

הפרשת תרומות ומעשרות

presented by

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It is very likely that you, who are reading this, buy your produce here with a reliable הכשר, thus avoiding the need to be מפריש T'rumos and Ma'asros for yourselves. Nevertheless, it is important to at least know how to be מפריש, for a variety of reasons (not least of which is to make you more aware of the fact that you are now living in ארץ ישראל... where the very Land is blessed with being a source of מצוות!)

1. Produce grown in ארץ ישראל is characterized as *tevel* (Tov Lo - "not good" yet) until various separations have been removed from it. If it is *certain* that the separations have not yet been removed, it is referred to as *tevel vadai* (definitely not good yet), and if it is *unclear* whether the separations have been removed yet, it is referred to as *tevel safek* (possibly not good yet).
2. There are 5 possible separations that must be removed prior to consumption:
 - a. *T'rumah Gedola* - A certain percentage of the produce must be separated, which is then given to a *Kohen*. Only a definite, *tahor Kohen* may consume it. Nowadays, when we assume ourselves to be *tamei*, a miniscule amount is separated, wrapped up, and thrown away.
 - b. *Ma'aser Rishon* - Exactly 10% of the **remaining** total (i.e., the total *after* the *T'rumah Gedola* has been removed) is separated, and is then given to a *Levi*. If there is no definite *Levi* available to whom to give it, it may be kept and consumed by the owner.
 - c. *T'rumas Ma'aser* - This is exactly 10% of the *Ma'aser Rishon* (approximately 1% of the total produce). This is separated, and then is given to a *Kohen*. Only a definite, *tahor Kohen* may consume it. If there is no *tahor Kohen* available to consume it (which is the case nowadays), it must be wrapped up and thrown away.
 - d. *Ma'aser Sheini* or *Ma'aser Ani* - Exactly 10% of the **now remaining** total (i.e., the new total after both the *T'rumah Gedola* and the *Ma'aser Rishon* have been removed), is separated for one of two possible purposes:
 - i. *Ma'aser Sheini* (taken from produce of years 1, 2, 4, and 5 of the seven-year *Sh'mitta* cycle) is meant to be taken to *Yerushalayim* when there is a *Beis HaMikdash*, to be eaten there. When there is no *Beis HaMikdash*, we redeem its *kedusha*, by transferring that *kedusha* onto a coin. If you are redeeming your own produce, you add an additional value of a *chomesh* (which is an additional 25% of the value of the 10%). Nowadays, it suffices to redeem the *kedusha* as if the whole amount which is *kadosh* (it and its *chomesh*) is only worth a *p'ruta* (around a thousandth of an ounce of silver – therefore, 10 *aguros*-worth should be safe), onto a coin that the owner of the produce either owns or has permission to use. If the amount of money being redeemed is not even worth a *p'ruta*, then a special coin must be used. There are organizations for the furtherance of knowledge of *T'rumos U'Ma'asros* which have such coins for their members.
 - ii. *Ma'aser Ani* (taken from produce of years 3 and 6 of the seven-year cycle) must be separated, and, when taken from *tevel vadai*, needs to be given to the poor or to someone on behalf of the poor (a *Gabbai Tzedaka* for *aniyim*). The organizations which have the aforementioned coins for its members usually distribute the necessary monies to *aniyim* for you, after proper arrangements are made.



Procedure and Nusach for הפרשת תרומות ומעשרות

Basic Guidelines:

- a. Each species of produce must be dealt with separately. This means that you must gather together apples separately, pears separately, tomatoes separately, etc., each in its own pile, and then make separate separations for each pile. The recital of the statements below, however, can include at one time, **all** that has been separated.
 - b. Each species of produce should be in the same physical location.
 - c. הפרשת תרומות ומעשרות may not be done on either *Shabbos* or *Yom Tov*.
1. Begin by physically separating the produce into two different sections:
 - a. The 1st section of the produce should be clearly greater than 1% of the total and will be referred to as the "greater than 1% section."
 - b. The 2nd section is everything else.
 2. Read through everything written here to be sure that you clearly understand it all, especially before making any ברכות.
 3. If the produce is *tevel vadai* (i.e., where it is certain that the obligation exists, and that separations have not yet been done), make the ברכה for separating תרומות ומעשרות:

ברוך אתה ה', אלוקינו מלך העולם, אשר קידשנו במצוותיו, וציונו להפריש תרומות ומעשרות.

 Otherwise, in the case of *tevel safek*, just proceed to the next steps without making any ברכה at all.
 4. Say the following:
 - a. "The portion on the **top** of the "greater than 1% section" that is beyond exactly 1% is hereby designated as *T'ruma Gedola* for all of the produce."
 - b. "The **exact** 1% that is now left in this "greater than 1% section," plus 9 more of that very same amount that is right next to it, on the bottom of the second section, is hereby all designated as *Ma'aser Rishon*. And now, that original "exactly 1%" of the "greater than 1% section" is hereby designated as *T'rumas Ma'aser* of the *Ma'aser*."
 5. If taking *Ma'aser Sheni*, now say: "10% of the remaining produce that is located on the top of "the second section" is hereby designated as *Ma'aser Sheini* for all of the remaining produce." If taking *Ma'aser Ani*, go to number 8.
 6. If the produce is *definitely* subject to *Pidyon Ma'aser Sheini* (i.e., where the obligation of מעשר שני is certain, and the pidyon has definitely not yet been done), make the ברכה for פדיון מעשר שני:

ברוך אתה ה', אלוקינו מלך העולם, אשר קידשנו במצוותיו, וציונו על פדיון מעשר שני.

 Otherwise, in the case of a *safek*, just proceed to the next steps without making any ברכה at all.
 7. Say the following, omitting the explanatory words in the brackets: "The value of this 10% plus [in the case where one is redeeming his or her own produce] an additional *chomesh* [which is an additional 25% of the value of the 10%] is hereby redeemed onto a *shava p'ruta* [p'ruta's worth] of the coin that I have designated for this purpose."
 8. Alternatively, if this produce is obligated in *Ma'aser Ani* (i.e., produce from years 3 and 6), say the following (without any ברכה): "10% of the remaining produce that is located on the top of the "second section" is hereby designated as *Ma'aser Ani* for all of the remaining produce." [If this obligation is certain, you should then give this 10%, or its value, directly to *aniyim* or to a *Gabbai Tzedaka* for *aniyim*.]

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