

Shoel U'Mashiv

Cooking Up a Mystery Rabbi Noah Whittenburg

Q - I got a call from a woman who was in the middle of making her dinner. She told me she was planning on having wraps with cooked vegetables and cheese but absent mindedly she took out a meat pot to cook the vegetables. The pot was *Eino Ben Yomo*, so was she allowed to still eat the vegetables with cheese?

A - What are the factors that must be considered?

The first factor to consider is the concept of *Na"t Bar Na"t*, which is an abbreviation for *Nosen Tam Bar Nosen Tam*. Meaning, the *Tam* (the taste) is absorbed into the pot and is infused into a second food. Generally, this is what we refer to as being meat or dairy equipment. The classic example being an Oreo—they do not have any dairy in them, but since they are made on equipment also used for dairy, they have an OU-D. The *Rema Y.D. 95:1* says *Lechatchila* we avoid mixing a *Pareve* food that absorbs meat taste through *Na"t Bar Na"t* with dairy. However, *Bedieved* if the foods were mixed, he says one is allowed to eat them.

The other factor to consider is the concept of *Eino Ben Yomo*. The *Shulchan Aruch Y.D. 103:1* says the only taste that is a problem is a what we call a *Tam L'Shvach* (a good taste), but a *Tam Lifgam* (a bad taste) is not a problem. The *Shulchan Aruch Y.D. 103:5* says a pot that is *Eino Ben Yomo*, that has not been used for 24 hours, has a *Tam Lifgam*. However, a pot that is *Ben Yomo*, that has been used in the last 24 hours, has a *Tam L'Shvach*.

The real question here is what if we combine these two factors? The *Rema Y.D. 95:2* says if a *Pareve* item cooked in an *Eino Ben Yomo* meat pot can be mixed with dairy *Lechatchila* (and the inverse is true, as well). Rabbi Yosef Dov Soloveitchik in *Shiurei HaRav (Inyan Na"t Bar Na"t)* is quoted as questioning what the *Rema* means when he says they can be mixed *Lechatchila*. He personally thinks the *Rema* means once a *Pareve* item was already cooked in a meat pot, it can be mixed with dairy, but one cannot cook it in a meat pot with the intention to do so. He quotes the *Gr"a* who says one can even cook it in a meat pot with the intention to do so.

Is she allowed to eat the vegetables with cheese?

I told her she could definitely eat the vegetables with cheese. Whether the *Rema* meant that one could use an *Eino Ben Yomo* pot intentionally or not, what she did was by mistake, which he would certainly allow.