



Dayan Yehonoson Hool

Federation Beis Din

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MAASERTEXT [WEEK 1] AS EASY AS TAKING CHALLAH?

Once a rarity in the UK, Israeli produce is now commonplace on our local supermarket shelves. With the summer season upon us, the Federation is launching a weekly series to provide readers with a renewed understanding of the MaaserText service. Look out for this column over the weeks ahead!

WHAT ARE THE MITZVOS OF TERUMOS AND MAASROS?

Fruit and vegetables grown in Eretz Yisroel are special and holy, and until they have been tithed are "Tevel" and may not be eaten.

These unique mitzvos can only be carried out fully with all their relevant details in the times of the Beis Hamikdosh, although they are nonetheless still relevant in the post-Churban period.

In the days of the Beis Hamikdosh, a tithed called Teruma Gedola was first separated from the produce and given to a Kohen. Then, Maaser Rishon was separated and given to a Levi. A portion of the Maaser Rishon was then separated by the Levi and given to the Kohen as Terumas Maaser. Finally, depending on the year within the shemitta cycle, either Maaser Sheni or Maaser Oni were separated. Maaser Sheni was to be eaten by the owners in Yerushalayim in a state of Taharoh, whereas Maaser Oni was treated as tzedoko and given to the poor.

HOW ARE THESE MITZVOS PERFORMED NOWADAYS?

Today, without a Beis Hamikdosh the reality of these mitzvos has changed and many of the gifts are merely separated but need not be given to the recipients mentioned above.

As we are all classified as *tomei* (ritually "impure") nowadays, the Kohen may not actually eat the Teruma or Terumas Maaser which are due to him. Instead, these tithes are wrapped and discarded.

Even Maaser Rishon, which has a more lenient status and does not require a state of taharoh for consumption, does not reach the Levi. This is due to doubts as to the authenticity of the Levi's lineage, and thus practically one is not obligated to give it to the Levi.

If we were to have a Beis Hamikdosh, Maaser Sheni would normally be brought by the farmer to Yerushalayim and eaten there in a state of taharoh. Alternatively, using the method called Pidyon Maaser Sheni, the kedusha of the Maaser Sheni would be transferred from the fruits onto money; this money would be used to buy food in Yerushalayim which would be eaten there. Due to our lack of Taharoh status nowadays, we transfer kedusha of Maaser Sheni onto a coin, and keep it to be used to buy produce in Yerushalayim when Mashiach comes. (Twice during the Shmittah cycle the mitzvo of Biur Maasros applies, dictating that if not yet used to buy produce in taharoh in Yerushalayim, the coin must be destroyed.)

In practice, today's *hafroshe* (separation) procedure requires only three steps:

- a little more than 1% of the total produce is separated
- the declaration of the hafroshe is recited
- a declaration is made in which any Maaser Sheni kedushah is transferred to a coin
- the separated fruit is respectfully wrapped and discarded

Keep watching this column to ensure you fully understand how the MaaserText service helps you!

With Maasertext, this Mitzvah becomes as easy as separating Challah.

A COMMUNITY SERVICE OF THE
FEDERATION

Has your supermarket delivered fruit or veg from ארץ ישראל?

Before eating, you must take מעשרות and תרומות.


The Federation's MaaserText service can help!

How to use:

- 1. **PREPARING THE FOOD** Separate slightly more than 1% of the edible part of the produce. Each type of food (eg avocados, potatoes) needs to be **maasered separately**. **WARNING** – ensure you don't separate less than the required amount.
- 2. **TEXT 'MAASER'** to 07800 006 913 to receive one-off permission to use the Federation's coin. Text again for each individual food you are separating from.
- 3. **DECLARATION** Upon receiving confirmation from MaaserText, make the following declaration:
"I hereby separate the required terumas and maasros, according to the Federation Beis Din's nusach, and I hereby redeem any Maaser Sheni and Revai onto the coin that has been set aside for this by the Federation Beis Din in accordance with the Beis Din's nusach, and the terms of usage of the coin."
- 4. The small amount of food separated, which is now teruma and terumas maaser, should be well wrapped and thrown away. The rest of the produce may now be eaten.

תרומות and תרומות **must not be separated on Shabbos or Yam Tov**

For more detailed instructions visit www.federation.org.uk or email maasertext@federation.org.uk or call [07880 017 641](tel:07880017641)



maasertext

TEXT MAASER TO 07800 006 913

לע"נ ר' שלמה דוד בן ר' משה וינגרטן ז"ל

SHAILATEXT
07403 939 613

PERSONAL & CONFIDENTIAL RESPONSE TO SHAILOS ON ANY TOPIC WITHIN FOUR WORKING HOURS

Wherever possible it is preferable to take shailos to your own rov who knows you personally. ShailaText is not intended to be used as substitute for a rov but L'zakos es horabim. For more information visit federation.org.uk/shailatext/

To sponsor a day/week/month of Shailatext, please email Batsheva.pels@federation.org.uk



This week's Shailatext is

לע"נ שמעון בן שרגא ז"ל

QUIZ TIME Living with Mitzvos
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2. Why do we almost always read Parshas Bamidbar before Shavuot (Shulchan Oruch O.C. 428:4)?