



TORAH VEHA'ARETZ

INSTITUTE

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Maror on Pesach

Q: Is it possible to perform the mitzvah of eating maror on lettuce grown hydroponically?

A: The prevailing opinion is that it is possible to perform the mitzvah of eating maror lechatchila regardless of its method of cultivation, just as one can observe the mitzvah of eating matza on wheat grown in an unperforated pot. Even according to the poskim who maintain that the beracha for hydroponically grown lettuce is shehakol, one can avoid making the beracha by relying on the hamotzi recited before eating the matza (see Torah VeHa'aretz VI p.364, Mikra'ei Kodesh Harari-Pesach p.457 quoting Rav Shaul Yisraeli and Rav Mordechai Eliahu).

Q: When taking terumot and ma'aserot when there is a doubt from lettuce meant for maror, do I need to

give ma'aser rishon to a Levi?

A: Some poskim maintain that for rabbinically ordained mitzvot like maror today, the limitation of a "mitzva haba'ah be'aveira" (mitzvah done in a forbidden way) does not apply. For this reason, if ma'aser rishon is not given to a Levi, even though this constitute stealing from a Levi, it still does not pose a problem when eating the maror. However, there are those who believe that maror is similar to matza, in that it must be the full property of the person performing the mitzva. The Mishna Berura rules in this vein (§473:33). According to this approach, if a person is supposed to give part of his lettuce to a Levi but fails to do so, some of the maror that he will eat will not be his, so he will not be able to perform the mitzvah of eating maror. For this reason, ma'aser rishon should be given to a Levi from the lettuce that will be used for maror, and this is optimal also when terumot and ma'aserot are taken due to doubt (this is the ruling of Rabbi Ya'akov Ariel, Emunat Itecha 33, Nissan 5755; Halichot Shelomo, Pesach 7:22). ■

These Q&A were written by Rabbi Ehud Ahtuv from Torah VeHa'aretz Institute.

The learning on כ"ד אדר (Thursday, March 11)
is in memory of my beloved father, Avraham David

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on his 45th yearzeit

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