

SEFER

KOL HASCHITA VOL. I

Facts and findings pertaining to today's situation in Schita and Strictly Orthodox slaughter houses and meat plants throughout the United States and Canada, from the years 5727-5737.

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Endorsments

I have seen many of the Seforim authored by Rabbi Sholom Yehudah Gross, Rabbi of Holmin, from Brooklyn, with whom I am well acquainted. Among them are the works entitled: Achilath Matzoth B'Yisroel, 7 vol.; Afiat HaMatzoth Hashalem, 3 vol.; Responsa Zivchu Zivchei Tzedek; Oholei Yisroel; D'var Moshe; Mezuzath Sholom; MinchatYehudah; and many others. They are all written in a manner and form worthy of the attention of Torah scholars. The author, a Gaon, has organized and explained each topic with extensive erudition and profound understanding. These Seforim document the laws and ideas concerning many areas of Halacha in which observance has, unfortunately, become lax. Shortage of time has denied me the possibility to properly review his works. I, therefore, am not in a position to endorse his legal decisions. However, this Gaon the author, may be relied upon since he has already displayed his ability in this field, and has authored his works without any ulterior motives, only for the honor of G-d and His Torah. I, therefore, hope that all observant Jews will assist the learned author of these books, for it is a great Mitzvah to encourage him and support him as much as possible. I therefore, affix my signature in honor of the Torah and those who study it, on the eighteenth day of Sivan, 5740.

Moshe Feinstein

Introduction

In this book I bring forth incidents pertaining to the status of Schita in New r'ork and other locations that I myself have seen and experienced personally, being a Schochet for over 10 years, witnessing first hand the situation in beef and chicken slaughter houses under the finest and strictest supervision. I write this book with tears in my eyes, on a journey to the Holy graves of Tzaddikim in Romania and Hungary. I have written from memory and unfortunately did not have time to elaborate further.

I have written this book for myself, to remember all that transpired in the years of my experience in this field. However, when I revealed the contents of this book to revered Rabbis of high repute, as well as to a number of Talmidei Chachomim, they urged me on, to print and spread abroad this booklet, so that others become aware of the dire situation today and how each day thousands of Orthodox Jews unknowingly eat Treifos (Non Kosher meats). I therefore, present this thesis, with a heavy heart, to those seeking the truth, with the ardent hope that all who read these words will greatly benefit from them.

I pray to Hashem Yisborach to give me strength and health to continue this vital work.

In this book, I omitted the names of the Schochtim and slaughter houses (about 30 in number).

My concern is not to bring shame or scandal to others, but to reveal the negligence and carelessness in Schita (lots of which has been revealed by our Rabbonim) and which is the cause of many tragedies in Klal Yisroel (idiocy, degradation in Yiddishkeit and loss of innocent lives).

NOTES

A. In the course of 35 years (5727-5762) I have visited the many notable slaughter houses and unfortunately, have witnessed all that is written in this book.

B. During these years I have spoken of what I have seen in the "Schita world". Therefore the details written herein are inscribed in my memory as if I see them happening before me today.

C. Although as of the year 5737 I left Schita, I have continued to observe and supervise and therefore am in constant contact with the Schochtim, Mashgichim and Bodkim on a wholesale scale, as well as the butchers in U.S.A., Canada, Europe, South America and Eretz Yisroel. I have had the opportunity to prove the severity of our situation.

C. From time to time, with the mercy of Heaven, facts of Schochtim, who are not G-D fearing, and have been caught transgressing on the lowest levels, and discrepancies in Kashrus, come to light, and we learn of terrible obstacles that shock the Congregation such as forbidden fats, and we must believe these facts, since they are unfortunately prevalent today.

D. In spite of the fact that every Ben Torah knows of happenings in the past and obstacles that occur in Schita, during and after it, we will bring quotations of Gaonim and Tzaddikim who lived in the U.S. and witnessed the situation, giving instructions pertaining to behavior in this matter.

E. In order to understand how Schochtim are terrorized and pressured by the butchers, see the end of the book, the section called "Shmirah Tovah", for greater elaboration.

F. The conclusion of all that I have brought forth is that the "interested party" pokes his nose into every aspect of Schechita:

1. The Schochet, due to the fact that he receives a high salary from the butcher, is constantly under pressure and fear. He works quickly and tiredly after long trips, under constant pressure not to make the chickens 'treif.

2. The Mashgiach does nothing, the "interested party" succeeds in turning his eyes away, and to turn away the eyes of the public, he hires a plain worker, gives him the title

"Mashgiach" (in the Schita of cows the Mashgiach puts on the tags (Plumbers), in chickens it is more of an active job, and lately a well known supervision appointed a Mashgiach just to check the knives.

3. The butcher, wishing to make many millions, tries to cut costs as much as possible. Therefore, the Schochtim work double over and above their strength and capacity.

The owner appoints a manager to oversee and fire Schochtim who work too slow, those who make too many treifos, in particular those who try to examine the knives too carefully and concentrate on the schechting slowly.

Righteous, G-D fearing Jews who wish to establish a Kosher home in Klal Yisroel, be you all aware that the trials and tribulations of Schechita are indeed precarious and will be so until the coming of Moshiach. If so, the responsibility of using kosher meat lies entirely in your hands.

Be thou further aware that only in your merit and power when you hear those who arise against eating beef and are wary of the Schechita of chickens, which the butcher feels in his pocket, in this work they are reminded that the world is not a free for all and they are obligated to correct the wrongdoings, especially in the strictly supervised slaughter houses.

We are far from correcting the wrong, being perpetrated daily. It is unfortunate that the public does not demand more scrutiny, for only then will we succeed. Woe is to us that the "interested party" catches those sitting for hours in the bath houses, those that speak during davening etc. Those are the obstacles before us.

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Voice of Slaughter

Chapter I

SCHITA IN BOSTON - 400 TURKEYS SLAUGHTERED ON A MOVING LINE

In the year 5729, I travelled to Boston for the purpose of Schita. From there we travelled by car to Lebanon, and from there we continued by plane with the Schochet R'..... We came to a large slaughterhouse of turkeys with the turkeys moving on a rolling table, and you had to slaughter 400 turkeys per hour. I didn't know how it was possible to do so much in one hour, but the head of the Schochtim R'.....assured me I will get used to it and then understand how it is possible.

The Schita began. The table rolled around at a very quick speed and I missed many of the turkeys that went by, due to the speed. They, therefore, had to be removed from the table. That is when the screaming began. The owner growled, "How is it possible that all the other Schochtim are capable of keeping up with the speed and just my group cannot keep up.

This created a problem. Being that the quantity of turkeys that arrived on the truck had to be slaughtered, we had to work 12 hours to accomplish what the others could accomplish in 4 hours.

We divided the work among ourselves. One would slaughter, the other would rest. We each checked the other's knives. This was the first and last time I ever travelled anywhere to perform Schita. A week later I was requested to come again at which time I told them that for no money in the world would I come there to Schecht.

In short, the week passed. and I did not go there. A few days later I met the Schochet R'..... and he told me that he had a very difficult Schita that week. He showed me his swollen hands which were cut from catching the turkeys. When I asked him how many he slaughtered he told me 400 an hour. When I asked him why he didn't request that they lessen the tempo of the moving table, he said that he requested it, but they replied that if other Schochtim could do it so must he, and he was forced to comply. Let me note that this particular Schita was destined for a slaughterhouse that markets to ultra~Orthodox consumers.

Chapter 2

GENTILES SLAUGHTERING TURKEYS AND TAGGING THEM KOSHER, THE OWNER IS AN ISRAELI MURDERER. SHOCHTIM CROSSING BOUNDARIES OF OTHER SHOCHTIM

With the Schochtim R'..... and R'..... (two well~ known Schochtim I used to work with near Vineland. There also the Schita was very quick. But there I only served as a helper to the Schochet, so that the Schochtim were able to rest. I do not remember the exact quantity of the Schita but it was very quick. The knives were defective because they had to slaughter up to the back of the neck, and they used to cry aloud "cut deeper, deeper". I used to yell back that I can't slaughter any deeper because I am afraid the back of the neck will defect the knife. After touching the back of the neck you must check the knife over 6 different ways. The experienced Schochet told me, "Don't worry about the knife. The back of the neck causes no defect. look at my own knife." I never understood how they weren't ashamed to show me such defective knives!

The son in law of Rabbi..... Was a Mashgiach and told me that one day the owner told him that because there was a big snow and the truck of turkeys did not arrive, there will be no Schita, and there is no need for him to come to work. The Mashgiach was then in a hotel only a few miles away and being a heavy person, he was immune to the cold and never wore more than a sweater. Although the owner thought he had to arrive by car, the Mashgiach out of boredom, decided to take a walk and he walked towards the Plant. When he arrived, he was shocked to see how turkeys were being butchered and kosher tags put onto them, without a Schochet!

