

KASHRUT BULLETIN # 41

WHOEVER GUARD HIS MOUTH AND HIS TONGUE, GUARDS
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)

I see many people doing whatever they want, enjoying life without worrying about what they eat. And they live happily and many of them have wealth and many good things. And I don't see that any punishment comes to them. If the ones doing evil acts are not punished: Why should I sacrifice myself? What is the difference whether I observe the laws of Kashrut or not?

The saintly Chofetz Chaim o.b.m. writes: It is written in Haazinu (Deut. 32:32-35): "For their vine is of the vine of Sodom, and of the fields of Gemorrah; Their grapes are grapes of gall, Their clusters are bitter; Their wine is the venom of serpents, And the cruel poison of asps. Is not this laid up in store with Me, Sealed up in My treasuries? Vengeance is Mine, and recompense, Against the time when their foot shall slip, etc."

This may be explained in accordance with what we have learned in various works explaining the words of the prophet: Who is a G-d like You, who bears iniquity etc. When a person sins, a destructive angel is immediately created to injure the perpetrator, and were the Holy One, blessed be He, to permit him, he would immediately go down and mete out punishment upon this person, for he would demand food from the one who created him. The Holy One, blessed be He, however, is merciful and long suffering, and with his loving-kindness, He bears the iniquity, hides and seals it in his treasuries so to speak, and feeds it there, for everything needs sustenance, and He waits for the person until the day of his death, perhaps he will repent (and this is what the prophet means: Who is a G-d like You Who bears iniquity, unlike a person of flesh and blood, not only does He not punish the rebel, but He even sustains the "creditor" so that he

does not hurt him but eventually, if he does not repent - and since man is destined to die - the Holy One, blessed be He will open His treasuries, for He will not sustain them indefinitely), and immediately, the destructive angels created from the sins, emerge, and each one punishes him on the limb or organ with which he sinned.

All this is alluded to in the Torah in our verse, as follows:

For their vine is of the vine of Sodom - This is beautiful poetry, viz. that just as a person, when he performs a mitzvah plants for it a beautiful sapling in the Tree of Life in Paradise in order to enjoy himself later upon his arrival there, so, exactly it is when he commits a sin; a bitter tree is planted in Gehinnom, the vine of whose fruits is poisonous like the poison of serpents and asps, and upon his arrival there, he is coerced to drink and suck out their lees, and all this is symbolic of a bitter and fast punishment which one receives from his destructive angels, And now we will explain the verses.

For their vine is of the vine of Sodom and of the fields of Gemorrah - For when a person thinks of committing a sin, he immediately plants a vine for himself in Sodom, i.e. the place of sulfur and salt (symbolic of Gehinnom), i.e. a place has started for him, a place prepared for retribution. Then, upon actually committing the sin, the bitter clusters on the vine become ripe, and when he completes the sin, the clusters are squeezed out, the bitter wine, bitter as the poison of serpents is made. This is what Scripture refers to with the words: Their clusters are bitter; their wine is the venom of serpents, and the cruel poison of asps. All this alludes to the creation of the destructive angels that were completed after his completion of the sin, and they are prepared to attack immediately and destroy him with all their might.

WHERE IS THE PUNISHMENT FOR THE WICKED?

Should a person ask, "If so, where are they? We see people committing sins daily. Yet no devils and no destructive angels attack them." This question Scripture answers by stating: Is not this laid up in store with Me, sealed up in My treasuries? - I hide and seal them in My treasuries, and I do not permit them to go out to destroy, for perhaps the person will repent (The repetition, "laid up in store with Me, sealed up in My treasuries," can be explained as follows: There are two kinds of destructive angels, one worse than the other, for one kind can be hidden by hiding him someplace where he will not see the person and therefore not hurt him. The second type is

cruel and must be sealed and locked in a special treasury designated for him. Therefore, Scripture differentiates between 'venom of serpents' and 'cruel poison of asps,' corresponding to these two types of destructive angels, and therefore, Scripture concludes "Is not this laid up in store with Me, sealed in My treasuries," referring to each type respectively).

Perhaps you will ask further, that if this is so, we can satisfy all our desires, and the destructive angels will not attack us. Therefore, Scripture continues "Vengeance is Mine and recompense, Against the time when their foot shall slip, " viz. the time a person's feet slip, i.e. the time of the departure of the soul, immediately the lock of the treasuries is opened, and they are ready to wreak vengeance upon him. Perhaps you will ask, "When will this transpire? Probably after one hundred years." Therefore, Scripture concludes: "For the day of their calamity is at hand, And the thing that are to come upon them shall make haste. "

For, indeed no one knows when his day will come, for many times, through one's numerous sins, the day of his death comes early, as we read in Ecclesiastes: "Be not overly wicked lest you die before your time. "For this reason the Torah says: "And the things that are to come upon them shall make haste. " i.e. The evil destined to come upon them after many years, He will hasten before its time because of the person's evil deeds.

The person who has accustomed himself to eating forbidden foods, has transgressed many hundreds of negative precepts ordained by the Torah, and from each sin a destructive angel is created, one who waits until his foot slips, and then the sinner will receive his punishment through him and many hundreds of destructive angels dressed in black and enwrapped in black will run after him and envelop him to lead him to Gehinnom, the place of darkness and bitterness, and there they will judge him. Now who can imagine the severity of the tortures and the torments that he will suffer for even one negative mitzvah? Surely we have no idea of the tortures for sins and infractions punishable by kares that he committed during his lifetime through eating forbidden foods.

REPENTANCE ONLY HAS VALUE IN THIS WORLD

Then he will regret his sins and wonder where his brains were. How did I hate the exhortation which people would exhort me saying, "Remember your Creator. You will have to come to Him at the end of your

days, how will you present yourself before Him?" Furthermore, I often retorted brazenly, mocked and berated them, saying that they were fools and I was the wise one. Now, where is your wisdom and your intelligence? You dug a deep pit for yourself. He will then confess his sins, as the Rabbis say in Eruvin 22. It says further that he will justify the verdict pronounced upon him, but this will not avail him, because then there is no repentance. As everyone knows, repentance is acceptable only during one's lifetime, not after death.

**EXCERPTS FROM THE SEFER SHEVET MUSSAR CHAPTER 36
THE SHOCHATIM KILL THE ANIMALS WITHOUT
MERCY LIKE A MURDERER WOULD**

And now my son, listen to what the Shochatim do: They grab the knife with an elevated hand, and they stand next to the animal in an arrogant posture, and the animal is paralyzed and cries and gives its life, because there is no strength in her, and that tyrant [The Shochet] does not focus on the movements of the animal [In order to cut with the knife in the precise spot] but he focuses instead on the women and the townsfolk when he says: "Look what a great Rabbi I am, I am like SAMA-EL in that I also take souls" And when he sees the portions he receives he is happy and his wife receives them with joy and brags about it around the neighborhood and she says: "Look at our high level and the great level of the Rabbi SAMA-EL. In this fashion they will live and prolong their days, unless their actions bring them to be slaughtered as well.

**EVEN RABBENU HA KADOSH SUFFERED FOR HE
SHOWED NO MERCY TO A CALF**

For come and see how great was the level of Rabbenu ha Kaddosh (Rabbi Yehuda ha Nassi) and when he didn't show compassion to that calf (Baba Metzia 85a) and he said to the calf: "For this you were created" He was then made to suffer great tribulations and His Torah did not protect him from this.

**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 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 shochtim 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 Hamman (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, teref).

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