KASHRUT BULLETIN # 11

WHOEVER GUARD HIS MOUTH AND HIS TONGUE, GUARDS AS WELL HIS SOUL FROM SUFFERING (Mishle 21:23)

THE GAON RAB ELIEZER SILBER ZT'L WARNS AGAINST THE METHOD OF SHECHITA TELUYA

(THE ANIMAL IS MADE TO HANG IN THE AIR THIS IS NOT A VALID METHOD OF SHECHITA. YET IT IS WIDELY USED IN AMERICA)

Published in the Monthly publication "HAMAOR" in TEVET 5719 (1960) The Gaon Rabbi Eliezer Silber, av bet din of the city of Cincinnati writes the following letter to Rab Lipa Deutsch, av bet din of the Holmetz Kehilla:

I will inform of the reasons and the arguments of those that waged wars against the grave problems of the Shechita Teluya (the animal is made to hang in the air, thereby moving and shaking with great force) This war was waged in many cities and many butcheries in the last years and as it was already forbidden with strong arguments more than 50 years ago by the RIDBAZ from Salutzk and Tzfat when he was here in Denver. And I also prohibited this method of Shechita, after I saw how the gentiles that hold the head of the bulls and other animals that are hanging, move the head at the time of the Shechita many times, and in particular when the animal makes resistance and puts its head to the side, then the gentile with his hands presses the head of the animal against the knife, and this is like him actually helping in the slaughter proper, and as if the Jew and the gentile were slaughtering together. And the gentile brings the head of the animal on the knife and the Shochet brings the knife on the neck of the animal. And many times, the gentile actually presses the head of the animal against the knife. And this I saw so many times that I prohibited this method of Shechita.

THE SATAN RULES IN THE SLAUGHTERHOUSES

And with the help of G-d, when I was in the slaughter houses as the supervisor, the shechita was done by putting the animal on the ground on its back and this is how they were slaughtering up until a few years in the large slaughterhouses in New York, Chicago, Boston. And only after the older Rabbis passed away and the process of Shechita was given to the supervision of younger men, they went back to the wrong ways without asking the older Rabbis and Talmide Chachamim and I stand on my duty to warn you that there's doubts of nevelot in many of those slaughterhouses.

FROM THE BOOK CHEN TOV, RAV AHARON TZVI FREEDMAN ZT'L FORBIDS THE METHOD OF SHECHITA TELUYA MORE THAN 130 YEARS AGO

After having worked as a shochet for over 30 years Rav Freedman declares that it is forbidden to slaughter in this fashion (Shechita Teluya) and that he who slaughters thus feeds nevelot and terefot to the Jews without a doubt and all those who fear Hashem will not dare eat any meat because it is disqualified and surely contaminates and impurifies the soul. Rav Freedman cites in the book that when the animal is hanging, as anything that hangs, has more mobility making the slaughter much more difficult and it is known that if there's movement at the time of the slaughter then it is not kosher. Also the movement of the animal makes the Shochet be afraid lest the animal hurt him and not only that, but the gentiles that work in the slaughterhouse are the ones holding the head of the animal against the knife, as the animal moves violently and this without a doubt disqualifies the Shechita.

And so the Rav prohibited any slaughter from below toward above (as when the animal is hanging) and all Shochatim should be refrained for doing this abomination, and anyone who can help solve this situation and doesn't, will in the future have to give an accounting. Rav Freedman said: "Don't believe the Shochatim when they declare that their shechita is good, but it is evil in the eyes of Hashem and they are great sinners those who say everything is fine".

WE DO NOT RESPOND TO THE INCREASING REPORTS OF PROBLEMS WITH THE KASHRUT OF MEAT

Yet no one thinks that perhaps we have not paid enough attention to the growing reports that increase daily, that the butcher shops are full of Chelev that is punishably by Karet! They turn their backs to these reports as though they do not pertain to them in any way. They do not give the matter any thought at all. In the manner they ignore the reports about Chelev, so are they ignored by G-d in their time of need and distress. This is similar to what the Rabbis stated on the verse: "And I separated you from the peoples to be Mine." If you are separated from prohibited foods, you are Mine, and if not, you belong to Nebuchadnezzar and his like.

THE MOST UPRIGHT BUTCHER IS A PARTNER OF AMALEK

See further the last chapter of Kiddushin (82a): "The most upright butcher is a partner of Amalek." Rashi explains that many cases of questionable kashrut come to his hand, and in trying to save money, declares them kosher, and - sell them as such. We can see to what extent the Rabbis evaluate the pitfalls resulting from the butchers, that they did not hesitate to use the sharpest epithet when referring to them. The expression, "partner of Amalek," is, by

far, the sharpest epithet used in the Talmud. One's hair can stand on end when one thinks about how far this matter extends. For a question of doubtful kashrut the Rabbis called him such a name, and not only a usual butcher, but "the most upright butcher " so that no one can be confident in himself and say that since he appointed a reliable butcher, no pitfalls can result from him, and it is accepted that a Torah scholar does not allow any pitfall to result from his doings, especially if the butcher is really learned, since the Rabbis say that a Torah scholar will commit a minor infraction in order to prevent an ignorant person from committing a major infraction.

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).

Whoever wishes to avoid all risks, should be smart to eat only fowl (poultry) and not bovine meats - because the pitfalls are all too common and numerous with them. [And for eating the forbidden fat of bovine meat we become liable to the punishment of karet and this punishment does not apply to the consumption of poultry] (Shulchan Hatahor, Rabbi Aaron Roth o.b.m. (author of Shomer Emunim, Tohoras Hakodesh, etc)

ARE YOU REALLY WILLING TO RISK YOUR LIFE BY CONSUMING FOODS THAT ARE NOT KOSHER ACCORDING TO ALL OPINIONS, AND ARE BASED ON ALL POSSIBLE LENIENCIES IN KASHRUT LAWS USED BY THOSE WHO MANUFACTURE THEM? DID YOU KNOW THAT THE RABBIS OF THE EREV RAV ARE IMMERSED IN THE BUSINESS OF ISSUING KASHRUT CERTIFICATES TO ALL KINDS OF FOODS? DO YOU KNOW THAT A LOT OF MONEY AND CORRUPTION EXISTS IN THE FIELD OF KASHRUT? PURE AND SIMPLE JEWS HAVE FALLEN PREY TOO MANY TIMES TO THE WRONGDOINGS OF THE EREV RAV! SAVE YOUR SOULS AND WATCH WHAT YOU EAT SO THAT YOUR EMUNA IN HASHEM WILL BE LEFT PURE AND NOT BE CONFUSED BY FOOLISH NOTIONS THAT ARE TOO PREVALENT IN OUR TIMES. MAY HASHEM GIVE US THE STRENGTH TO AVOID ALL THE DAMAGE THAT THE RABBANIM OF THE EREV RAV TRY TO INFLICT ON THE JEWISH PEOPLE, AMEN