עָבֶה תַּחְתָּיו, דְּאִם לֹא כֵן יִתְחַמֵּם וְיִתְלַחְלֵחַ מִן הַזֵּעָה. וְאִם אֶפְשָׁר, יִזְּהֵר גַּם כֵּן שֶׁלֹּא לְהַנִּיחַ הַרְבֵּה שַּׂקִים זֶה עַל זֶה, מִפְּנֵי שֶׁעַל יְדֵי זֶה מִתְחַמֵּם וְיַחָמִיץ בַּלִּישָה.

### סִימָן קט דִּינֵי הַמַּיִם

כה' אדר

- א) אֵין לָשִׁין אֶת הַמַּצּוֹת אֶלָּא בְּמַיִם שֶׁלָנוּ הַלַּיְלָה, דְּהַיְנוּ שֶׁיִּשְׁאַב אוֹתָם בֵּין הַשְּׁמָשׁוֹת וְיַעַמְדוּ בְּתָלוּשׁ כָּל הַלָּיְלָה. וַאֲפִלּוּ אִם הַלַּיְלָה אָרֹדְּ יוֹתֵר מִשְׁתֵּים עֶשְׂרֵה שָׁעוֹת, אָסוּר לָלוּשׁ בָּהֶן עַד אוֹר הַיּוֹם. וְאִם הַלַּיְלָה קָבְּר וְאֵין שְׁתֵּים עֶשְׂרֵה שָׁעוֹת עַד אוֹר הַיּוֹם, צְרִיכִין לְהַמְתִּין עַד שָׁיַר וְאֵין שְׁתֵּים־עֶשְׂרֵה שָׁעוֹת מִשְּׁעָה שֶׁנִּשְׁאָבוּ. וְעַמָּא דְאַרְעָא נוֹהֲגִין שָׁמִיַּד בְּאוֹר הַיּוֹם לָשִׁין בַּמַיִם שֶׁלָנוּ, אַף שֶׁעֲדִיִן לֹא עָבְרוּ שְׁתִּים־עֶשְׂרֵה שָׁעוֹת בַּלְּהִים שֶׁלָנוּ, אַף שֶׁעֲדִיִן לֹא עָבְרוּ שְׁתִּים־עָשְׂרֵה שָׁעוֹת בַּהְּכִים שֶׁלָנוּ, אַף שֶׁעֲדִיִן לֹא עָבְרוּ שְׁתִּים־עִשְׂרֵה שָׁנִים עַל מַה שֶּיִסְמֹכוּ, אֲבָל רֹב הַפּוֹסְקִים מַחְמִירִים בָּזְתִירִים בָּזָה. וְעַל כֵּן צָּרִיךְּ לְזָהֵר בַּדְּבָר.
- ב) אָם לֹא יוּכַל לְשַׁעֵר אֶת זְמַן בֵּין הַשְּׁמָשׁוֹת, יַקְדִּים קְצָת, וּבִּלְבַד שֶׁלֹּא יִשְׁאַב קֹדֶם שְׁקִיעַת הַחַמָּה. וְהַמִּנְהָג לְסַנֵּן אֶת הַמַּיִם וּלְכַסּוֹתָן. וּצְרִיכִין לְהַעֲמִידָם בְּמָקוֹם קָר. וּכְשֶׁהוּא נוֹשְׂאָם בַּיּוֹם לַבַּיִת, יִזָּהֵר שֶׁלֹא יָבֹא עֵלֵיהֶם הַשָּׁמֵשׁ.
- ג) יָכוֹל לִשְׁאוֹב בְּפַעַם אַחַת לְכַמָּה יָמִים, אֲבָל הַמִּצְוָה הִיא לִשְאוֹב בִּשְׁבִיל כָּל יוֹם וָיוֹם בִּפְנֵי עַצְמוֹ. וְנוֹהֲגִין שֶׁלֹּא לִשְׁאוֹב בִּכְלִי חֶרֶס יְשָׁן אֲפָלוּ הוּא שֶׁל פֶּסַח, אֶלָא אִם כֵּן הוּא מְצֻפֶּה. דִּכְלִי חֶרֶס יָשָׁן שֶׁאֵינוֹ מְצֵפֶּה, אֵינוֹ הִדּוּר מִצְוָה. וְאֵין לְשַׁנּוֹת הַמִּנְהָג.
- ד) הַנְּהָרוֹת בִּימֵי נִיסָן עֵל פִּי הָרֹב הֵן יוֹתֵר קָרִים מִן הַבְּאֵרוֹת, וְעַל כֵּן יִשְׁאַב מִן הַנָּהָר. אַךְּ לִפְעָמִים הַנְּהָרוֹת גְּדוֹלִים מֵהַפְשָׁרַת שְׁלָגִים וְאֵינָם קָרִים כָּל כָּדְּ, וְאָז טוֹב יוֹתֵר לִשְׁאוֹב מִן הַבְּאֵרוֹת.
  - ה) לא יִשְאַבֶּם עַל יָדֵי גוֹי, אֶלָּא עַל יָדֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל.
- ו) לא יִתְּגַם בִּכְלִי שֶׁהָיָה בּוֹ דְבַשׁ אוֹ שְׁאָר מֵי פַּרוֹת, אֶלָּא אִם

