall to result from his doings, especially if the butcher is really learned, since the Rabbis say that a Torah scholar will commit a minor infraction in order to prevent an ignorant person from committing a major infraction.

**The Cause of Increasing Daily Catastrophes**

We read in Sefer Imrei Tzaddikim, (Divrei Geonim p 5): Where the shochet is honest, the shechitah is good and Elijah the prophet is in town. But, if the shochet feeds the people neveilos and trefos, he causes the Angel of Death to come to town [And Jews suffer tragic deaths, G-d save us]

From the aforementioned books we see that all catastrophes that befall us today are caused by shoachim who feed Nevelot (see also Shabbos 33b, Or Hachaim Shmini 11:43, Warnings of Mahartza, Mikdash Melech, Zivchei Shelamim, Darchei Teshuvah 60:5).

In the story of Purim we are told that Haman (A descendant of Amalek) got the strength to issue the decree to annihilate all Jews from the fact that Jews sinned when they enjoyed forbidden foods in the banquet of Achashverosh. I am sure that the reason there are shechitah gezeros (Jews being slaughtered by the Goyim) in our times is because we did not keep

our eyes on the schochtim as we should. (Tiyul bapardes, concerning shechitah, by Shamlauer Rav)

## 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 IMMERSSED 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**