

# Newsletter for Bnei Torah

Vol. 1, # 2, P. O. Box 172, Lakewood, N. J. 08701 (Rabbi Yehuda Shain)

Chanukah 5759

## The causes of intermarriage and solutions:

*Harav Shlomo Zalman Auerbach, OB" M*, when approached about the unprecedented rate of intermarriage, stated that he is of the firm conviction that the cause is not a lack of education. "*Chazal* say intermarriage is directly caused by *Bishul-akum* and *yayin-akum*, evidently the *Kulos* and *Hetai-rim* that are being used are not acceptable to *Chazal*".

"Therefore," he said "one should always be *Mach-mir* in these areas and not rely on *Kulos* or *hetairim*". He said further "if we will be *Mach-mir* in New York on *Bishul-akum* & *Yain-akum* we will prevent intermarriage in *Pariz*".

## Cream of Tartar / Tartaric acid: (Yayin-akum)

Cream of tartar is made from grape-juice that has been centrifuged and dried. Not to be confused with "*vain-shtain*" which is dried out wine barrel scrapings (never had the *issur* of *Yayin-akum*) The source is usually from non-kosher wine. It is only permitted from a kosher wine. It is an antioxidant used in baking products etc., sweet/low type sugar substitutes as a taste enhancer.

## Wines not "Mevushal" etc. according to all standards:

There are currently many different kosher wines on the market with various *Hashgochas* from around the world. The standards of some of them regarding *Mevushal*, *reiyas-akum*, *hashgocha* etc. are questionable. In a wine product we should try to be *mehadir* & be *mach-mir*. (see above and related article.)

## Powdered / Instant potato products Re: Bishul-akum:

Powdered and instant potatoes are processed by first cooking them and then dehydrating them. Dried potato products would require cooking by a religious Jew. The *Avkas Rochel*, quoted in the *Yad Efraim*, *Yoreh Daya*, 113:12, states that food cooked by a non-Jew which was rendered inedible by dehydration and then needs to be re-cooked by a Jew is not prohibited because of *Bishul akum*.

The *Avkas Rochel* considered these items as *Oleh-ahl-shulchun-Melochim*. Today powdered / instant potato products can be reconstituted with tap water and do not require further cooking by a Jew. Therefore they would be permitted only as a *Bishul Yisroel* product. All other ones on the market should not be used. Powdered potatoes are also used in finished products.

## Caterers and Restaurants Re: Bishul-Akum:

Most caterers and Restaurants employ non-Jewish or non-religious chefs. The concerns of *Bishul-akum* are very serious. Reb Shlomo Zalman Auerbach, OB" M was not willing to rely on pilots, nor on the "oven is still hot". He was of the opinion that one should go with the *Shita* of the *GRA* and be *Mehadir* like the *Bais-Yosef* in these areas.

A popular caterer brings in the religious chef at 4:00 PM (after everything was cooked already) for the *mehutonim* to see the religious chef. This is another reason to have your own *Mashgiach* at all of the food preparations for the affair / *Simcha*.

## Restaurants / Caterers / Food markets / Takeouts etc:

There are some restaurants, caterers, food markets and takeouts that do not have a *Hashgocha* at all. The *Darkai Tshuva* in *Yoreh Daya* 119 brings a *Takonah* (regulation) prohibition by the *Vaad Ha-orotzois*, that one is **not** permitted to purchase **any** food items from a vendor who is not under a proper *Hashgocha*. See also the *Chochmas Odor*.

The vendors feel that if people buy or eat from a religious person, then it is permitted. The prohibition is specifically for a religious vendor, and it is not permitted. The *Rav Hamachshir* should have a prominently displayed **dated** / signed with the **name of the establishment**. People should refrain from using food establishments that do not have a displayed sign from the *Hashgocha* ( name & date are a must.)

The mere fact of having a religious Manager is a perhaps a **kosher experience**, but is not a substitute for a proper acceptable *Hashgocha* in the context of the prohibition.

## Fish (dagim) products:

There are constant requests; " what are the kashrus problems / concerns with a certain popular fish distributor?" They distribute canned tuna & salmon, frozen fish and gefilte fish as well. Some of the concerns;

- i) The equipment is not cleaned before *kashering*.
- ii) Which equipment requires *kashering*?
- iii) The proper procedure for *kashering* is not done.
- iv) There is no procedure for checking every fish for proper *simonim*, (required per *Igros Moshe*).
- v) No control on the workers (hands/clothing) coming back from the lunch room & going directly to do a kosher for passover production.
- vi) No *hashgocha* at labeling, (they go home to NY).

