SEPARATING CHALLA (HAFRASHAT CHALLA)

INTRODUCTION TO SEPARATING CHALLA

Introduction to Separating Challa

Although *challa* refers to the two loaves of bread (or *matza*) over which we say the *ha'motzi* blessing at *Shabbat* and *Jewish festival* meals, *challa* also means the portion of dough or bread that we are obligated to give to the *cohen*/priests during *Temple* times. Today, we burn a token portion ("*challa*") of dough.

NOTE Burning the *challa* is not considered to violate *bal tashchit* (needless destruction), since the *challa* is separated and destroyed to fulfill a *mitzva*.

SEPARATING THE CHALLA PORTION

Separating the Challa Portion

Separating Challa from more than 5 lbs. of Dough

After you knead more than 5 lbs. (2.3 kg) of flour at one time:

- Hold part of the dough (at least 1 fl. oz.) while it is still part of the main mass of dough;
- Say the blessing lehafrish challa min ha'isa;
- Separate a small amount (1 fl. oz. is sufficient) of the dough as challa; and
- Say harei zu challa.

Separating Challa from between 2.5 and 5 lbs. of Dough

SITUATION You prepare dough, in a single batch, from more than 2.5 lbs. (1 kg), but less than 5 lbs. (2.3 kg), of flour.

WHAT TO DO Separate a small amount (1 fl. oz. is sufficient) of the dough as "*challa*." Don't say the blessing; just say *harei zu challa*.

NOTE If you mix at least 2.5 lbs. (1 kg) of dough, you must separate *challa* (without a blessing) even if you will not be baking some of the dough until another time.

Separating Challa from less than 2.5 lbs. of Dough

Don't separate *challa* if the dough was prepared from less than 2.5 lbs. (1 kg) of flour.

Separating Challa from Dough Mixed by Non-Jew

Don't separate *challa* if you acquire dough that had been owned by a non-Jew at the time it was mixed.

Separating Challa after Baking

You may separate *challa* after baking (on weekdays only) if you forgot to separate *challa* before baking.

SITUATION You forgot to separate *challa* from dough made of at least 2.5 lbs. (1 kg) of flour, it is now *Shabbat* or a *Jewish festival*. You want to eat the bread.

WHAT TO DO

- If you are outside <u>Eretz Yisrael</u>: You may leave part of the <u>challa</u> until after <u>Shabbat</u> or <u>Jewish</u> <u>festivals</u>. After <u>havdala</u>, separate the <u>challa</u> from the part that you had set aside.
- If you are in <u>Eretz Yisrael</u>: You may not use bread from which <u>challa</u> was not separated. Once <u>Shabbat</u> or the <u>Jewish festival</u> ends, you may separate <u>challa</u> and then eat the bread.

BURNING THE CHALLA PORTION

Once you intend a particular piece of dough to be the *challa* portion, you must burn that piece and not put it back into the main dough.

When To Burn the Challa Portion

There is no time limit for burning "challa." You may save several pieces for burning together, but you may not keep them in a place where they might get used.

How To Burn the Challa Portion

You may burn the *challa* portion any way you wish. You must burn it completely.

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