<sup>3.</sup> If, however, they were placed one on top of the other, it is necessary to wait at least twenty-four hours before using the wheat. One should also not sit on the bags of flour. (Mishnah Berurah 453:35)

placed underneath the bag, as otherwise, it will get warm and moist from perspiration. If possible, you should also be careful not to place many bags one on top of the other, because as a result of that, the flour will be heated, and become *chametz* in the kneading.<sup>3</sup>

April 5

#### Chapter 109

## The Laws Concerning the Water (Used for Kneading the Matzos)

- 1) The flour for the matzos should be kneaded only with water that has stayed overnight, <sup>1</sup> that is to say, it should be drawn during twilight, and left standing overnight. Even if the night is longer than twelve hours, it is forbidden to use it for kneading until daylight, and if the night is short and there are no twelve hours until daylight, we must wait until twelve hours will have passed from the time it has been drawn. Ordinary people are accustomed to begin kneading as soon as it grows light, with water that stayed overnight, even though, as yet twelve hours have not passed. Although there are some authorities who permit this, most of the authorities take the more stringent view. It is necessary, therefore, to be watchful in this matter.
- 2) If you are unable to estimate the exact time of twilight, you may draw water a little earlier, provided you do not draw it before sunset. 2 It is the custom to strain the water and to cover it, and it must be placed in a cool place. When bringing the water into the house in the morning, you must be careful to keep it out of the sun.
- 3) You are permitted to draw enough water at one time to last for several days, but the proper way of fulfilling the mitzvah is to draw water daily for the needs of that day. It is the custom not to draw water in an old earthen vessel, even though it is used only for Pesach, unless it is glazed, for the use of an old unglazed vessel cannot be considered an enhancement of the mitzvah. This custom should not be changed.
- 4) Rivers in the month of Nissan are generally cooler than wells. You should, therefore, draw water from a river. Sometimes, however, the rivers are swollen from the melting snow and the water is not so cold; it is then preferable to draw water from a well.
  - 5) The water should not be drawn by a non-Jew, but by a Jew.<sup>3</sup>
  - 6) You should not put the water in a vessel that has contained honey or fruit

<sup>1.</sup> This applies both to the *matzah shel mitzvah* (which is required eating at the Seder) and to the regular matzos eaten during Pesach. See Chapter 110:15. (*Mishnah Berurah* 455:1)

<sup>2.</sup> Many *Poskim* rule that twilight begins at sunset and according to them, you may draw the water even before sunset.

<sup>3.</sup> Drawing water for baking matzah is considered part of the mitzvah and should be done only by a Jew. This halachah also applies to regular matzos and certainly to matzo shel mitzvah. The one who draws the water should say: "This is being done for matzah shel mitzvah." (Mishnah Berurah 455:21-23)

הָגְעֵילוֹ קֹדֶם. מִכָּל־שֶׁכֵּן שֶׁלֹא יִתְּנֵם בִּּכְלִי שֶׁהָיָה בוֹ דָבָר חָרִיף אֲפִלּוּ לֹא הָיָה חָמֵץ, מִשׁוּם דְּעַל יְדֵי דָּבָר חָרִיף, מְמַהֵּר לְהַחְמִיץ, וַאֲפִלּוּ הַגְעָלָה לָא מַהָנֵי לָזֶה. גַּם לֹא יִתְּנֵם בִּכְלִי נְחשֶׁת, שֶׁאֵינוֹ מְצַנֵּן כְּמוֹ שְׁאָר כֵּלִים.