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- vii) The manufacturing facility controls the labels and not the *hashgocha*.
- viii) The *Bishul-Yisroel* is not controlled properly.
- ix) There are not enough Mashgichim to properly supervise.
- x) The family (for economics) is trying to be the mashgiach as well, it isn't working.
- xi) The kosher controls on the oil being used are not sufficient.
- xii) They were instructed to notify the O-U ten days in advance of any production, in order to arrange for sufficient / proper *mashgichim* but they refuse to comply.
- xiii) No mashgiach at the gefilte fish production. The fish are not checked for *simonim* as required by the *Igros Moshe*.
- xiv) The eggs are not checked for blood spots.

### Maximum health type vitamins & supplements:

In a previous issue, we addressed the concerns with the type of Hashgocha required on vitamins, health foods etc. It is a very complex field to give a proper hashgocha. We received a call from the Owner of a Maximum health Company, that they intend & are in the process of becoming certified by the O-U.

We have ascertained that it has not happened & does not look like it will happen in the near future. The O-K was on some of their products, now the O-K is off all of their products. We are now left with a ??.

### How to make an Eiruv kosher?:

The Passaic community, as many other Jewish communities, decided it wanted an *Eiruv* in order to be able to carry on *Shabbos*. Because of the complexity of the laws pertaining to *Eiruv*, they obtained the services of an *Eiruv* expert from Lakewood, NJ. After completion of the *Eiruv*, one of the Passaic *Rabonim*, among others, questioned the validity and kosher status of the *Eiruv*.

They brought in the World renowned & foremost expert on *Eiruvim*, Rav Zundel Krueizer from Jerusalem. The consultant who originally made the *Eiruv* and a number of other *Rabonim* accompanied Rav Krueizer. Rav Krueizer and the other *Rabonim* showed the original consultant that his understanding & interpretations of the Halacha and the *Rishonim* / *poiskim* is wrong and the *Eiruv* is *posul*.

The conclusion was that if one were to carry in this type of *Eiruv*, he would transgress a *Torah* prohibition. Rav Krueizer gave instructions on correcting the problems and to make a kosher *Eiruv*. Rav Krueizer was not addressing a *hidur* / *chumrah* etc.

Someone stated (falsely) that Reb Ahron Kotler approved of such a type of an *Eiruv*.

Since then other *Rabonim* / *poiskim* have had the opportunity to check some of the *Eiruvim* of this consultant and concluded that they were not acceptable as kosher and should not be used till

the critical changes have been made.

There are many communities worldwide that have used the above consultant for their *Eiruv*. Therefore any *Eiruv* that was made using the services of the above consultant should not be used until such time that a qualified *Eiruv* expert checks and corrects the *kashrus* of the *Eiruv*.

### Publications purpose:

Some publications are not intended as a Halachik guide. The purpose is strictly as a compiler of relevant sources on the subject for the reader to be able to reference. See the letter from R' Moshe Feinstein, Ob"m ( Erev Rosh Chodesh Adar 1, 5730).

### Coca Cola/ Pepsi etc. without kosher symbol on the bottle:

Coca-Cola is made in many different plants around the world. Some plants have a *Hashgocha* while others do not. After some research we came to the conclusion that sodas without a hashgocha should not be considered kosher.

Rav Moshe Feinstein, OB"M in *Igros Moshe* writes "specific guidelines" how a hashgocha is to be done. The kosher certifier must also be familiar with every part of the plant and all of the ingredients, & can only then attest to the *kashrus* of the product.

It would be irresponsible to even suggest that one can attest to the kosher status of a product without being familiar with the uncertified plant. A *kashrus* certifier must be in strict compliance with the *Igros Moshe's* basic guidelines. (Hopefully the certified plants are done in this fashion.)

### The Iowa based meat & poultry plant:

The *Rav Hamachshir* & the plant owners are attempting to come clean by claiming "foul ball-we corrected everything that Shain and others said."

There are allegations that the plant switched labels -from non-*glatt* meat boxes, to *glatt meat* status. (The Lubavitcher claim to have a very tight control on their labels (only their labels).

They were selling knowingly non *Bais-Yosef Glatt* (treif for *Sefardim*) misrepresented as *Bais-Yosef glatt*.

There are allegations Re: the quality of the *Shoichtim*, *Mashgichim* and of being understaffed.

There are allegations of *kashrus* problems at *nikur* & salting .

There are allegations of unacceptable standards by the *bedikas of traifos* etc.

The ratio of *glatt* is not within the norm of other plants.

There are many other allegations of compromises in *kashrus*.