The owner threatened him that if he reveals what he saw, someone will shoot him. The owner himself carried a gun on him. He was a former Israeli soldier and was suspected of being an underworld criminal. The Schochet kept quiet and did not tell anyone the story; however he did tell it to me... This was a long time after I stopped being a Schochet and where I once worked as a Schochers helper for 6-8 weeks.

One time I didn't feel well, and I sent the Schochet R'..... to substitute for me. The supervising Schochet R'..... saw the Schochet slaughtering in back of the neck and asked him to stay on and work there instead of me. He would receive \$60 a day and only have to work two days a week. This particular Schochet stayed on and a week later told me that he had my job. I asked him how he could do this and showed him the Halacha regarding crossing boundaries'. Then he presented this to the Supervisor, the Supervisor in return said, 'With me there is no such thing as crossing boundaries. I hire and fire who I please, and I prefer those that accomplish the most' (slaughter the most animals per hour). And with that I resigned from this Schita.

Chapter 3.

WELL KNOWN SCHOCHET SEEN IN ILL REPUTED PLACES

By a particular meat proprietor I worked and travelled to Ohio with the Schochet R'..... and from there we had to fly on an additional plane. One time we missed the flight in Ohio. The proprietor told the airline company that together with him two chief Rabbis of Israel have to arrive for an important conference with the President of the State, and these Rabbis also have Diplomatic Passports. If they do not arrive at their destination by 12 o'clock midnight, all the newspapers will know that this particular International Airline caused great damage. After hearing this fictional story, the airline tried to arrange a flight, however, it was to no avail. As a compensation, the airline arranged for a limousine to take us to a reputable hotel frequented by presidents and renowned individuals - I think the name of the Hotel was the Ambassador. Upon arriving at the hotel, the Schochet R'..... requested a private room, claiming that he had to prepare 'nigunim', songs (for the Rebbe), and he had to sleep alone. (This was at 12 o'clock midnight).

At approximately' 12:30 I went to this Schochet's room wanting to ask him something, and he was not there! I went to the desk asking where is the Rabbi, and they told me to look for him there, pointing towards ill reputable spots of entertainment. I then understood why a separate room was taken and why such an expensive hotel was needed for him and the butcher.

There are also many problems of Schita there, however, I cannot recall them at this moment.

*

Chapter 4.

THE SCHITA IN KENTUCKY REMOVING THE FEATHERS WITH HOT WATER

I had the misfortune to work for one particular butcher, who was the proprietor of various plants and a very low class individual. The Mashgiach was a Krasne Hassid and the place was in Kentucky, Ohio. In any event, I was slaughtering turkeys. The Schita was slow, and it was a pleasure to work there, until I was told to stop. What happened? The turkeys were full of feathers and piled up high on the floor, and no one was allowed to pluck the feathers. I went into the room where the turkeys are taken after Schita, and I saw a large pot of water which the turkeys were put into after the Schita. I put my hand in the pot and felt that the water was hot. According to Halacha, if a bird is put in hot water before salting it cannot be deemed 'Kosher Lemehadrin', especially not for the plants we were slaughtering for.

I went over to the Mashgiach R'..... who knows the 'Noam Elimelech' by heart, sells Esrogim (on the famous Avenue and Street) and I asked him, ..How could this be?" I Schecht kosher, and here in this room it becomes Treif? He answered, .'What can I do with the butcher? He does not agree to any other way, and I am afraid of him." I then notified him that I will not slaughter for them anymore if the birds are immersed in hot water after the Schita. The Mashgiach then told me that the turkeys will die, and it is dangerous to start up with the proprietor because he has a gun and can very well use it!

In short, I decided not to continue to Schecht. With this decision arose a great confusion. How is it possible that a Schochet refused to Schecht? They called the Proprietor, and he began yelling at me with all work having stopped on the spot. The turkeys will die if not slaughtered immediately; the gentiles weren't working; the cost of work in the plant is tremendous, and how do I have the audacity to just stand there? I told him that for all the money in the world I will not continue to work if the birds are immersed in hot water. He tried to negotiate asking me to use lukewarm water instead (80-90 degrees). I agreed, but told him that only with hot or cold water will the feathers come off easily, at which time he saw he had no choice but to agree to cold water, which proved to be lucrative and successful.

The point is that the Proprietor does what he pleases and the Schochtim do what they are ordered to do, for fear of their jobs - even koshering Treifos!

Chapter 5

SLAUGHTERING TURKEYS WITH DEFECTIVE KNIVES-A NUN SLAUGHTERING FOR KOSHER SCHITA!

In another location in Kentucky, I slaughtered turkeys. There the Schita was slow, but when I got to the second and third turkey, I cut through a wire that was in the throat and my knife was defected. I declared the last turkey Treif and immediately took a new knife. After an additional number of turkeys, I again came upon a turkey with a nail in his throat and the knife was defected again: In short, by the time I slaughtered 10-15 birds, I defected 5-6 knives and I was stuck in the middle of the Schita. The owner arrived and immediately began screaming that this Schochet made more Treifus than Kosher. I showed him the nail and the wire at which time he replied that he has slaughtered for years and there never was a Shochet without a knife and that he never heard stories about knives and that as far as he was concerned, I could continue using the defective knives.

They did not have any patience to wait for me to prepare my knives and when I turned to see the noise coming out of the place of Schita, I saw a nun standing in my place and slaughtering the turkeys with an electronic knife. I screamed asking what

was going on and She answered that there was no difference between me and her and that she also knew how to Shecht. I ran to the mashgiach, and told him everything was treif. He in turn went to the owner to tell him what was happening. The owner angrily asked his wife if the nun was slaughtering and his wife answered that this was a lie. Anyway she insisted on using the turkeys the nun had killed.

The mashgiach was very frightened, afraid he would lose his job if he opens his mouth. He would not allow those turkeys to be used I let myself be heard loud and clear and the mashgiach promised to certify that those turkeys are treif later when put in the cartons so that the owner would not be angry that we caused the birds to be treif. Who knows if the mashgiach really did this? Everytime a Mashgiach is lenient and afraid to lose his job, the likelihood of eating treif is almost assured. Of course , I never returned to this plant.

Chapter 6

SLAUGHTERING OF GEESE-MANY PROBLEMS-OWNER MALICIOUSLY MIXING IN TREIFOS. DEFECTIVE KNIVES - KOSHERING TREIFOS

I went to slaughter geese with The old Schochet R'..... in Long Island. I Was the Mashgiach and supervised The Schita proceedings. It was a very pleasant place. They only slaughtered 21 geese at a time. There were two lines of pails which the geese were put into, and according to the proceedings, 21 geese were to be slaughtered, and then the knives were checked. It takes quite a while for all the blood to spill out of the geese and to put in an additional 21 geese after 21 Schitas, the knife becomes very bloody and full of little feathers. That is one problem.

The second and greater problem is that it is very hard to Schecht the windpipe, since it is very tough. The knife defects immediately. It is easier to slaughter 1,000 chickens than 50 or 100 geese. After every 21 or 42 geese, the knife must be rubbed again on a smooth stone. The first time the Schochet R'..... slaughtered, I didn't see a knife. Maybe he wanted to show it to me, and I didn't really want to see it because there was no way for me to correct this over there at that time.

An additional problem was that each time a goose was declared treif, half of the foot was to be cut and the goose tossed aside, as well as watching that the gentile doesn't steal the goose and mix it in with the Kosher ones. He used to do it all the time just to get us angry. He had a pen with thousands of geese, but he still enjoyed snatching a Treif goose to mix in with the Kosher ones, saying that it's all going to goyim anyway!

One time I was invited to come and Schecht for a specific congregation..... I started slaughtering, however the knife was in terrible condition. There weren't definitive defects, except that it lost its sharpness, and you had to examine it very, very carefully to really realize that it was defective, and only then to rub it on the smooth stone. This takes a very long time, and I couldn't possibly meet the quote of Schita. A number of times I also found pieces of wood and metal in the throat.

When I was forced to declare a quantity of chickens Treif, I used to organize and gather the Treifus and I would throw them in the forest among the large bushes, where the proprietor would never find them. But I had other problems. when the knives would become defective after 21 or after 10 geese, the proprietor would see that I had 50 pieces of Treifus together, and he would be raving mad.

He claimed that goose meat is very expensive, and he never had so many Treif geese. I was very apprehensive that he would mix in the Treif with the Kosher. I then told him that I would personally buy the Treif geese and pay him what it was worth. I also contacted the Supervising Rabbi of Congregation..... that this Schita was for them, telling him to come immediately to the plant, because there were problems. Within two hours he was there, calmed down the proprietor and I had to pay for the Treif geese because the Rabbi didn't want to complain that there was so much Treif, If that's the case the entire Schita is questionable - since the Schita going on in this plant was done under terror and fear of declaring anything Treif,

The supervising Rabbi"" told me that he does not understand why by other Schochtim this Schita is easy, and there are no problems. It never happened that they should have so many Treif geese, and why was I such a 'Shlimazel'? I told him that it was imperative to have on location two Schochtim - otherwise it is prohibited to Schecht. He then told me to see how the old Schochet R'..... and the other old Schochet R'..... work, and I will see that it is kids' play, and I did wait to see. I then learned that the knives were totally defective and in 4 hours they slaughtered 1,200 geese, and among that 1,200 there were only 1 or 2 treif geese!