- ז) אָם רוֹאֶה שֶׁלֹּא יַסְפִּיקוּ לוֹ הַמַּיִם שֶׁלָּנוּ, מֻתָּר לְהוֹסִיף לְתוֹכָן שְׁאָר מַיִם, וּבְלְבַד שֶׁיִּהְיֶה הָרֹב מִמַּיִם שֶׁלָנוּ, וּלְכַתְּחִלָּה טוֹב שֶׁיִּהְיוּ שְׁנֵי שְׁלִישִׁים מִמַּיִם שֶׁלָנוּ. וְיֵשׁ לְהַדֵּר, אִם אֶפְשָׁר, לִשְׁאוֹב אֶת הַמַּיִם שֶׁמּוֹסִיפִין מִתּוֹדְ [מַשְׁאֵבָה] (פְּלוֹמְפְּ), אוֹ שְׁאָר בְּאֵר מְכֻפָּה, שֶׁאֵין הַשֶּׁמֶשׁ בָּאָה עַל הַמָּיִם.
- ח) כְּשֶׁאוֹפִין בְּיוֹם רָאשׁוֹן, צְרִיכִין לִשְׁאוֹב בְּיוֹם חֲמִישִׁי בָּעֶרָב, כִּי בְּעֶרֶב שַׁבָּת אִי אֶפְשָׁר לְצַמְצֵם בֵּין הַשְּׁמְשׁוֹת. וּבִשְׁעַת הַדְּחָק אִם לֹא שָׁאַב בְּיוֹם חֲמִישִׁי, יִשְׁאַב בְּעֶרֶב שַׁבָּת לְאַחַר מִנְחָה אוֹ בַּשַׁבָּת עַל יְדֵי גוֹי.
- ט) אֵין לִשְׁפּּן אֶת הַמַּיִם מִפְּנֵי הַמֵּת, וְלֹא מִפְּנֵי הַתְּקוּפָה, שֶׁנֶּאֱמַר, שׁוֹמֵר מִצְוָה לֹא יֵדַע דָּבָר רָע. וּמִכָּל מָקוֹם לְכַתְּחִלָּה כְּשִׁיוֹדֵע שֶׁהַתְּקוּפָה תִּפּוֹל, יַנִּיחַ בְּתוֹךְ הַמַּיִם חֲתִיכַת בַּרְזֶל קְטַנָּה וּנְקִיָּה, כְּמוֹ מַחַט, וּתְהֵא תְפּוֹל, יַנִּיחַ בְּתוֹךְ הַמַּיִם חֲתִיכַת בַּרְזֶל קְטַנָּה וּנְקִיָּה, כְּמוֹ מַחַט, וּתְהֵא תְלוּיָה בְּחוּט, שֶׁלֹּא יִצְטָרֵךְ אַחַר כָּךְ לְהַכְנִיס אֶת הַיָּד לְתוֹךְ הַמַּיִם לִקַּח אוֹתָה, אֶלָּא יִמְשְׁכָנָה עִם הַחוּט.