After they have lost their *chezkas kashrus*, they still expect the kosher consumer to have confidence that it all changed. The owners are the same, the *Rav Hamachshir* is the same (Rav Neuschloss, Ob"m said "*er iz a groiser kahl*"), the plant is very

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far & extremely inconvenient to check out.

What was corrected? What has changed? Nothing!

### Gebaken nuch Pesach:

The ever so popular stickers "gebaken nuch pesach 5758" have made their appearance even before *pesach*. We had product made before pesach & even made on pesach with the above stickers. It would be advisable for the Hashgocha to have control of the labels.

### Taurine-What is that? (it is in your baby formulas):

Taurine is an extract from ox-bile (gall bladder) an amino acid. It is a non-kosher ingredient that is mistakenly listed as a "group # 1" by the kosher certifying agency. (Group 1 means it does not require a hashgocha like flour, sugar etc.)

Another Certifying agency says they only allow taurine certified by agency 1, which is listing and giving a hashgocha to a non-kosher ingredient believing that it does not even require a hashgocha. (The Bdat"z of the Aida-Jerusalem uses a synthetic taurine from Holland).

### Tropical oils transported by boat from Malaysia:

The tropical oils (palm and coconut oils) are transported by boat from Malaysia. There are many kashrus problems with the transported oils. The boat's holding tanks also held hot tallow etc. The piping is another kashrus issue. The adjoining holding tanks may contain non-kosher product. The back hauls that are done will not always show up on the boat record logs. The logs are not that reliable etc.

The Bdat"z of the Aida-Jerusalem does have a good control on the their tropical oil shipments.

The O-K Labs in an article in the Jewish Homemaker claims to have to have an almost fool proof control on their tropical oil shipments. We understand that the O-U is devising a plan on how the kosher industry will be able to have a control on the shipping of tropical oils, finally.

The assumption was that Malaysia does not process any animal oils. That has changed. Now, we need controls on the production part of tropical oils as well.

### Parve chocolate from England?

The methods used in England especially to make parve chocolate are as follows; The Manufacturer produces his regular (non-*cholov yisroel*) milk chocolate on the equipment. After he is finished, the equipment is not cleaned at all and they will produce parve chocolate. The first batch (which incidentally is full of milk) is not used for parve. There were Laboratory tests done on their parve chocolate and the tests indicated dairy

product. The consumer should be aware. The ordinary USA hashgochas surpass the England /European hashgochas.

### Dwarf Fruit trees:

Grafting 2 or more tree parts to a rootstock makes dwarf fruit. The rootstock may some times be of a completely different fruit stock. The concern is *kilaiyim* which the fruits are permitted but the tree must (according to Rav Eliyashev, Shlita) be uprooted, not watered, fertilized etc. Pears are planted on Quince etc. Check out your trees and act accordingly.

### Butter from non-*cholov yisroel* milk:

Rabbi Avi Juravel (O-K) has brought up a serious butter problem. The butter is pasteurized at some point in time. The butter is pasteurized on the same hot equipment as the non-*cholov yisroel* milk. Hence the butter becomes not-permitted for those that are stringent and use *cholov-yisroel* milk but non-*cholov yisroel* butter as permitted by the *Ramah*. There was a full article on the above in the Yated Ne'man about 6 weeks ago.

### Re: Young Israel's Star-D:

New Jersey's Governor Whitman's recent statement on a different issue put it very succinctly; "Their moral compass has gone haywire."

### Quotes:

The truth must be heard,  
Even if the public doesn't like the sound of it.  
Whatever the circumstances,  
Regardless of the consequences,  
The truth must be stated-loudly, clearly and unequivocally.

Reb Ahron Kotler, Ob"m

Learn how to withstand animosity,  
And to weather unpopularity,  
and carry on the struggle,  
to uphold "Hashem's ideals".

R' Shimon Schwab, Ob"m

# **Bnei Torah Newsletter**

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## **Kashrus Standards:**

The kosher consumer's Rav decides on the *kashrus* standards that each individual shall follow, in the same way that the Rav sets the standards for all other matters.

There are some Kashrus Certifiers that are of the opinion that they should be empowered to set the standards of the kosher consumer - & not the Rav.

Some *Hashgochas* have set their standards to; utilizing every available *kulah / heter*, and *bi-dieved*, without so much as informing the kosher consumer or at least their Rav.

There are others in the field of *kashrus* or Rabonim that are aware of some of the standards but are not willing to say or write about the topics.

When we do come across certain Gedolim that are opening our eyes either by saying or writing without fear of intimidation, it is time to take heed.