They had no problems at all... The second time I went with the Schochet R'..... O"H, one slaughtered, the other prepared the knives and from then on two Schochtim were always there for this Congregation.

Chapter 7.

HARTFORD SCHITA - FULL OF TREIFUS- SHOCHTIM DO NOT CATCH THE BIRDS - DO NOT EXAMINE THE SIGNS

In Hartford, turkeys were being slaughtered 150 per hour. The ancient Schochet R'....., who was also the manager of the plant, appointed R'..... to shecht there. That shochet didn't even know how to catch the birds. The first few hundred I saw were all treif. The shochet did not catch the birds according to halacha and evidently the signs could not be checked properly. Anyway this schochet was very sought after because he was able to accomplish so much in so little time. When R'..... tried to say that the birds are not kosher, the schochet in charge of the plant said "well, that's how you learn the trade".

Chapter 8.

HARTFORD – A LEARNED MASHGIACH DOES NOT SEE WHAT OCCURS DURING SALTING - GENTILE WOMEN SALTING – SCHITA ALLOWED DUE TO TIME PRESSURE AND UNDER ASSUMPTION ONLY.

I met a mashgiach, a big Talmid Chacham, R'.... Hassid ofwho was an expert in the Talmud and stood in the presence of salting the turkeys. I saw how gentile women salt the birds as he was standing there unmoved. I asked him if they salted properly and he assured me they did. These women had to handle turkeys weighing 60 pounds each, however they salt very well. I went over to examine their work and saw that they only salt one side. The Hassid asked me what the tumult was about since salting one side only is also kosher. I told him this is only *Bdieved* (after the fact and not to be done on a regular basis) for one or two turkeys but never for such large quantities on a steady basis and for communities that want these turkeys with the strictest laws observed. He answered me that when someone undertakes to become a Mashgiach in America, he has to know how to work under pressure and with leniency if he wants to assure himself a good living. I told him to follow the law of our fathers and if he is not willing to do so he will be destined to go to a special Gehinom (purgatory) reserved for Shohatim, mashgichim and Rabbonim.

Chapter 9.

IN A SLAUGHTERHOUSE A SHOCHET SLAUGHTERED 400 TURKEYS AN HOUR WITH NO TIME TO EXAMINE THE KNIVES

When I worked for a large company slaughtering chickens, they had a special section for turkeys. There they slaughtered 400 turkeys an hour. It was frightening to see how it was impossible to check the knives. The turkeys went around on a rolling table, they were thrown from side to side. At one point the Shochet had to go to the bathroom and

asked me to replace him. I asked for the speed of the table to be lessened and started shechting for about 5 to 10 minutes. The schechita was very difficult and when the shochet returned, he asked me to believe him as he was exhausted. Meanwhile a turkey wing salpped me in the face, my glasses fell and broke and no more schechita could be done in that hour.

Chapter 10.

OLD CHICKENS WITH PROBLEMS – SLAUGHTERING IN BACK OF THE NECK - DEFECTIVE KNIVES – SLAUGHTERING WITHOUT SIGNS.

Newly hatched chickens were being slaughtered for canning purposes in a small well known plant belonging to R'... . To slaughter these chickens was very difficult, because their windpipe is very soft. The rolling table went slower than usual and every shochet slaughtered 200-300 chickens an hour. I made a lot of treifos where others did not. I was very embarrassed and told the managing Schochet that I could not schecht anymore even though the others could, and that I would give back the \$75 that I was going to get paid for the day. There is a problem with young chickens that requires that a lot of checking at the neck level be done for each one of them. Most of the time you have to get to the neck where the knife becomes defected so in order to avoid this you have to check in six different ways. I was able to check the work the other schochatim were doing and saw that more than half of the chickens were not slaughtered according to the signs and in addition all the necks were cut. I was frightened at what I saw and immediately called the supervising Rabbi..... and showed him the chickens. He ordered all chickens not slaughtered according to law be removed. His face was white as a sheet and he asked how a schochet could pass such a schita under his nose. He told the other schochtim what he found and warned them. This is the way the supervising schochet learnt to check the knife without even seeing the knife.

Chapter 11.

SLAUGHTERING 400 CALVES PER HOUR (KASHRUS A NEAR IMPOSSIBILITY)-THE KNIFE QUICKLY BECOMES DEFECTIVE

In the city of..... (where many orthodox Jews live). where calves are slaughtered. the calves roll as fast as 400 per hour without exaggeration. Today I convinced the Schochet to take me with him telling him that I want to know everything and that I am very capable and can learn it all etc.. etc.

I saw that the calves are rolling around at a very quick pace. the knives are checked after every 5 or 10 calves and if the knife is defective a cut is made on the ear of the calf as a sign that it is treif. He gave me his knife to slaughter 8 calves. I caused defects in

two, since the knife wasn't sharp enough and I could not Schecht. I did not check the knives but it is known that it is not good, and the Schochet can prepare the knives according to his needs. I heard that 50 years ago Rabbi M..... may his memory watch over us, ate from this Schochet's Schita.

Perhaps then he was a good Schochet. He also told me that to slaughter calves is an easy task, but to slaughter 400 sheep an hour, that is a 'kuntz'. What a shame we weren't slaughtering sheep!

Chapter 12

SLAUGHTERING OF ANIMALS AT 60 PER HOUR-SLAUGHTERING WITHOUT FEELING-USING A DEFECTIVE KNIFE-IN OUTSIDE EXAMINATIONS THE ADHESIONS ARE CUT- THE SCHOCHTIM ARE VERY LENIENT AND PERMIT EVERYTHING

I was at a relative who was a Schochet and although I was already experienced in Schita I said that I still knew nothing and am learning the trade. This way I was able to see and observe all that was going on without being suspected of having too much knowledge. I had very nice knives, and my friend R'..... had also R'..... were impressed with the knives, which are actually the basis for a good Schochet. They told me that if I saw knives with defects I was not to say anything about it. There were two Schochtim - one a Hassid of Rebbe M.....and the other a Lithuanian. The Schochet who was a Hassid showed me his knife that was very smooth but in the middle had a terrible defect, but I said nothing.

In short, my relative the Schochet slaughtered only 60 per hour and examined his knife after every animal. He then gave me the knife to examine and I told him I still have to learn what is called fat, in the middle of slaughtering the animals from Schita to Schita you feel fat if it is not a defect. He examined the knife and then showed it to me. Once I found a defect and I said that I felt some- thing and maybe it is just fat. He examined the knife quickly and said it was good. He continued to slaughter another 5-6 animals and gave me the knife again to examine. I told him again that I feel something, and when he examined it again he agreed that there was a defect on the knife and accordingly declared the animal treif. I told him that the first time he gave me the knife to check, I also felt the same defect and he asked me why I didn't tell him. I said I did but that I didn't quite know the difference between fat and a defect and I only said I feel something.

To tell the truth, I felt the defect very well because I was in many slaughterhouses, but I wanted to see how I would feel slaughtering 60 animals an hour alone. Is there feeling and how? The Schochet continued to Shecht without another Schochet standing by his side examining the knives.

Internal examinations are made while the animals are hung. Each examiner makes notes for himself as to what he has found and passes it on to an outside examiner that has nothing to do with the Schita. It is all done in a carefully planned manner.

The examiner R'..... permitted everything that had an origin with Rabbinic authority, even when it tended towards the lenient. He removed the most difficult adhesions that even had a blood clot that every Posek would prohibit. I asked him why he is trying so hard to remove it when the animal is treif anyway. and he said that it is absolutely not so and then told me there is a technique called Bais David. that determines that in such a case it is also considered kosher. He showed me the Sefer and told me it was his job to find permits even if the majority rules against. This he declared Glatt Kasher Lemehadrin.. The work on the lung took 15 minutes. I learned from him how to remove adhesions,(He put all the pious Schochtim in his little pocket). Most of our Schochtim don't even know how to remove adhesions, they just tear them and they don't even have nails to do that. Well. that plant already burnt down and thank G-d there is one less place to cause Jews to eat Treif and vile meat.

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Chapter 13

THE SUPERVISING RABBI FORBIDS SCHITA - A PIOUS SCHOCHET SLAUGHTERS THERE SAYING THAT THE MEAT IS DESTINED FOR MODERN JEWS

That same Schochet spoken about in the previous incident worked in a place near Ottawa. Canada. There it is customary that the animal stands straight and her head is lifted by her nose. A fork is inserted in the nose and the animal is forced to stand straight. That Schochet told me that the Rebbe....., who was the supervising Rabbi of the place, said it was forbidden to Schecht like that. but since the meat was destined for modern Jews (who are also Shomrei Torah and Mitzvos) I was there once and saw how the animal was heavy on the knife and the Schochet said that when he feels that he also declares it treif. (According to him a gentile can also schecht being that the meat is to go to modern Jews. and then it doesn't matter if it is vile...)

