

LAWS OF PESACH

The Torah world has been enriched with the publication of the two volume "Mitzvah, Encyclopedia: Laws & Customs of Passover Matzah."

These seforim have just been published by the well known author Rabbi Sholom Yehuda Gross, the rabbi of Holmin and Cong. Magen Shaul and Rosh Mesivta of Yeshiva and Kollel Beis Yeshaya, Brooklyn, N.Y. This author has already written and published forty-two (42) seforim to date.

His work on Passover consists of:

An extensive anthology from the works of the *Poskim*, from the books of the *Baal Shem Tov* and his disciples, and other holy books, encompassing the basic and fundamental rules relating to the baking and eating of matzoh on Passover, as well as other matters related to that Festival.

No doubt, the reader will be greatly inspired by the words of these saints and sages to make every effort to fulfill the mitzvah of baking and eating matzoh in accordance with all the details and stringencies enacted from the day the Torah was given, until this very day. Only by doing so, can one be assured that he will emerge innocent from the judgment of the Divine Tribunal when G-d will judge the entire world, as is related in the Holy Zohar: the main part of the judgment on the Day of Judgment will be concerning the bread of healing (the kabbalistic name for *matzah*). Moreover, we learn many important lessons from the *mitzvah* of *matzah*, which will guide us throughout the entire year.

The author clarifies many complex problems, citing the sources. He starts from the Gemara and includes the great *Poskim* and *Gedolim*. He clarifies many of the practical aspects of making the matzoh.

These seforim, indeed, constitute a major work of scholarship, *halacha* and *hashkofa* perspective. We find here a comprehensive guide for fulfilling the *mitzvah* of eating *matzah*, according to

halacha, as set down by the greatest authorities. It is divided into four parts:

-1-

LAWS AND MEASURES

The laws of eating *matzah* and *afikoman* on the first two nights of Passover, the quantity required, and the time they must be eaten. This is discussed at length, including the sources of all rulings.

Also, there has been added a brief review of the laws in clear, concise language, as well as the views of the authorities whether eating *more* matzah at the seder than is required is considered a mitzvah.

-2-

THE MITZVAH OF MATZAH

The laws of eating matzah all seven days of Passover (and in the Diaspora eight days); whether there is a mitzvah involved or whether it is optional.

-3-

FESTIVE JOY

The great controversy among savants and saints of yore, whether there is justification for a stringent practice to abstain from eating matzos during the entire festival of Passover (except on the two Seder nights) even on the Sabbath and the last days of the festival. The origin of this practice is found in the words of the early authorities.

-4-

SOAKED MATZAH (GEBROKTS)

The laws of "soaked matzah" according to those who are strict or are lenient in this matter; the difference between the first seven days of Passover and the last day.

The language is clear and easy to understand; it is lucidly presented with clarity and detail.

This is the most comprehensive work issued to date on the eating and baking of matzah. In addition, the author includes the customs of many of the great *Gaonim* and *Tzadikim* of previous generations concerning the baking of Matzos.

The book includes a special chart showing the various

opinions and containing the following classifications: measurements, both in grams and ounces; how the kezisim should be eaten; how fast do they have to be eaten; until what time is one allowed to eat matzoh; what to do if one cannot eat the required measurements; what can be done if the time for eating has passed.

Another section contains wonderful stories of *tzaddikim* of yesteryear, permeated with instructions for following the path of Hashem. The benefit derived from reading stories of the holy men of yore, is attested to in rabbinic literature. It fires the heart with the flames of G-d's love, to hope and trust in the One above, to yearn for and cleave to the L-rd.

Here will be found excellent material for parents and grandparents to relate to their children at the Seder.

This all-encompassing sefer has the *haskama*/approbation of the leading Torah authorities including *Harav Hagoan Reb Moshe Feinstein shlita*, who writes: "The author, a gaon, has organized and explained each topic with extensive erudition and profound understanding.... This gaon, the author, may be relied upon since he has already displayed his ability in this field...."

Other *haskamoth* are from Rabbi Moshe Stern (Debre-cyner Rov) who writes, "... In this field a giant thesaurus such as this has never before been published. The thousands of Laws and Customs mentioned will serve as a guide to all who care in baking Matzoh." And many more.

The last part contains excerpts in *English* from the correspondence the author received from many of the largest companies in the Drug and Pharmaceutical industry. These letters indicate that it is questionable whether most medicines are kosher for *Pesach*, and also sheds light on their standard of *Kashrus* during the whole year.

According to the new information contained in these letters from the various

companies, it is evident that one should not rely on the various published lists concerning the *Kashrus* of various medicines for *Pesach* issued by the various Rabbinical organizations or individual rabbis. These lists were compiled without the knowledge of the new information written by the companies to the author!

The author has been working for years at great expense and effort in order to compile and publicize this information concerning the *kashrus* of medicines. These letters are but a small part of hundreds of letters the author has received from various companies.

This information concerning medicines is of great importance for anyone contemplating the use of medicine on *Pesach*.

The sefer also contains a discussion of the detailed research and diligent investigation concerning the accuracy of the *kashrus* of medicinal products (including capsules, drugs, powders, fluids, etc.) for use during the entire year, as well as on *Pesach*.

Besides considering the questionableness of the medicinal ingredients contained in animal products or derivatives, *Passover* use brings with it a series of doubtful ingredients (from the *kashrus* standpoint), such as legumes (*kitniyos*), e.g. corn starch, etc.

These two volumes will enrich your knowledge about baking and eating matzoh in order to celebrate the holiday of *Pesach* according to the *halacha*.

Rabbi Sholem Yehuda Gross is the author of the following seforim:

Nefesh Yeshaya—*kashruth*—foods that are not permitted (in Hebrew and English). *Zivchu Zivchei Tzedek*—problems of glatt kosher meat in America. *Simchas Sholom*—the laws pertaining to *chupa* and marriage. *Minchas Yehudah*—about *Similac* and *Cholov Akum*. *Oholei Yisroel*—a guide for the bungalows in the summer and *mezuzos*. *Dvar Moshe*—various customs and laws. *Menuchas Sholom*—a guide concerning the preparation of food in the home. And *Kedushas Yisroel*—*Hilchos Yichud*, and many other works.