

## Laws of Chanukah 5785

### A. Lighting the *Chanukah menorah* with *orlah* oil

- a. The *orlah* prohibition not only applies to eating but also to deriving benefit. Therefore, oil produced from *orlah* olives may not be used for lighting candles, paint, cosmetics, or any other use.
- b. Since it is forbidden to derive benefit from *Chanukah menorah* oil, the *posekim* are divided whether *orlah* oil may be used for this purpose.  
In practice: *Orlah* oil should not be used unless no other oil is available.

### B. Lighting the *Chanukah menorah* with *tevel* oil

- a. *Lechatchilah*, one should not use oil from which *terumot* and *ma'aserot* were not separated (*tevel*).
- b. If this oil was used and afterwards it is discovered that *terumot* and *ma'aserot* were not separated—one need not light again with different oil.

### C. Lighting the *Chanukah menorah* by a *Kohen* using impure *terumah* oil

- a. *Terumah gedolah* oil should be given by the owner (*Yisrael*) to a *Kohen*, as stated in scripture: "This is the due of the priest from the nation ... the first of your grains, wine, and oil."
- b. Today we touch the oil, thereby imparting ritual impurity, and then separate *terumah gedolah*. This *terumah* is impure and it is a *mitzvah* to burn it. For this reason, *Kohanim* may use impure *terumah* oil to light the *Chanukah menorah*.
- c. Some forbid using this oil to light *Shabbat* candles and the *Chanukah menorah* on Friday night, maintaining that it is forbidden to burn impure *terumah* oil (*shemen sereifah*, as mentioned in *Bameh madlikin*) on *Shabbat*.

### D. Separating *challah* from donuts (*sufganiyot*)

- a. For donuts **baked in an oven** from a batch obligated in *hafrashat challah* (1.666 kg), *challah* should be separated with a blessing.
- b. For donuts **deep-fried in oil**, the *posekim* are divided whether they are obligated in *hafrashat challah*. Some exempt it because it is not baked in an oven, although the dough is thick, while others obligate it since the dough is thick.  
In practice: separate *challah* without a blessing.