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Chapter 14

SLAUGHTERING OF SHEEP IN PATTERSON-60 PER HOUR HARD NECKS DEFECT THE KNIVES - SCHOCHTIM WITH DEFECTIVE KNIVES-JUST ONE SCHOCHET WORKING WITHOUT AN AIDE TO CHECK THE KNIVES

I went to Schecht sheep together with a relative of mine R'..... in Patterson, The speed is 60 per hour, with 4~5 knives. I was being apprenticed at the time, but from one time I already knew what it was all about. R'... slaughtered one or two sheep and the knife became defective. The necks were full of mud that became icy and ruined the knives. We used his knives and mine and they all became defective. I had to stand and prepare knives for him to use. However, it takes time to fix a knife. Then I asked him how is it that he usually schechts alone. Even two Schochtim are not enough for such a Schita. He said there was nothing he could do since that is how things were done there. I don't know if there was even one kosher sheep there. I couldn't even look at the knives anymore; they were all no good.

Chapter 15

THE SUPERVISING RABBI NEVER CHECKS THE KNIVES DURING SCHITA -HE SITS IN HIS OFFICE OUT OF FEAR -HE FOUND SCHOCHTIM WITH DEFECTIVE KNIVES

We went to New Jersey together with two other well known Schochtim R'..... and R'..... to slaughter calves. That same day they also slaughtered sheep.

The Rabbi went up to his office to check the knives, because during the Schita he never came down to check the knives. He checked the knives of R'..... and they weren't good. The Schochet said he does not know why he has no Mazal with the Rabbis. They all disqualify his knives when all the other Schochtim tell him how nice his knives are; and when a Rabbi sees them he says they are no good! The Rabbis all knew his knives were never good, yet they never fired him from his job.

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Chapter 16

A PIOUS SCHOCHET DOES NOT WANT TO SCHECHT SHEEP BECAUSE OF THE MANY PROBLEMS INVOLVED- TWO OTHER SCHOCHTIM WENT INSTEAD

I was at that specific location with another Schochet. He had beautiful knives and he was a G-D fearing Schochet. I checked his knives during the Schita. Once I told him his knife was no good so he declared the calves Treif. That same Schochet refused to

slaughter sheep, due to the many problems involved as well as the quick pace of slaughter. Because of this the butchers sent substitute Schoctim who were willing to do as the butchers asked.

Chapter 17

ORTHODOX SCHITA IN NEW JERSEY SUPERVISING RABBI MAKES AN APPEARANCE ONCE A YEAR ~ SCHOCHET CAUSES DEFECTS MASHGIACH DOES NOT EXAMINE PLACE OF SCHITA - SKEPTICAL OF SCHOCHET WHO IS TOO 'ORTHODOX' AND WILL REVEAL SECRETS

I was in New Jersey at I was there approximately for half a year. In the entire time that I worked there I saw the supervising Rabbi just once. The Schochet R'..... made the internal examinations and put tags on the lungs. He called the Supervising Rabbi..... and showed him that the three tongues that he was about to tag had defects.

On the windpipe there was no ring left... The Rabbi shouted "oy vay", whereas the Schochet warned him to be careful since there is a "frumock" on the premises who might hear and tell what is going on. They were quiet about the incident and left things as is. The Schochet that left the defects was accepted as a learned Hassid, ultra Orthodox and G-d fearing. But the quick Schita caused the fact that he couldn't examine the place of the Schita, and he unwillingly caused Jews to eat Treif. The other Schochtim knew the truth but said nothing.

Chapter 18

A SCHOCHET SEES A FLAW, SHOWS IT TO ANOTHER ACCEPTED SCHOCHET WHO IN TURN DENIES ITS EXISTENCE AND CONTINUES TO SLAUGHTER WITH THE SAME KNIFE

I also had an incident with the Schochet R'..... in Patterson. He showed me the knife in the middle of the Schita. I believed he was a pious Schochet. I told him I felt something, but he opened his eyes wide and said it was good. I told him I am just a student, I am no expert, and perhaps it is only fat that has to be cleaned off. From then on I was very wary of him.

Chapter 19

LUNGS WERE MIXED IN AN OUTSIDE EXAMINATION - NO ONE KNOWS WHAT THEY ARE EXAMINING. THE SCHOCHTIM DON'T HAVE NAILS TO REMOVE THE ADHESIONS

At a Schita in New Jersey,.... I showed the Schochet R'.,.,. that in an outside examination the lungs are substituted and there is no sign of differentiation, He then yelled at the examiner asking him if he knows how to remove an adhesion... he has no nails. He continued to tell that mules are slaughtering animals. That Schochet was satisfied from the words of the examiner that I can remove adhesions better than they. They hoped I would be as good a Schochet as they were, G-O forbid!

Chapter 20

THE SCHOCHET WARNS OF DEFECTS AND HE IS LAUGHED AT - HIS SCHITA IS TOTALLY VILE

In a meticulous Schita, the rotation of the animals is about 13 per hour. Two well known Schochtim slaughtered there. One hated the other. They used to receive livers and tongues gratis. When there were enough koshered animals, they were very generous. From one of the Schochtim I received a knife to check, and I suspected a defect. I told him of my suspicion at which time. He yelled at me and told me I don't know what I am talking about, that the knife is good. Out of fear I answered that I am just a student and most probably it is the fat and I still am not experienced enough to tell the difference. The truth is - the situation there was terrible.

Chapter 21

THOUSANDS OF CHICKENS A DAY WITHOUT ONE QUESTION - A RABBI WISHING TO SCHECHT A SMALLER QUANTITY HAS MORE QUESTIONS THAN THE SCHITA OF THOUSANDS PER DAY

Once a week I was a Schochet in -..... The Gaon the Zaddik R'..... was there every summer for two weeks and he slaughtered 200 chickens and turkeys. I used to give him the knife after every 5 chickens so that he can eat the chickens with a clear conscience. At the same time I wanted him to teach how to check the knives. At night I helped him open the chickens and check the questions.

He had more questions than all the slaughter houses that slaughter hundreds of thousands of chickens. I spoke to him twice in 6 hours. I was working at the time on the Sefer 'Nefesh Yeshayahu'. I told him all that was on my heart regarding the many defects found by the other Schochtim and that I don't know what to do about it. He told me it

wasn't worth making a case out of it because then they will do to me what they did to him which was being thrown out of Hisachdus Harabbonim and that in any event I still wouldn't be able to correct anything.... I will only get yelled at laughed and scoffed at.

Chapter 22

TOSSING THE CHICKENS (QUESTIONS OF SMASHED BONES) - TWO IMPORTANT RABBIS ASKING FOR CORRECTIONS AND NOTHING IS DONE

I was by the Gaon Rav..... Zatsal, and I told him that at the plant where he gives a Hechsher from the Kashruth Organization..... they toss the crates containing the chickens from heights and there is a question of smashed bones. I protested but the owners told me I am crazy and no other Schochet ever protested. The Rav...Zatsal promised me he would do something regarding this matter but nothing was ever done.

Chapter 23

SLAUGHTERING WITH MACHINES IN HARTFORD - THE ENTIRE CITY IN AN UPROAR - THE RABBIS PROMISE TO DO SOMETHING BUT NOTHING IS DONE - THE SCHOCHET IS AFRAID TO UNCOVER THE DEFECTS FOR FEAR OF LOSING HIS JOB

In Hartford they began to slaughter on round machines and I made a big to do about it until the entire city was saying that slaughtering is done with machines. The Rabbi became aware of the situation and called the Schochet, who didn't know what he wanted from him. He just knew that the Rabbi wanted to ask .him about problems with Schita. In short, the Schochet called me to the butcher when no one was there, to see how to solve the problem. It seems that he knew he had to pass a test and he couldn't lie very well. He had an additional problem - whether to tell the Rabbi or not - because if he did it would go further and further in his name.... So should he tell the truth or just keep quiet?

I explained to him that although his job is in question and he definitely needs the 'parnasa', on the other hand the entire responsibility of the Kash.ruth of the Schita in this place is on his shoulders.

Why should he carry such a heavy burden? If he tells the truth they will be forced to correct the situation and if he doesn't the burden lies with him forever. I described the words of the Chofetz Chaim, the Zohar etc., but he was still afraid to speak up in his name.

I then told him I would go with him and he would tell all he knows. If they would ask him who says all this he could say it was I. I was not afraid to speak up, because my Parnasa comes from Hashem and not from another Schochet or butcher.

We arrived to the Rabbi, and he asked us what is happening with the Schita. The other Schochet asked that I speak first. I mentioned the smashing of bones, the throwing of the chicken crates. The Rabbi made notations on a small piece of paper.

Then the Rabbi asked the other Schochet what he had to say and he answered, I schecht 200 chickens and check my knives and if I find a defect I can only declare the last one Treif." The Rabbi asked how come, since you have to declare treif all the ones slaughtered since the last examination of the knife? He answered, If I do it once or twice they will throw me out saying I am no good. Will the Rebbi give me Parnasa? No one will stand by me. In the past the Rav stood by the Schochet but today who will ?The Rabbi noted all this on his paper, but it stayed on the paper. and nothing was ever done about it.

