

# THINK TWICE BEFORE YOU EAT MEAT

## KASHRUT BULLETIN # 58

*"The most upright butcher is a partner of Amalek."*

*(Kiddushin 82a)*

### WHO CAN CONTRADICT THE WORDS OF THE PELE YOETZ?

*It is extremely difficult to find meat that is kosher according to all views. I, therefore, derive much pleasure from the pious that are careful not to eat meat. (Pele Yoetz, taref).*

### THE PERSON SUFFERS WHETHER HE EATS KNOWINGLY OR WITHOUT KNOWING

The holy Zohar (Shemini 41b) states: Come and see. Everyone who eats of those forbidden foods, cleaves to the forces of evil and thereby contaminates himself and his soul, resulting, an unclean spirit to rest upon him, displaying, thereby he has no part in the Most High G-d ... and if he departs from this world in that condition, all those that adhere to the forces of uncleanness cling to him, contaminate, and judge him as a person who despised his Master, he is despised in this world and despised in the World to Come ... Woe is to them! Woe is to their souls for they will not cling to the bundle of eternal life, for they have become contaminated ... All of a person's toil is for his mouth. All judgment, all one suffers and all vengeance wrought

upon him, is all on account of his mouth, because he did not watch it and thereby, contaminated himself.

A person should quake when he reads the words of the Zohar concerning the immeasurable damage a person wreaks upon his soul by eating forbidden foods. For in doing so, he grasps and clings to the evil forces resulting in unclean spirits to cleave unto him, thereby demonstrating he has no part in the G-d of Israel, G-d forbid! Therefore, one must be particularly suspect from eating foods of dubious kashrus, surely not definitely non-kosher foods.

In this matter, the Zohar continues (42a): Rabbi Yitzchak said: Whoever becomes contaminated through these foods is like one practicing idolatry, which is an abomination to the L-rd, as the Torah writes: You shall not eat any abomination. Whosoever practices idolatry departs from the side of life, departs from the Holy domain, and enters the evil one; as does also one who contaminates himself with these foods depart from the side of life, depart from the Holy domain, and enter an evil one, and not only that, but he becomes contaminated both in this world and in the World to Come.

***The whole matter of death in this world came about because of the sin of eating something that was forbidden, the fruit of the Tree of Knowledge As it is written (Bereshit 2:17): “But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, you shall not eat of it; for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die”. As a direct result of it, death was brought onto the world to all men for all generations.***

**The Ramban**