

## אין מוסקין<sup>1</sup> בטהרה – בטהרה Harvesting olives need not be done

### OVERVIEW

Edibles can become טמא only if they came into contact with certain liquids (including water, wine and olive oil) after they were harvested. If the liquids were placed knowingly on the food, the food becomes מוכשר (fit) to be טומאה. However, if the liquid came in contact with the food by chance (without the owner's knowledge), then it can be מכשיר only if the owner is pleased that the food became wet. The liquid that seeps out from grapes is considered wine. However the liquid that seeps out from olives is not considered oil. This will explain why בוצרין בטהרה ואין מוסקין בטהרה.



מפרש הרב רבינו יוסף דטעמא דבצירה דפרק קמא דשבת (ד' יז, א ושם) –

מסכת שבת פרק explains that the reason which is mentioned in the first of פרק concerning why בצירה should be done בטהרה –

לא שייכי במסיקה דשמא יבצרנו בקופה מזופפת<sup>2</sup> –

is not applicable by מסיקה. The reason for בצירה בטהרה is out of concern that perhaps he will harvest the grapes with a tarred basket (which can contain any liquid seepage from the grapes).<sup>3</sup> This concern is not applicable by מסיקה (as תוספות will shortly explain)<sup>4</sup>.

וההיא נמי פעמים שאדם הולך לכרמו ורואה אשכול שביכרה –

And also that other reason for בצירה בטהרה, which is that occasionally a person goes to his vineyard and he sees a ripe cluster of grapes<sup>5</sup>, so -

<sup>1</sup> מסיקה refers to the harvesting of olives, and בצירה refers to the harvesting of grapes.

<sup>2</sup> The text in דבנבים היינו טעמא שמא יבצרנו בקופות מזופפות ובמסיקת זיתים ליכא למגור הכי reads as follows: דמשקה היוצא מהם בלא בית הבד מוחל [מיהל] בעלמא הוא ואינו משקה להכשיר כדמוכח בפרק חבית שנשברה.

<sup>3</sup> When one is בוצר with a קופה מזופפת this indicates that he wants to preserve any juice that may seep from the grapes (before they are pressed for wine). Therefore this juice is מכשיר the rest of the grapes in the קופה. If the קופה is טמא it will be טמא all the grapes inside it. The חכמים were therefore מתקן that whenever one is בוצר ענבים he should do so with כלים טהורים out of concern that he may harvest מזופפת and be טמא the ענבים (unwittingly). [If it is not harvested בקופה מזופפת then מן הדין it would not be מכשיר for since the liquid will be lost, this indicates that the owner does not care about it and it is not considered לרצונו.]

<sup>4</sup> The liquid which seeps from olives (before it is pressed) has no oil content to it and is not considered שמן (as opposed to the liquid which seeps from grapes, which is considered wine). Therefore even if he will harvest the olives בקופה מזופפת it will not become טמא, since he does not care about the liquid seeping from the olives. It is not considered as if the olives became wet לרצונו, for he has no interest in the seepage. The fact that he is using a קופה cannot be considered as an indication that he cares about the liquid. See 'Thinking it over'.

<sup>5</sup> He wants to ascertain whether it is ripe enough for harvesting.

סוחטו ומזלפו על גבי ענבים ובשעת בצירה עדיין משקה טופח עליהן –

**He squeezes it<sup>6</sup> and sprays its juice on the other grapes and at the time of harvest the liquid is still wet<sup>7</sup> on those grapes.<sup>8</sup>** Even this second reason is not applicable by olives<sup>9</sup>.

תוספות explains:

**דבזיתים אינו רגיל לעשות כן שאינו משקה -**

**For by olives it is not usual to do this** (to squeeze the olives on other olives), **for it is not a liquid** (of oil) -

**ואינו חשוב כדאמר התם<sup>10</sup> ואינו רוצה בקיומה:**

**And it has no significance as the גמרא states there, and he has no desire that it should remain.** Therefore people will not squeeze the olives on other olives to preserve the extracted liquid. There is no גזירה to be concerned about (even) if they will be harvested בכלים. The olives will not become טמא, since there was no הכשר (and no concern of a הכשר).

## **SUMMARY**

Olives may be harvested טמאים בכלים, since a) the seepage is not considered משקה and b) people will not squeeze out the juice of an olive on other olives in order to preserve the juice.

## **THINKING IT OVER**

When harvesting olives מזופפת בקופה, the liquid seeping out of the olives is not considered שמן, therefore it is not מכשיר.<sup>11</sup> However this liquid should be considered as water; why therefore is it not מכשיר the rest of the olives?!

<sup>6</sup> He is however reluctant to lose the juice from this cluster, therefore he sprays it on the other grapes.

<sup>7</sup> Liquids can be מכשיר לקבל טומאה only after the foods are harvested.

<sup>8</sup> Therefore these grapes became מוכשר לקבל טומאה and if he will use כלים טמאים to harvest them, the grapes will become טמא. The חכמים were מתקן not to be בוצר בכלים טמאים out of concern that perhaps these grapes had been sprayed on and are still wet.

<sup>9</sup> If the owner would squeeze the olives on other olives it would be מכשיר לקבל טומאה, since he did it לרצונו; however we are not concerned that he will ever do this as תוספות concludes.

<sup>10</sup> שבת קמ"ב.

<sup>11</sup> See footnotes #'s 2 & 4.