

Overview

Siman 319 Seif 12:

Whenever it is permitted to filter wine with a kerchief it is also permitted to filter wine with a wicker basket (A basket made of reeds or types of willow) but one must be cautious not to lift the basket more than a *tefach* off the bottom of the utensil in order to deviate from the normal way this is done.

- ❖ Even if the wine is slightly turbid so that it is prohibited to use a strainer, it is permitted to filter the wine using a wicker basket since it is not used to filter wine during the week. (M.B. 47)
- ❖ If the water or wine is clear so that it is permitted to use even a strainer there is no restriction against lifting the basket more than a *tefach* off the bottom of the utensil. Biur Halacha cites authorities who explain that the concern is that one will form an *ohel* which would apply even if the water or wine is clear. If one holds the basket in one hand and pours the beverage with the other all opinions would agree that he has deviated from the normal manner of filtering the wine and it is permitted even if the basket is more than a *tefach* off the floor. (M.B. 49)

Siman 319 Seif 13:

Inserting tightly straw or splinters into the mouth of a utensil into which one pours wine from a barrel is prohibited since it will certainly filter the wine.

- ❖ It is prohibited to insert these items before Shabbos with the intent to use it on Shabbos. (M.B. 50)
- ❖ Ran explains that it does not serve as an actual filter since it allows the dregs to pass but since it prevents splinters from passing it is similar to a filter. (M.B. 52)

Siman 319 Seif 14:

It is permitted to pour slowly from one utensil to another as long as one is careful that when the stream stops and droplets that emerge from the refuse begin to fall that he stops and leaves them with the refuse. If he does not do so the droplets make it obvious that he was selecting. It is permitted to lift the barrel and place it on something so that the wine will flow readily from the barrel.

- ❖ When one initially pours and the refuse is not noticeable one is not performing an act of selecting. (M.B. 54)
- ❖ Shulchan Aruch refers to where he will drink the wine some time later because if he will drink the wine immediately there is no issue since it is permitted to select food from refuse by hand for immediate use and pouring from one

Halacha Highlight

Tea pots and tea bags

Shulchan Aruch Siman 319 Seif 14
 מתר לערות בנחת מכלי לחברו

It is permitted to pour gently from one utensil to another

Shulchan Aruch (סעי' י"ד) rules that it is permitted to pour wine from one utensil that contains wine and refuse into another utensil as long as one is cautious that when the stream stops and visible droplets begin to emerge from the collection of refuse that he stops pouring. The reason it is necessary to stop pouring once the stream stops is that while the stream is flowing it is not evident that he intends to separate the liquid from the refuse. However, once the stream stops and the refuse is visible it becomes evident that he intends to separate the food from the refuse and is prohibited. Mishnah Berurah (סי"ק נ"ה) points out that Shulchan Aruch refers to where the person intends to drink the wine some time later so that he must be concerned about selecting in the permitted manner but if he intends to drink the wine immediately it is permitted since it is considered as though he is separating the food from the refuse for immediate use and pouring from one utensil to another is considered selecting by hand rather than selecting with a utensil since the utensil is not effecting the separation of the wine from the refuse.

Accordingly, if one has a teapot that contains tea leaves at the bottom of the pot and tea on top of those leaves, it is permitted to pour tea from that pot even if the mouth has a strainer as long as the liquid flows in a stream from the pot. However, once one has poured out most of the tea and what remains is just the liquid that is intermingled with the tea leaves it is prohibited to pour from such a teapot since the strainer will separate the tea from the tea leaves. Similarly, even those who use a tea bag on Shabbos must be mindful of the fact that removing the tea bag from the tea involves removal of the refuse (the tea bag) from the food (the tea) which is prohibited. It is permitted to drink all of the tea leaving the tea bag at the bottom of the cup even though the tea will become separated from the tea bag but if one wants to remove the tea bag it must be removed with a spoon together with some tea.

utensil to another is considered selecting by hand. It is prohibited to pour fat from soup, even if one does not even use a spoon since in reference to the soup the fat is considered refuse and it is always prohibited to remove the refuse from the food even if it is for immediate use. If one poured some soup out with the fat it is permitted. (M.B. 55)