



## B'NAI DAVID-JUDEA

### Shabbat Shorts

So is it possible to make real coffee on Shabbat? Or to phrase it differently, is it possible that the Beneficent God would forbid it?

Let's see. We'll begin by looking at the "pour over" method, in which we place fresh coffee grounds into a filter that sits atop a coffee mug, and then pour hot water into the filter, from where beverage then drips into the mug. . What are the Halachic issues that we need to consider, and can these be successfully navigated?

Naturally, the first issue that occurs to us is that of "cooking". Does the pouring of hot water over coffee grounds constitute a forbidden act of cooking? The answer is "probably not, and just in case it does...". It's probably not "cooking", in that many Halachic authorities hold that just as items that have been previously *cooked* are no longer subject to the prohibition of cooking on Shabbat, items that have been previously *roasted* are similarly inured. According to these opinions, it is permissible to pour hot water over the grounds directly from an urn or kettle (*kli rishon*).

There are however, other opinions, also cited by the Shulchan Aruch. These opinions hold that prior roasting does NOT preclude subsequent cooking. So "just in case" we, in practice, do NOT pour the hot water directly from a *kli rishon* onto the grounds, rather from a *kli sheni*. (It should be noted that there are certain, particularly delicate items such as tea leaves, which might be cooked even through being poured on by a *kli sheni*, but this does not apply to coffee grounds.)

The other question here is the filter. Is the use of the filter prohibited on Shabbat due to the fact that it will be "separating" the grounds (which are "undesired") from the water (soon to be your coffee)? A comparison to the Shulchan Aruch's discussion of pouring water through wine sediments (to produce wine-flavored water) is apropos. The rule there is that it *would* be forbidden to pour a mixture of water and sediments into a filter, as indeed the filter would then be "separating" the beverage from the sediments. However, if the sediments (alone) are already in the filter, then the "separating" question focuses exclusively on the water itself. And since you are not straining anything out of the water itself, rather simply passing the water through the sediments in order so that water picks up some flavor along the way, this is permissible. The analogy to pouring water over coffee grounds is precise.

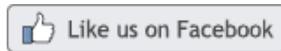
So just get your "one cup" and filter, a *kli sheni*, and you're good to go! And thank God deeply for having brought everything into being with His word.

Still ahead: setting timers on coffeemakers; French Press

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