

Hilchos Kashrus – Introduction II



ספר דברים פרק יב

(כג) רק חֵזק לְבַלְתִּי אֶכֶל הַדָּם כִּי הַדָּם הוּא הַנֶּפֶשׁ וְלֹא תֹאכַל הַנֶּפֶשׁ עִם הַבֶּשָׂר
(כד) לֹא תֹאכְלֶנּוּ עַל הָאָרֶץ תִּשְׁפְּכֶנּוּ פְּמִים
(כה) לֹא תֹאכְלֶנּוּ לְמַעַן יִיטֵב לָךְ וּלְבְנֶיךָ אַחֲרֶיךָ כִּי תַעֲשֶׂה הַיִּשָּׁר בְּעֵינֵי יְדֹוֹ

23) Strengthen yourself so that you don't eat the blood, because the blood is the Nefesh, and don't eat the Nefesh with the meat.

25) Don't eat it in order that it be good for you and for your children after you, because you will do that which is proper in the eyes of HASHEM.

כלי יקר על דברים פרק יב פסוק כה

לא תאכלנו למען ייטב לך ולבניך אחריך. פרט כאן לבניך אחריך, לפי שאמרו המפרשים שהדם מוליד אכזריות בגוף האוכל וטבע האב נמשך גם לבנים ויהיו תולדותיהן כיוצא בהם, לכך אמר כשלא תאכל הדם ייטב לך ולבניך אחריך שלא יהיה האכזריות קנין דבק בזרעו

Don't eat it in order that it be good for you and your children after you - The Torah added here "Your children after you", as the commentaries explain that blood causes cruelty in the one who eats it, and since the nature of the father is continued to the son, their actions will be like the father's. Therefore the Torah teaches us "Don't eat blood in order that it be good for you and your children": in order that you don't acquire cruelty as a permanent fixture in your lineage.

Background:

The Torah repeats the prohibition of eating blood many times. In addition there are different punishments for eating blood at different stages... The Klei Yakar (as well as many other commentaries, Ramban... explain why the Torah is so concerned with this issue.

Question:

1. How does drinking blood cause a person to acquire the trait of cruelty?
2. We know the principle that children aren't punished because of the sins of their fathers. Why should this sin be visited upon the offspring?



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If you have questions or comments please feel free to e-mail me at Rebbe@TheShmuz.com