# **Introduction to Jewish Festivals: Selecting/Boreir**

Issues of *boreir* are almost always *d'oraita*, not *d'rabanan*, and therefore we are stringent in applying restrictions concerning *boreir*.

Unlike on <u>Shabbat</u> (when you must remove some good along with the bad so as not to violate the <u>melacha</u> of <u>boreir</u>), on <u>Jewish festivals</u> you may remove the bad from the good if it is easier to take the undesired food from the desired food.

#### **Desired from Undesired**

You may select desired food from undesired (or inedible) substances if you follow these two rules:

## 1. Cannot Use Specialized Separating Utensil

Don't use a utensil--such as a slotted spoon, peeler, or sieve--that is specialized for separating:

- Food from other food, or
- Food from other substances.

**NOTE** 

You may remove dirt from a carrot's surface by scraping the peel with a knife (a tool not specialized for separating food), but not by using a peeler.

EXCEPTION As on *Shabbat*, an action necessary to eat a food normally (*derech achila*) does not violate the prohibition of *boreir*. So you may peel a food that is normally separated from its peel or shell in order to be eaten, as long as you do not use a specialized instrument to do so.

### **EXAMPLES**

- You may peel an orange by hand, with or without a knife.
- You may remove the shells from peanuts by hand.
- You may remove the shell from a hard-boiled egg by hand.

## 2. Do This Shortly before You Eat the Food

Prepare the food soon before it will be eaten.

NOTE You may prepare the food as m

You may prepare the food as much in advance as you would normally prepare a meal which you will eat--even as much as several hours.

## **EXAMPLES**

On Jewish festivals, you may:

- Remove fish bones from fish while you are eating the fish or just before eating it.
- Cut open a melon such as a cantaloupe and remove any seeds normally.