

Laws & Customs

Meat & Milk

The Torah states three times the phrase, "Do not cook a kid in its mother's milk." From the repetitions we are taught the prohibition of eating, cooking, and deriving any benefit from a meat and dairy mixture.

If one wishes to eat dairy after eating meat one needs to wait 6 hours (except those groups which have *halachically* established other customs). The following are the reasons for this period.

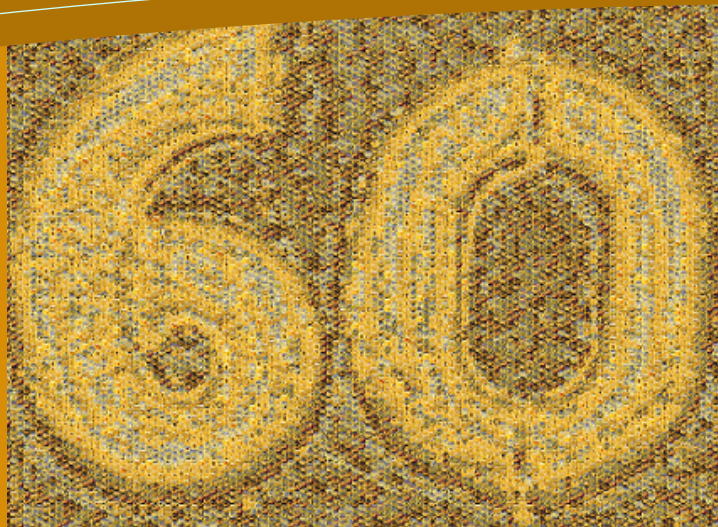
1) Because meat is fatty, the taste lingers in one's mouth for six hours. After then the taste dissipates.

2) If meat gets stuck between one's teeth, it retains its *halachic* "meat" status for up to six hours. After six hours, it is no longer considered meat. However, if one finds meat stuck between one's teeth after six hours, one should remove it before eating dairy products.

If one wishes to eat meat after eating dairy there are two basic requirements:

1) Mouth should be cleansed out even with another food (wine, bread, etc.)

2) An act displaying separation between the previous meal (an hour waiting period, Birkhat Hamazon, etc.) should be made.



Adar

This Shabbat we will bless the month of Adar. Our Sages said, "When Adar enters, we increase our joy." The name Adar has various meanings, one of which is "strong." In Adar, we experience the strength, "Adir," of G-d. The Talmud relates that during the month of Adar, Jewish mazal, usually translated as fortune or destiny, is particularly potent. It is a momentous period as the celebration of Purim was designated in this month. When the Jewish people had a horrible decree upon them, it was changed. In fact if one were to be able to mark a date for a court case, the best time would be Adar, as the mazal is great.

This year there are 60 days of the month of Adar, as we are now in the midst of a leap year, there will be two months of Adar (Adar I and Adar II). The number "60" represents the power of transformation. In Torah law an object can be nullified if there are 60 pieces against one. For example, if a piece of non-kosher food accidentally falls into a pot of kosher food, the non-kosher food is "nullified" if the desirable element is sixty times greater than it.

Thus, in a year blessed with a double, 60-day Adar, all undesirable elements -- every and any cause for pain, sadness, discouragement or dejection -- are nullified and sublimated by the transformative joy of Adar. It is a good reason to celebrate!

כ"ג - ג' - כ"ד שבט

January 28-29 2011

Candle Lighting

17:38

Shabbat Ends

18:34

In Honor of George Sommers Birthday

Choices

A skeptical young man, wishing to test the intelligence of a wise man, raised his fist in front of the venerable man.

"What do I have in my hand?" asked the young man.

"A Butterfly" was the reply.

"Is she alive or dead?" inquired the young man.

The old man knew that the young man was playing with him. If he replied that he was dead, the boy would open his hand and let the butterfly fly. If he answered alive, the young would tighten his fist and kill the creature.

The wise man replied: "It's in your hands - do what you want with it."

Saying

"Do not try to assess the value of a Mitzvah."

Rabbi Shimon Bar Yochai