## סִימָן קי דִּינֵי הַלִּישָׁה וַאֲפִיַּת הַמַּצוֹת

- א) תַּנוּר שֶׁאָפּוּ בוֹ חָמֵץ, כְּשֶׁרוֹצֶה לֶאֱפּוֹת בּוֹ מַצּוֹת, צָרִידְּ לְהַכְשִׁירוֹ עַל יְדֵי לִבּוּן בָּאוּר, דְּהַיְנוּ שֶׁיַּסִיקֶנוּ כָּל כָּדְּ עַד שֶׁיִּהְיוּ נִיצוֹצוֹת נִתָּזִין מִמֶּנוּ, כִּי בְּפָחוֹת מִזֶּה לֹא הֲוֵי לִבּוּן נָמוּר. וְצָרִיךְּ לִזָּהֵר שֶׁיֵּלְכוּ הַגְּּחָלִים עַל פְּנֵי כֻלּוֹ. וְטוֹב וְיָשָׁר הִוּא, לְגַרְפּוֹ וּלְנַקּוֹתוֹ הֵיטֵב אַחַר הַהֶּפֵּק וּלְהַמְתִּין עַד שֶׁיִצְטַנֵּן קְצָת, וְאַחַר כָּדְּ יַחֲזוֹר וְיַסִּיקֵהוּ לַאֲפִיַּת הַמַּצּוֹת, וְלֹא מִיָּד אָחַר הַלְּבּוּן.
- ב) יֵשׁ נוֹהָגִין לָטוּחַ אֶת הַתּנוּר בְּקַרְקַע חָדָשׁ, כְּדֵי שֶׁלֹּא יִצְטָרְכוּ לְהַכְשִׁירוֹ עַל יְדֵי הֶסֵּק. שֶׁהֶחָמֵץ הַבָּלוּעַ בְּגַגּוֹ וּבְקִירוֹתָיו, הוּא נִפְּלָט עַל

juice, unless it has been *kashered* with boiling water. You surely should avoid placing the water into a vessel that had contained food with a sharp taste, even if it was not *chametz*, because on account of the sharpness, the dough will rise faster, and even *kashering* with boiling water will be of no use in such a case. Neither should you put the water into a copper vessel, <sup>4</sup> because it does not keep it as cool as other vessels.

- 7) If you notice that the water kept overnight is not sufficient, you may add other water,<sup>5</sup> provided most of the water is that which stayed overnight. Initially, it is best that two thirds of the total should consist of the water that stayed overnight. If possible, try to draw the added water from a pump or a covered well, where the sun does not reach.
- 8) If the matzah is baked on Sunday, the water must be drawn on Thursday evening, because on Friday it is impossible to fix the exact time of twilight. In an extreme circumstance, if the water was not drawn on Thursday, it should be drawn on Friday after the Minchah service, or on Shabbos by a non-Jew.
- 9) The water held overnight should not be poured out on account of a death that has occurred, or on account of the vernal equinox, because it is said, "He who keeps the commandment shall know no evil thing" (Ecclesiastes 8:5). Nevertheless, if you know that the vernal equinox will occur, you should put into the water a small, clean piece of metal, something like a needle attached to a thread, so that afterwards you will not have to put your hands into the water to get it out, but you will be able to pull it out by the thread.<sup>6</sup>

#### Chapter 110

# Laws Concerning the Kneading and Baking of the Matzos

- 1) If you want to bake matzos in an oven in which *chametz* has been baked, it must be *kashered* by heating it until it becomes red hot, that is, heating it to such a degree that sparks fly from it, for anything less than that does not constitute true glowing. You should be careful to spread the coal over the entire area of the oven. The correct thing to do is to remove the ashes and clean it thoroughly after heating, and wait until it cools off somewhat; and then make a new fire for baking the matzos. This should not be done immediately after the heating process.
- 2) Some people have the custom to plaster the oven with fresh clay to avoid the necessity of *kashering* it through heating, for the *chametz* absorbed in the roof and

<sup>4.</sup> The flour may be kneaded, however, even initially in a copper vessel. (Mishnah Berurah 455:25)

<sup>5.</sup> According to some later *Poskim (Tshubiner Rav)* you may not add water if it contains chlorine.

According to Ramah, (Yoreh Deiah 116) water should not be drawn at the time of the vernal equinox. Many of the later Poskim maintain that in our times, we are lenient in these matters.

יְדֵי לִבּוּן מֵהַשַּׁלְהֶבֶת שֶׁמַּסִּיקִין לַאֲפִיַּת הַמַּצוֹת, וּמִנְהָג יָפֶה הוּא, וּבְלְבַד שָׁיָּטוּחוּ אוֹתוֹ בְּקַרְקַע עָבָה כָּעֲבִי אֶצְבַּע אוֹ יוֹתֵר עַל פְּנֵי כֻלּוֹ. אֲבָל טִיחַ מוּעַט, אֵינוֹ מוֹעִיל כְּלוּם.

