

A Practical Guide to Shabbos – Class #6

Losh / Kneading

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אוצר המדרשים (אייזנשטיין) חופת אליהו עמוד 173

ה' דברים נאמרו שכל אחד מהם אחד ממששים ואלו הן: אש דבש שינה חלום שבת, אש אחד ממששים בגיהנם, דבש אחד ממששים במן, שינה אחד ממששים במיתה, חלום אחד ממששים בנבואה, שבת אחד ממששים מעולם הבא

Five things were given as a small taste: fire, honey, sleep, dreams, and *shabbos*. Fire is a taste of *Geihenom*; honey a taste of manna; sleep a taste of death; dreams a taste of prophecy; *shabbos* a taste of the world to come.

-- *Chupat Eliyahu* 173

Kneading (לש)

Av Malacha – Mixing flour and water to make dough.

Principle –

Sephardic custom -- combining a liquid and a solid into a dough-like substance.

Ashkenazic custom -- combining two substances into a thick consistency.

Gezeira – creating thin and runny mixture.

It is rabbinically prohibited to vigorously shake up or mix any substance because it resembles kneading.

A thinner than normal mixture is permitted with two *shinui'im* (deviations from the norm):

1. *Shinui* in the pouring -- reverse the order of adding the solid and the liquid. If there is no set order, put the solid in first.
2. *Shinui* in the mixing -- mix with alternating vertical / horizontal strokes; mix with a finger

NOTE -- add the liquid quickly to the solid to prevent making a thick mixture in the process.

Other *halachot*:

Coating one substance with another is permitted.

Remixing a mixture that separated is permissible. Example: oil that rises to the top of peanut butter.

Thinning an existing mixture (by adding water or oil or whatever) is permitted even if the mixture remains thick.

Dissolving is permissible. Example: adding instant coffee to hot water.

Two solids may be mixed freely.

Possible Toldot

Mixing cement
Preparing a plaster cast
Mixing sand and water
Making tuna / egg / potato salad
Mixing ketchup with mayo
Adding sugar to yogurt
Mashing a banana or avocado
Making hummus
Making mashed potatoes
Mixing and mashing cholent
Mixing "fruit-on-the-bottom" yogurt

Questions to Consider

1. How do you make egg salad on *shabbos*? Describe all the potential issues and the permitted way to make egg salad.
2. Can a child play in a sandbox on *shabbos*? An adult? What are the potential issues? What if the sand is wet?
3. Are there any issues with making salad dressing? Can you make a creamy dressing? How or why not?