Chapter 24

' THE OX'S OWNER ON THE OX' - THE OWNER FROM THE SLAUGHTER HOUSE, A JEWISH CRIMINAL, HIT A SCHOCHET WHO DECLARED TREIF - SCHOCHTIM KOSHER VILE ANIMALS OUT OF FEAR

My relative the Schochet R'.... went many times to substitute for a Schochet, and many times theyslaughtered forand for..... One time he made a number of treifus during Schita or examinations.

The proprietor, a known Israeli criminal, went over to him and slapped him across the face. He fell on the floor and could not move. I told him to take him to court and sue him for a million dollars, to which he answered that he is afraid for his life, since the owner carries a gun and is capable of using it! This proves that the Schochtim are afraid of the butchers and owners and are forced to permit treifus.

Chapter 25

IN THE SCHITA OF..... A LEARNED HASSID GIVES TREIFUS TO EA T - SCHOCHET CAUSES MANY DEFECTS AND LEAVES IT ALL AS KOSHER

In the plant..... where they slaughtered for the Congregation..... I slaughtered along with the well known Schochet R'..... for the Schita of Rabbi.....

This Schochet was a pious Jew. I prepared his knives which he used since he was lazy to prepare his own knives. Thus I had every day a few hours of work to prepare knives. I did this of my own free will without any pay. The Schita was at the speed of 13 an hour. There was an additional Schochet that did the internal examinations as well as the outside

ones. I helped him with the latter, because for him it was impossible to do it all at 13 an hour. My job was to examine and put on the kosher tags. Many times I removed mucous which are considered tiny adhesions and sometimes he did. There was a Hassid..... who slaughtered for the Rabbis in New Jersey. He couldn't declare more than 2-3% treifus. He was very old, sat and learned and was even the 'baal tokeah' in his Cohgregation. (I think that by now he isn't the 'baal tokeah' anymore because I told R'..... a well known community member in the same Congregation. the doings of this character. He, in turn, told me that this Schochet made 4-5 defects and left them as kosher...

I was filled with tremor. After all our efforts we are still left with so many vile and treif animals. I asked this person to go and tell the Chief Schochet (a pious Jew), which he did. He, in turn, tore his hair and went to tell the manager in charge R'.....(we both had an additional task of checking the tongues for defects). We told the Schochet he is obligated to tell the Rabbi because it is a moral question as to whether that Schochet is allowed to continue his work. I told him that if it is hard for him to see, he should get glasses at which he answered that he sees well enough. The power of an owner knows no bounds.

Chapter 26

THE OWNER INSISTS THAT 50% REMAINS GLATT KOSHER, CLAIMING THAT ANOTHER SCHITA PLACE HAS SUCH A HIGH PERCENTAGE AS WELL

We slaughtered at...50-60 calves per hour. One Schochet (who was the supervising manager) R'.....was the Schochet and the other Schochet R'..... was the internal and external examiner. He found about 7% to be Glatt Kosher. The owner asked and yelled how could this be? At..... they have 50% Glatt Kosher without any headaches and you find only 7% Glatt?

The Schochet answered maybe they have more experience than we do. He was afraid to say that the other Schochtim cause treif and vile meat to be eaten. since he would lose his job. And in this case the calves were big and full of adhesions that were impossible to permit.

Chapter 27

THE SCHOCHET DOES NOT GO TO THE MIKVEH FOR THREE MONTHS AND SLAUGHTERS THE ENTIRE TIME WITH AN INFECTION IN HIS HAND

The Schochet R....had a very bad infection on his hand. and he was forbidden to go to the Mikveh (after sexual relations like the law requires) for three months. but he was allowed to schecht according to permission from a Rabbi.

Chapter 28

A CHICKEN PLANT IN NEW JERSEY THE KOSHERING SUPERVISOR LOOKS LIKE A GENTILE - NEVER COMES TO INSPECT THE SCHIT A - GIVES A 'HECHSHER' TO MANY VARIOUS PLANTS - HAS NO IDEA WHAT IS HAPPENING IN THE PLANT

I slaughtered for a time in New Jersey at a chicken plant. It was a good and slow process. R.....

was also there for 15 years. One day. in the middle of koshering chickens, I saw a short man in a black hat who looked like an Italian. He came closer to me and said good morning and that he was the supervising Rabbi of the plant. I nearly fainted but I wanted to see what kind of person He was, so I took a knife and showed it to him. He said it was very nice. I asked him why I never saw him before and he replied that he came to remove his supervision from the plant. I asked him why and he explained to me that he supervised other plants and in one of them alone, they slaughter 2000 calves per day. He also supervises a plant where sheep are slaughtered and with so much work, he decided to remove his supervision from the plant. To the question of how he knows that I slaughter with a knife, maybe I could use an electric knife?, He answered that he knew I was an honest type of Schochet.

I realized that in the other plants, they offered him more money and for him to supervise a plant where “only slaughters 200 chicken a day must be a burden”.

Chapter 29

SCHITA ON THE FEATHERS – THE SCHOCHET ADMITS THAT HE CONTINUES TO SCHECHT EVEN AFTER FINDING A GREAT DEFECT

Unfortunately, I taught schita to a student, following the instructions of the Satmer Rebbe ZTL. The student was a difficult one and it was harder for him to learn than the knife used to schecht. Then, to my good fortune he was ordained and he started to schecht.

At..... a Schochet was absent and the manager in charge, the old Schochet R'....., took my student to shecht for him. He did not know how to schecht like the others. One time I saw how he slaughters on top of the feathers, like that other Schochet who gives others treifus to eat..... This caused me great anguish, since he was my student and no less according to the Satmer Rebbe.... On the fourth or fifth day that he worked there he showed the knife to the old Schochet. He found a great defect. He asked him when it happened, and the student said it happened about an hour and a half ago. Then the old Schochet yelled at him why he waited so long if he thought something was wrong - why didn't he show it to the more experienced there..... However, inspite of all this, that entire Schita still remained kosher!

Chapter 30

DISPUTE OF SCHOCHTIM REGARDING SENSITIVITY - SUPERVISING RABBI RELIES ON SCHOCHTIM - THEY SLAUGHTER WITHOUT SENSITIVITY SCHOCHTIM BOAST THAT THEY SLAUGHTER 1,200 PER HOUR

Once when the supervising Rabbi..... arrived in his car, he arranged a gathering and asked the Schochtim the following: We used to shecht from 6:30 in the morning until 11:00 in the morning, with a 15 minute break for 4 and a half hours. The Schochtim would alternate. Some would work, and some would rest. After lunch at 12 noon the O.U.Schochtim would schecht and they would pay 560 per day to each Schochet. The afternoon Schita would be until 2:30. In short, at the end of the day the owner would be out of chickens. In the morning he managed 12-13 thousand chickens with a need for more and an extra hour of Schita at least. The question is do the Schochtim have the same sensitivity (feeling in their hand) in the afternoon as they do in the morning?

When he asked me this question, I told him I am young and inexperienced and he is better off asking the other more experienced Schochtim this question. In the past I was asked to work an extra hour, but my answer was that it is too much of a burden.

The Rabbi asked another Schochet his opinion, to which he replied that already in the second hour he doesn't have the same feeling as in the morning, and of course there is no comparison to the morning and afternoon's schita. But naturally the lenient Schochtim won, and it was decided that although the feeling is not the same, it is still there.

So it was decided to work an extra hour, and of course those that did were compensated very well.

Chapter 30*

THE SCHOCHTIM SLAUGHTER WHILE VERY TIRED, AND AFTER A VERY HARD DAY'S WORK - SLAUGHTERING OF 1,200 AN HOUR - THE KNIFE TOUCHES THE CHICKENS ON BACK OF THE NECK WHICH CAUSES KNIFE DEFECTS - THIS IS TOTALLY OVERLOOKED

According to the above arrangement, an extra hour of work was added to the itinerary. Then the problem cropped up that they had to wait an extra hour and a half until the o.u. finished their Schita.

Since it was a waste of time, they decided they too will schecht for the o.u. and make an extra \$60.

Who wouldn't work for 1.5 hours for \$60?!

I did not agree to schecht, and passed on the extra money. The other Schochtim divided the work among themselves. I told them that I also love money but am too tired. Naturally those same two Schochtim came up to their room and fell in a dead sleep from exhaustion. But during the Schita they were at 'top strength'.

The Schochet R'..... would always boast how in the afternoons he would manage to slaughter 1,200 chickens an hour. In each chicken he hit the back of the neck, but he decided that does not defect the knives... (Unfortunately. there is much more I can say about that Schita...)