- ג) אֵין לָשִׁין וְאֵין עוֹשִׁין אֶת הַמַּצוֹת אֶלָּא בְּבַיִת מְקֹרָה, וְלֹא כְּנֶגֶד חַלּוֹן פָּתוּחַ, אֲפִלּוּ אִם אֵין הַחַמָּה זוֹרַחַת שָׁמָּה. אֲבָל אִם הַחַלּוֹנוֹת נְעוּלִים וְיֵשׁ בָּהֶן זְכוּכִית, מֻתָּר אִם אֵין הַחַמָּה זוֹרַחַת שָׁמָה. אֲבָל אִם הַחַמָּה זוֹרַחַת שָׁמָּה, לָא מַהֲנֵי חַלּוֹן זְכוּכִית, אֶלָּא צָרִיךְּ לִפְרוֹס וִילוֹן בִּמְקוֹם זְרִיחַת הַחַמָּה. וְכֵן צְרִיכִין לִזָּהֵר שָׁלֹא יְהֵא הַבַּיִת מֻסָּק וָחָם.
- ד) אֵין לָשִׁין עִפָּה גְדוֹלָה יוֹתֵר מִשְׁעוּר חַלָּה. וְטוֹב לְמַעֵט, כִּי שִׁעְרוּ רַבּוֹתֵינוּ זְכְרוֹנָם לִבְרָכָה. שֶׁאִם הָעִפָּה גְדוֹלָה יוֹתֵר מִשְׁעוּר חַלָּה, אִי אֶפְשָׁר לַעֲסוֹק בָּהּ בְּפַעַם אַחַת, וְחֵלֶק מִמֶּנָּה מֻנָח בְּלֹא עֵסֶק. וְיֵשׁ לָחוּשׁ בֶּן יִתְחַמֵּץ. אָם לָשׁ עִפָּה רַכָּה, לֹא יוֹסִיף בָּהּ קֶמַח לְעַבּוֹתָהּ.
- ה) לא יִדְחוֹק אֶת הַקֶּמַח לְתוֹךְ הַמִּדָּה, כִּי יֵשׁ לָחוּשׁ שֶׁלֹּא יְהֵא נִלּוּשׁ יָפֶה וְיִשְּׁאֵר בְּתוֹךְ הַמַּצָה מַשֶּׁהוּ קֶמַח. וּכְשֶׁיָּבוֹא אַחַר כָּךְ בַּתַּבְשִׁיל, יִתְחַמֵּץ. גַּם יִזְּהֲרוּ שֻׁלֹּא לְהַנִּיחַ אֶת הַקֶּמַח סָמוּךְ לַמַיִם, שֶׁלֹא יִפּוֹל מֵאֲבַק הַקָּמַח לְתוֹךְ הַמִּיִם. וְכֵן הַמּוֹדֵד אֶת הַקֶּמַח, לֹא יִתְקָרֵב אֶל הָעִסָּה אוֹ אֶל הַמִּיִם. וְטוֹב לִזָּהֵר שֶׁלֹּא לְהַנִּיחַ אֶת הַיָּד עַל הַקָּמַח שֶׁלֹּא לְצֹרֶךְ, אוֹ אֶל הַמָּמִח שֶׁלֹא לְצֹרֶךְ, כִּי הַיָּד מְחַמֶּמֶת קְצָת.
- כר׳ אדר ו) הַפְּלִי שֶׁלָשִׁין בּוֹ, צְרִיכִין לְהַשְׁגִּיחַ שֻׁלֹּא יְהֵא בּוֹ שׁוּם נֶקֶב אוֹ סֶדֶק שֵׁיוּכַל לְהִשָּׁאֵר שָׁם מַשֶּׁהוּ עִסָּה וְתִּתְחַמֵּץ. וְלֹא יַנִּיחַ הַפְּלִי בִּשְׁעַת לִישָׁה עַל כָּרִים וּכְסָתוֹת, בֶּן יִתְחַמֵּם. וְיִזָּהֵר שֶׁלְאַחַר כָּל שְׁמוֹנֶה־עֶשְׁרֵה דָקָה, יְנַקָּה אֶת הַבְּלִי הֵיטֵב, וְגַם יִרְחַץ יָדִיו הֵיטֵב. וְכֵן הַדַּפִּין וְהָעֵצִים שֵׁמְגַלְגְּלִין בָּהֶם, יַשְׁגִּיחוּ עֲלֵיהֶם שֵׁלֹּא יְהֵא בָּהֶם שׁוּם נֶקֶב אוֹ סֶדֶק. וּלְכָל־הַפְּחוֹת, לְאַחַר כָּל שְׁמוֹנֶה־עֶשְׂרֵה דַקָּה, יְנַקּוּ אוֹתָם הֵיטֵב. וְכֵן הַבְּלִים שֵׁמְנַקְבִים בָּהֶם, שֵׁלֹּא יְהֵא עֲלֵיהֶם אֲפְלּוּ מַשֶּׁהוּ עִסְּה. וְכֵן הַמַּרְדֶּה שָׁמְּלִים שָׁמְנַקְבִים בָּהֶם, שֵׁלֹּא יְהֵא עֲלֵיהֶם אֲפְלּוּ מַשֶּׁהוּ עִסְּה. וְכֵן הַמַּרְדֶּה שָׁמְנִיִיסִין בּוֹ אֶת הַמַּצוֹת לְתוֹךְ הַתְּנִוּר, צְרִיכִין לְהַשְׁגִּיחַ שֵׁלֹּא יְהֵא בוֹ שִׁנִּם סְדֵק, שֵׁלֹּא תִכָּנֵס בּוֹ קצֶת עִפָּה וְתִתְחַמֵּץ.
- ז) אָם נָפַל לְתוֹךְ הָעִסָּה אֵיזֶה דָבָר חָרִיף, כְּגוֹן מֶלַח אוֹ תַבְלִין אוֹ

