

## Chapter 2

# Laws of Cooking on Yom Tov

### PRINCIPAL RULES

1.
  - a. One may cook and bake on Yom Tov, so long as one intends to eat some of the food on the same day. (See paragraphs 3 and 4 below and Chapter 28, paragraph 69.) *general principles*
  - b. It is, on the other hand, forbidden to cook and bake on Yom Tov for the next day, whether that day be
    - 1) an ordinary weekday,
    - 2) the second day of Rosh Hashana,
    - 3) *yom tov sheini shel galuyoth* (regarding which see Chapter 31, paragraphs 27 to 40), or
    - 4) Shabbath (except in the circumstances mentioned in paragraph 10 below).
  - c. The lighting of a fire, for the purpose of cooking, on Yom Tov and the kindling of a flame from another flame which is already burning are discussed in Chapter 13, paragraphs 2 and 3.
2.
  - a. Food whose taste will not deteriorate at all if it is cooked on the day before the Festival (for example, fruit soup) should be prepared before Yom Tov. *food which will not spoil if prepared earlier*
  - b. If, however, through forgetfulness or lack of time, this was not done, one may prepare it on Yom Tov, provided one introduces some variation into the normal method employed.
  - c. No such variation is necessary if the food could not have been prepared before Yom Tov, either
    - 1) due to there having been no physical possibility of doing so, or
    - 2) due to its being required on Yom Tov for unexpected guests.
  - d. 1) The requirement that food which will not spoil should be prepared before Yom Tov is a rabbinical one.

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- 2) The reason for it is that a person would otherwise be tempted to neglect the preparation of food before Yom Tov, even where this would be perfectly feasible, leaving it to be done on Yom Tov, when he would have the available time.
- 3) The result would be that a person would spend the whole of Yom Tov preparing food and would not leave himself any opportunity of fulfilling the positive mitzva to enjoy the Festival.

*cooking more  
than  
necessary*

3. a. 1) It is permissible to cook a pot full of meat on Yom Tov, even though one only needs one piece, since the taste of the gravy is improved by the addition of more meat.
- 2) This is so even if the additional meat not required for the Festival is put into the pot when it is already standing on the fire, so long as one does not actually say that the additional meat is being cooked for after Yom Tov.
- b. The same applies to any other food which is improved by the cooking of a larger quantity at the same time.

*heating  
water*

4. a. An urn or kettle may be filled to the top with water and heated up, even if one only needs to use one cupful, on condition that
  - 1) the urn or kettle already contains the full quantity of water to be heated when it is put on the fire, **and**
  - 2) filling the urn or kettle with more than the required cupful of water does not entail an additional action involving effort (as would be the case if the urn or kettle were filled by the jugful rather than directly from the tap).
- b. To add water which will not be used on the Festival to an urn or kettle of water which is already standing on the fire is forbidden, because this action can in no way be justified as being necessary for Yom Tov.
- c. The use of water heaters on Yom Tov is discussed in paragraph 7 below.