Chapter 31

THE SCHOCHTIM PREPARE BEAUTIFUL KNIVES WHEN THE SUPERVISING RABBI IS ABOUT TO ARRIVE - THE RABBIS ARRIVE AT APPOINTED TIMES - WELL-KNOWN RABBIS DECLARE THE PERMITTING OF 1,200 PER HOUR - O.U. WAS FORCED TO SERVE TREIFUS - IN THE CITY TREIFUS IS SOLD WITH A HECHSHER

One Wednesday at 3: 15 in the morning we were in the Mikveh and the Schochet R'..... told the other Schochtim that the Rabbi..... made peace with the other Supervising Rabbi since it was known that they were always hostile to one another. when I yelled "oy v ay" the Schochet asked me why I am so worried. I said that now two of them will give the Hechsher on our Schita.

Meanwhile, the other Schochtim asked me if I knew that the manager, the Schochet R'..... called them yesterday and asked them to prepare the knives since the Rabbi was coming. He examined the place and was satisfied. The wheels were turning. Everything was examined thoroughly except for the Schita Hall itself, where he only stayed a few minutes. He didn't want to examine the knives during the Schita...

The owner convened with the two Rabbis regarding anew machine for slaughtering. The chickens would rotate automatically and the Schochet would rotate simultaneously in a moving wheel. For this they needed a permit to slaughter 1,200 per hour. When we were 5 schochatim, the OU would use 12 for the same amount. This meant to schecht 3,500 per hour while the OU would only do 600.

The owner realized that with this permit , He could save \$2,400/wk or \$ 120,000/yr.Immediately, the owner offered good money to obtain this permit and as usual, his offer was accepted by the Rabbis. The secretary prepared the letter, the rabbis signed it and it was done.

The owner immediately informed the Union that he would not need as many schochatim because he has a letter from two Rabbis that let him schecht 1,200 chicken per hour, plus anyway he doesn't need lazy schochatim running around. Within two weeks, there were 4 less schochatim less at the plant.

Because it took the OU longer to accept the new transition, they cursed the two Rabbis day and night for permitting this plant to process so many chicken per hour, but anyhow they supplied the larger quantities. And imagine that this plant worked 5 days a week under these conditions. Just think how many treifos came out of there. And we have to thank these two "pious" Rabbis for this.

Chapter 32

A SCHOCHET HARRASSED HIS CO-WORKER DUE TO THE FACT THAT HE WAS STRICTER THAN OTHERS THEY LAUGH AT THE FACT THAT THEY LEAVE DEFECTS - DOES NOT PERMIT PROPER OUTSIDE EXAMINATIONS TO BE MADE TEACHINGS WITH THE TENDENCY TOW ARDS LENIENCY

By the Schita of where the Schochet..... works, I stood next to the young Schochet R'..... to see how he works, since he was new at this. He checked his knife very carefully after every Schita. He was afraid of defects. His relative, who is also a Schochet, had no patience with him and told him he is sorry he taught him Schita, because he wastes so much time checking the knives.

Once during the Schita the owner came running with a tongue in his hand, screaming at the young Schochet, if you go near a Schita again I will kill you! It seems that the Schochet slaughtered very close to the body in order not to cause defects. The tongue sells for \$7 a pound. If the slaughtering is done in that form, an extra pound of meat is lost on the tongue. That means a loss of 500 pounds on 500 animals and that is a large sum of money.

When the owner befell the Schochet, we all thought he would kill him. Then he left the room, the young Schochet's relative yelled at him reprimanding him to no end, until the Schochet R'..... who was a sympathetic man, told him to calm down.

Times have changed since then. That same Schochet who was so pious has now become very lenient, exactly like his relative. I remember how he wrote on the board at least 10 notes after the examinations and his relative yelled at him that he was crazy. He asked him if he really thought it was necessary to write about every mucous etc., etc., until the Schochet learned the 'trade' and got to the point that he permitted treifus...

Chapter 33

SCHOCHTIM TREAT ADHESIONS AS GLATT - A SCHOCHET DENIES FINDINGS - THE OTHER ADMITS

Usually when everything went smoothly, I did not go into the internal examinations of the animal. However, when there were problems and the animal was designated for more modern people, I did do internal examinations.

There were times I examined the Schita of R'..... after the Schita and found adhesions, which I left with the fat so that the adhesion will be found on the outside. I told him that most probably they left it for me to find which they said was ridiculous, since they left nothing. I continued and said that I left the animal with the fat at which he

said I don't know what I am talking about. I realized I can't stand and argue about it, although I caught it on the spot.

When I stood from afar I saw him removing the adhesion... I never mentioned it again. By the Schochet R'..... I also saw many adhesions and said that most probably he left it there for me to find, in order to test me... He admitted that he simply did not see it.

Chapter 34

TENS OF THOUSANDS OF TAGS ACCESSIBLE TO ALL - ANYONE COULD TAKE IT AND TAG IT ONTO ANYTHING

When I traveled to slaughter in the plant..... for the Schita..... it was about 5 years since the owner of that well known Schita left the place. I found a case of about 50.000 tags (blumbas) of the previous Schita. I could have purchased the tags or even just taken them. Anyone could have tagged anything in sight or done anything with them.

Chapter 35

A WELL-KNOWN RABBI REFUSES TO PURCHASE FROM THE SCHITA DONE FOR HIS BUTCHER BY SCHOCHTIM WITHOUT BEARDS - WORTHLESS AND LENIENT SCHOCHTIM GREW BEARDS SO THAT THIS RABBI WILL PARTAKE OF THEIR SCHIT

A

I once traveled to schecht at..... (the Schita was for a modern community). I arrived there because there was simply no Schochet. At the same time a Rabbi from Detroit arrived and asked me what I think of the Schita there. I told him the Schita was far from being good because of the leniency there. He had a problem. Since the supply house in Detroit takes chickens with his Hecsher and he is skeptical about taking chickens from here. What can he use for an excuse? I told him to say that since the Schochtim have no beards, he can't buy from their Schita. The owner hearing this assured the Rabbi that there is no problem and that he will guarantee that the Schochtim grow beards!

When the owner called the Schochtim and told them they must grow beards, they began to argue.

One said that he is older than his wife by ten years and if he grows a beard she won't want to live with him. The other Schochtim also were angry with this order. Very quietly the owner said "I am running a Schita business here, the Rabbis demand beards. If you adhere to this demand you can return to work on Sunday: if not stay home! I will bring hippies with beards here and teach them Schita!"

The Schochtim saw that they had no choice and they began to grow beards. They themselves called their own beards "brooms". They used to say "now we are kosher Schochtim. We have long 'brooms'."

Chapter 36

THE SHOCHTIM TEARING OFF THE ADHESIONS

I used to travel to the plant for the Schita of calves and sheep, together with my relative the Schochet R'..... Over there they slaughtered at a slow pace, and I was able to learn how to peel off adhesions. In the past, he was the head of the Schochtim. He peeled off the adhesions beautifully. However, to see how the Schochet R'..... tore off the adhesions from the meat was a horror. I asked my relative if he ever watched how the others did their work, to which he replied that the others didn't know how to remove adhesions at all. They just rip them off.

I also saw there a Shochet who peeled the adhesions beautifully and had beautiful knives which made even us to be ashamed.

On our way home we were 5 shochtim in a car and we went to another plant to pick up others. My relative boasted that I was his pride and joy; that I learned from him so much and that I was better than his own teacher, that I prepared the knives better than any other, that I was a better examiner and that worked like the old timers. When the others heard him, they each exclaimed that I was their student and that I had learnt by them to which I quickly answered by saying that I had learnt from all of them. That was the reason why I was able to see everybody's faults, and to catch everybody's weak spots.

Chapter 37

SCHITA IN THE BITTER WINTER COLD [WITHOUT HEAT] – MANY SHOCHTIM ARE FORCED TO SHECHT FOR YEARS WITHOUT SENSITIVITY – BUTCHER FORCES SHOCHTIM TO SLAUGHTER WHILE BEING SICK WITH HIGH FEVER AND PNEUMONIA IN THE FREEZING COLD

I was a shochet in the chicken plant of... once a week. There was also another Shochet R...who worked once a week. The old Schochet R'..... worked there 3 days a week. I used to substitute for R'..... when he couldn't make it. The plant was in open space and in the winter it was freezing cold. A large refrigerated truck stood by.. the door where the chickens were put, which added to the frost of the place.

One day, while in the middle of Schita (Schita began at 7:30-8:00 in the morning and at 9: 15 there was a 25 minute break), at about 1:00 a.m., I called the butcher over and showed him that my feet were frozen, and that I was losing the sensitivity to my touch. The butcher R'..... got very angry and screamed that 10 years he has Schochtim and this

is the first time one of them says he is losing his sense of touch, and that I wasn't allowed to schecht!

I went into the next room to rest. In the afternoon I went back to schecht until 2:30, and again I lost the feeling. The place became tumultuous at this new concept of feeling, and the butcher, seeing what was happening, decided to warm off the other Schochtim from copying me.

The Schochet R'..... told me that under no circumstances was I to work after 2:30, or the butcher will forever demand even 1 2 hours of work and force the other Schochtim to do as he commands.

