



Bi'ur Ma'aserot Part I

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This Pesach affords us the opportunity to observe a rare mitzvah we can fulfill only twice every seven years:

"Every third year you shall bring out the full tithe of your yield ... Then the Levite ... the stranger, the orphan, and the widow in your settlements shall come and eat their fill, so that the L-rd your G-d may bless you in all the enterprises you undertake" (Devarim 14: 27-28).

Chazal teach us that "every third year" is the fourth and seventh year of the shemita cycle, those following the ma'aser ani years, and that bi'ur ma'aserot is performed on erev Pesach. That is: we remove all terumot and ma'aserot from our domain that have not yet been separated or given, and give them to those who they are meant for: the Kohen, Levy, and poor person.

Bi'ur ma'aserot applies to fruits and

vegetables harvested from 5776 to 5778. Vegetables harvested after Rosh Hashana 5779 and fruit that bloomed after Tu BiShevat of 5779 are not subject to bi'ur. Ma'aser sheni needs to be eaten in Jerusalem, or else the produce or money sanctified as ma'aser sheni needs to be destroyed.

Bi'ur ma'aserot is still relevant today.

What needs to be done?

Ensure there is no untithed or possibly untithed produce (tevel, safek tevel) at home: fruits, vegetables, and home grown/prepared foods: frozen herbs and other goods, wine, oil, preserves (pickles, jams); or produce we purchased that lacks kashrut certification. We also need to ensure that there is no kneaded dough or dough products (including batches of matzah) from which challah was not yet taken.

If any of the above exist, we need to either tithe (or with challah, take challah) and give the terumot and ma'aserot to the appropriate people; or remove them from our domain.

More next week.