<sup>1.</sup> A quantity of flour that equals forty-three and one-fifth eggs is subject to the law of challah. (see Chapter 35:2)

walls of the oven is emitted by the heat of the flame that is lit for the purpose of baking the matzos. It is a good custom, provided the oven is plastered with a coating of clay, the thickness of a finger or more, over its entire area. But a thin coating is of no use.

- 3) Matzos should be kneaded and prepared only in a house that has a roof, and not before an open window, even if the sun does not shine through it. But if the windows are closed and have panes, it is permitted to knead the matzos, if the sun does not shine through them. But if the sun shines through them, the glass panes are of no use, but a curtain must be spread over the windows on the sunny side of the room. Care must be taken that the house should not be heated and warm.
- 4) No dough should be kneaded that is larger than the quantity of dough that is subject to the separation of *challah*. It is better to make it smaller, for our Rabbis of blessed memory estimated, that if the dough is larger than the quantity of dough that is subject to *challah*, it cannot be worked at one and the same time; thus part of it will be left unworked, and there is reason to fear that it may become *chametz*. If the dough you are kneading is loose, flour should not be added to thicken it.
- 5) When the flour is measured, it should not be stuffed into the measuring vessel because there is reason to fear that the dough might not be kneaded well, and particles of flour will be found in the matzah, and when put into the soup, it will become *chametz*. Care should be taken not to put the flour near the water, so that flour dust should not fall into the water. Similarly, the person who measures the flour should not go near the dough or the water. It is good to be careful not to handle the flour needlessly, because the hands will warm it slightly.
- April 6 6) It should be watched that the vessel used for kneading should not have any holes or cracks where particles of dough might remain and become *chametz*. While kneading, the vessel should not be placed on pillows or pads, lest it become warm. Care must be taken that every eighteen minutes the vessel is thoroughly cleaned, and the hands thoroughly washed. The boards and rolling pins must be carefully inspected to make sure that they have no holes or cracks. They should be thoroughly cleaned at least every eighteen minutes. The tools that make the perforations must also be cleaned of even the smallest particle of dough. The peel (a shovel-like tool), with which the matzos are put into the oven, must be carefully inspected for any cracks<sup>3</sup> where a particle of dough might be caught and become *chametz*.
  - 7) If anything with a sharp flavor fell into the dough, such as salt, spices or even

<sup>2.</sup> There are some *Poskim* that are lenient and permit even larger quantities, since in our times there are large ovens and many people are involved in production which makes it unlikely that it will become *chametz*. *Mishnah Berurah* says, however, that it is best to be stringent, even in these times and to follow the opinions of the *Shulchan Aruch*. (*Mishnah Berurah* 456:7, *Shaarei Tzion* 10)

<sup>3.</sup> The proper custom is to appoint a supervisor (Mashgiach) in the matzah bakery to oversee the entire process. (Ibid. 459:33)