A week later I was called to the butcher R'..... to come and schecht. Ordinarily I was paid \$50 to \$60 a day. I told him I did not want to come, I did not need the work, and it was too difficult, and that he should look for someone else. If he doesn't find anyone else then I will come only for \$90 a day. I will work less hours, and when I feel I need a rest, I will take it. Well, that owner was a man who barely paid the \$60 although I told him \$90, just so that he would take someone else. He relented and said to come.

When I arrived there I found the old Schochet R'....., who was very sick with high fever and pneumonia. He told me that the vicious butcher forced him to work 10 hours a day even though he was so sick. I told him he must get to the hospital immediately and not wait a moment longer. Well, he listened to me and was in the hospital for two weeks and remained in bed at home for an additional two weeks.

Chapter 38

AT..... SCHOCHTIM SCHECHT WITHOUT A MIKVEH FOR LONG PERIODS OF TIME - THERE WAS A MIKVEH, BUT THE SCHOCHTIM WERE TOO LAZY TO GO

I told the butcher R'..... that I wished to go to the Mikveh before Schita. He answered that a Schochet does not need a Mikveh and that the Schochtim there never bother to go. I then showed him the Sefer 'Simla Chadasha' where it says that one is obligated to go to the Mikveh before Schita. He then told me that the Schochet R'....., (who was very sick), hadn't gone to the Mikveh for 12 years. No one else asked to go either.

He then went on to make fun and ask me if maybe the Mikveh is connected to the problems of sensitivity, and maybe that is why I lose it so often....Later I learned that there is a Mikveh in the vicinity, but he was too lazy to take the Schochtim there. Thus the others stopped going as well.

Chapter 39

IN A WELL-KNOWN SCHITA TWO WELL-KNOWN SCHOCHTIM SLAUGHTER 3,000 PER HOUR

For the well-known butcher..... chickens were being slaughtered by the Schochtim and They slaughtered via a moving wheel with 3,000 chickens, 1,500 for each Schochet.

Chapter 40

A SCHOCHET THAT SLAUGHTERED ALL NIGHT 10 HOURS, TRAVELED IMMEDIA TELY TO ANOTHER SLAUGHTER HOUSE TO CONTINUE THERE - A SCHOCHET WAS CAUGHT STEALING

I went to Williamsburgh where on Saturday night the well known Schochet R'..... worked from 9:00 at night until 6:00-7:00 in the morning. I was there until about 2:00 A.M. Then I asked him how he has the strength to work all night without a stop, to which he replied ..a person's money puts him on his feet." Sometimes I stood with him from 2:00 in the morning until 6:00, at which time he would travel an hour and a half straight to Canarsie and there, totally exhausted, he would continue to work and shecht 200 turkeys and chickens an hour.

From each location he would quietly steal turkeys, chickens etc. When I asked him if the owner knows what he takes, he told me that he told the owner that turkeys can be slaughtered straight or crooked. If they are slaughtered crooked, there are feathers, meaning there will be a lot of treifus. If it is done straight, there won't be any treifus. The owner immediately understood the hint. He was then able to steal as many as he wanted to without the owner's knowledge.

Chapter 41

SLAUGHTERING NON-STOP IN A NUMBER OF PLANTS - A SCHOCHET WHO SPENDS HIS TIME IN POLITICS AND OTHER NONSENSICALS

We used to go to On Wednesday mornings at 3:30 a.m. we would gather near the Satmer Mikveh.

I would arrive first. The others would come after me and finish up very quickly, except for one Schochet R'..... , who always stood under the hot water 15 minutes, soaping and lathering and washing. I never understood why, until I learned that he was up all night and did not want to look tired. I further learned that he worked all night in Williamsburgh until 3:00 A.M. From there he went to the Mikveh, and from there he traveled two and half hours to the slaughter house....., where he slaughtered over 1,000

chickens. During the entire trip he spoke only of politics. He knew the entire "Forwards" back and forth and he would keep everyone awake with his tales.

When we arrived at the place he would work as if he just awoke from a sleep. We returned from Hartford around 6:00-7:00 in the evening and that Schochet immediately went to Ungar's meat market to kosher chickens. He was superhuman.

Chapter 42

THE BUTCHER SOLD TREIF FOR KOSHER - MIXED IN KOSHER AND NON-KOSHER - THE SCHOCHET WAS FIRED FOR INTERFERENCE

The well known Hassid, R'....., told me that 20 years ago he was a Mashgiach in Williamsburgh.

He used to tag the sacks of chicken. Before he tagged them he used to check the contents, because he was very suspicious of the owner. The owner once asked him what he was afraid of, whereas he answered that he was afraid he would put in a dead cat!

That same owner was suspected of mixing in Treifus with Kosher. Once the Schochet R'..... had some treifus, of which he made a sign by cutting off the finger of the chicken - which disappeared. The Schochet understood that the owner took them, on the pretext that he gave them to a gentile. Many times a truck passed by, and chickens were thrown in without any tags at all. The Mashgiach did not allow tags to be put on anything that was out of sight. The owner was very unhappy with the situation, and there were many spats.

The Mashgiach then decided to become a Schochet and work for the Union. However, the Union wanted \$5,000 dues. The owner, with ulterior motives, asked the Mashgiach if he wanted to be a Schochet, and at once he called the Union and asked to have another Mashgiach sent. Rabbi Meltzer said he has no one available. So he asked if he can use the Mashgiach as a Schochet, and having no choice, Rabbi Meltzer agreed. So the Mashgiach became a Schochet.

However, the owner's joy did not last long, because the Schochet presented even more obstacles than before. When he slaughtered chickens and they were treif, he made a sign of Cutting off the finger on the chicken's foot. These chickens, in return, disappeared. When he asked the owner where they were, the owner said he threw them in the garbage. After turning over the entire garbage with no trace, the Schochet made a list of the butchers who were to receive this shipment, and he called and forewarned them that should the chickens with such a sign arrive, they should know that they are treif.

One butcher near the Pupa Bais Medrash finally found the chickens. The Schochet asked the butchers not to reveal their source, however, one did.

When the owner found out, he fired the Schochet

Chapter 43

THE GENTILES HANG LIVE CHICKENS WITH ALREADY SLAUGHTERED ONES - THE MASHGIACH CAN DO NOTHING - A SCHOCHET TESTIFIES THAT PIOUS JEWS WHO ARE VERY CAREFUL, EAT TREIFUS

At..... we Worked at a speed of 3,600 per hour. The gentiles at the plant were very wicked. When the Schochet checked his knives or turned his eye away from the Schita table even for a minute, they would hang live chickens with the already slaughtered ones.

The Mashgiach would come running and yell that there are chickens that weren't slaughtered at the neck, but by the head. However, the Mashgiach had no control. The Schochet said that R'..... could sit at his table with 20 guests and 50 grandchildren, sing Zmiros and eat treifus!

Chapter 44

TESTIMONY OF RABBI ZY"A UPON RECEIPT OF SCHIT A SCRIPT

Rebbe ZY"A instructed me to learn Schita. Within a few months I received a script of Schita from 10 Schochtim. I then turned to the Rav of Sharmashar and asked him for a Script as well. He told me that in Europe he gave over 60 Scripts, however, here he was afraid to give me one. He can see that I could learn, but he didn't know if I was a Yere Shamayim. I told him that the Rebbe instructed me to learn, and he could ask him. After confirming with the Rebbe, I was given his Script.

Chapter 45

A SLAUGHTER HOUSE WHERE THEY DO NOT SALT THE CHICKENS ONLY DIP THEM IN SALT WATER AND THIS IS CALLED KOSHER

The Schochet R'...told me that in New Jersey they did not salt the chickens. They had a large pot with lots of salt which they, in turn, dipped into salt water. This was called kosher. If someone wanted a saltier chicken, they left the chicken in the pot a little longer.

Chapter 46

A WELL KNOWN SCHOCHET SLAUGHTERS FOR YEARS WITH DEFECTS - SLAUGHTERS IN THE BACK OF THE NECK - SLAUGHTERS WITH A FALTY KNIFE - RABBIS REFUSE HIS SCHITA BECAUSE HIS KNIVES ARE NO GOOD

Many times I would go to schecht across the bridge where the well known Schochtim R'..... and R'..... worked. By the Schochet R'..... I never saw a good knife. They were always defective, because he slaughtered in the back of the neck. He also used to salt during Schita, and large pieces of salt would fall on his knife which could also defect them. He never thought of checking the knives for defects from this.

By the second Schochet R'..... I always saw a good knife. He never wanted to work hard and never wanted to kosher the chickens for business.

It was known that two well-known Rabbis, Rabbi.....and Rabbi..... used to take Schita from the first Schochet. If he didn't have good knives, the first Rabbi would take 6 chickens and give them to the Goy as a gift. When the knife was good, he took 60-70 chickens. But the second Rabbi didn't take any chickens at all, if the knives weren't good. With all this, even though the knives weren't good many times, they continued to come to the Schochet, because he was considered a pious Jew.

But the Rabbis themselves were careful to take chickens from a Schita with a good knife. Many other Jews relied on this Schochet because of these two Rabbis and ate from the Schita even from defective knives

Chapter 47

SLAUGHTERING VIA TRAMPLING - A RENOWNED JEW FOREWARNS THE SCHOCHET BUT HE DOES NOT ADHERE

It is known that the Schochet R'..... slaughters and takes off almost the entire head. The other Schochet R'..... slaughters via trampling (when the chicken gets smashed). I saw a letter from the supervising Rabbi who warned them about their actions and he even wrote that they do not remove the feathers at all. He was replied with a long letter full of nonsense and they continued on their way.

Chapter 48

WELL-KNOWN SCHOCHET NEVER SHOWS HIS KNIFE TO THE RABBI - HE BLASPHEMES THE RABBIS

The Schochet R'..... said that he never shows his knife to the Rabbi. He shows him a different knife which he doesn't use for Schita. He says the Rabbis don't want to see such a sharp knife. He used very dirty inuencios when he said the Rabbis have to see a smooth knife like...

Chapter 49

THE SCHITA IN MONTREAL TESTIMONY OF AN OLD SCHOCHET OF SCHITA OF MORE THAN 100 ANIMALS AN HOUR (SPEAKING OF VILE MEAT) HE SCHECHTS WITH TREMBLING HANDS - ANOTHER SCHOCHET ADMITS TO SLAUGHTERING 100 ANIMALS AN HOUR

A relative of mine from..... called me and asked me to speak with the Zaddik Rabbi..... from.....

and ask him not to use the Schita of....., since the Schita was done with defective knives and at 100 animals per hour. He also saw how the hands of the Schochet were trembling. He continued to say, well I schecht 100 an hour because I'm young, but he is already 72 and it is impossible. That is how I found out that in this Glatt Schita.... 100 animals an hour were slaughtered.

Chapter 50

SLAUGHTERING WITH A SAW KNIFE FULL OF DEFECTS - 1200 PER HOUR CANNOT PREPARE A KNIFE - A SCHOCHET ACCUSED OF STEALING AND DANCING WITH GENTILE WOMEN - TWO MASHGICHIM WHICH DO NOT CHANGE THE SITUATION - THE OWNER ANGRY AT THE MASHGIACH

I went to Schecht for the well-known Congregation..... for two days a week. All in all, I slaughtered 2,000 chickens. There were two Schochtim from the Union. One worked on the moving wheel at 1,200 an hour and sharpened his knives on a stone which caused many defects. I showed him how to prepare a knife for Schita, but it didn't help. That same Schochet loved to dance with gentile women and steal turkeys etc. The Rabbi of the OU asked me to watch his tags (plumbers) and to give them out only when put to immediate use. I took it upon myself to give out the tags according to usage, and I

received a few dollars for this task. When I saw that the Schochet is not careful and shechts with defects, I had a meeting with the Rabbi from the OU . He was a Hungarian Rabbi, a Talmid Chochom. I told him what I knew. I told him that if he thought I was too religious and that I was exaggerating, he should call over another Schochet working for the O.U. and ask him for the truth. It was just impossible to continue this way and cause others to eat treifus.

He replied that he does not have a Schochet, to which I told him I could arrange for one. I called for the Schochet R'....., (who was unfortunately killed in that tragic accident where five Schochtim were killed). He arrived there to work for about 5-6 weeks.

He tried to teach the trade to a Schochet there, but to no avail. I told him to call the OU and tell them that the Schochet there does not know how to Schecht, but he felt sorry for the Schochet. I told him the responsibility is his and not with the O.U.. and after he finally spoke to them, the OU closed the plant. The owner wanted to kill me and did not stop cursing me for causing his plant to be closec!.

Chapter 51

IN ANOTHER PLANT ALMOST EVERY SCHOCHET SLAUGHTERS BETWEEN 1.200-1.800 AN HOUR - THE OWNER SUPERVISES THE WORK VIA A T.V. MONITOR - THE SCHOCHET ENABLES THE MARKETING OF TREIFUS

In a large chicken plant there were a number of Schochtim. R'..... slaughtered ,200 an hour and R'..... 850 and R'..... 1,200' and R'..... 600. One time a Schochet was missing and the Schochet R'..... was forced to substitute for him. He did not examine the knife and slaughtered 1.800 an hour. R'..... had less treifus because he only did 1,200 an hour. R'.....had many and he was always angry at R'..... why he had less and the owner was always angry with him for having so many. Once, the Schochet R'.".....yelled that R'..... slaughtered a carcass and asked him to run and take it off the moving wheel, The other Schochet didn't care and never would have removed it.

The proprietor wanted me to work there very badly, even though he saw that I shecht very slowly at only 500 an hour. After one hours' Schita. I went to wash my glasses from the dust that accumulated and everyone was amazed that I didn't have pity on the time that the wheel turned without chickens on it.

The owner saw almost everything that went on because he had a closed circuit t.v.. I once asked to use his phone, and that is when I discovered this t.v. I watched how a well-known Schochet slaughtered 200 chickens and never once checked his knife. The owner, a wicked Israeli criminal, told me, he doesn't do well, and then when the Rabbi from New York will come, he will make the whole Schita treif. Naturally, he was trying to get me on his good side, trying to make believe that he was interested in having everything 100% kosher, But I saw on that same t.v. what he didn't see. The Schochet doesn't even examine one sign, making everything vile. It seems that t.v, monitor was prohibited by the Rabbis because they never saw it and they only came once in a while to check out the Kashrus at the plant.

Chapter 52

TRIALS AND TRIBULATIONS DURING SCHITA - GENTILES OVERSEEING WORK AND THE PRESSURE IS TO SCHECHT EVEN IF THE KNIVES ARE NOT READY - A SCHOCHET WITH TOO FEW KNIVES

I went to Ohio to schecht chickens together with the Schochet R'..... He was known to be a very good 'baal tefilah'. He slaughtered for the congregation.....we arrived at the hotel at 12:00 midnight and 6:00 in the morning we had to be up, and daven before setting out for the plant. The first thing a Schochet does when he arrives is to check his knives, lest they were spoiled during travel. Thank G-d, 4 of my 6 knives were good. By the other Schochet the knives were defected. He started to fix them, but it didn't go. He tried again. thinking he doesn't see well. One musn't be nervous, but calm. He was nervous and not calm. I told him I would give him my knives to use, but he didn't want to hear of it, because if he can't fix his he won't be able to fix mine in the middle of Schita, since he is not used to them.

It was already 12:45 and I asked him to give me his knives. so that I can fix them. At first he didn't agree, but then he relented. By 1:30 at night I had fixed his knives, and he was very happy. when everyone comes in the morning and the pressure to begin working starts, there is no time to fix knives. That is why I always took along 6 knives. Everyone always made fun that I took along so many. but I knew how important it was. The only real solution is to bring along lots of knives, but the other Schochtim didn't and they had to undergo many tribulations if their knives were defected. Many could not withstand the pressure and slaughtered with defective knives.

Chapter 53

THE SCHITA AFTER YOM KIPPUR THE SUPERVISOR FORCES OLD- TIME SCHOCHTIM TO SLAUGHTER LARGE QUANTITIES EVEN WHEN TIRED THE SUPERVISING RABBI DOES NOT KNOW WHAT IS GOING ON AT THE PLACE

As you know, in large slaughter houses every day is vital for the quantities that are slaughtered.

The owners feel the difference when 10,000 are slaughtered or 30,000, especially during the High Holy Days, when business is very heavy. The profits are higher than all year round and every minute counts. Even with the close of Yom Kippur, the plant is immediately ready for work for the coming Succoth holiday. The same after Rosh Hashono; the Schochtim are on their way right after the stars come out. The Managing Schochet R'..... suggested that we all leave right after Yom Kippur and we will arrive at 6:00 in the morning and begin work at 7:00. I told him I refuse to go because after a whole night's journey one has to rest, and I would be too tired to schecht.

I suggested that just as the doctor can stop the work for a few hours although the owner pays for those hours, we too can rest and start work at 12:00 noon. He laughed at me and told me that was impossible, for then the plant would go bankrupt! The meat must get to the butchers in time! Specially Erev Yom Tov. I told him it is not his responsibility to worry about that. We must rest after such a difficult fast day and trip. He told me that in Empire they also do it, to which I answered that in Empire they slaughtered treif with their Schita of 1,200 an hour. He turned white and had to lie down because my words were like a slap in the face.

The dispute lasted and the tones were loud. He told me he would show me that 1,200 an hour can be slaughtered. I told him it would not happen. I would have him thrown out and that I succeeded in having a kosher Schita here and I won't let him break it and cause treifus to be eaten. I told him he is not in Empire, and if he wants he can go there with pleasure.

The other Schochtim were pleased that I brought this arrogant man down, but they knew it would not pass quietly. They knew he would take revenge. I continued to yell that if the Schochtim were not allowed to schecht the day after Yom Kippur at a later hour, he can do all the work himself. In short, we arrived the day after Yom Kippur at 5:30 in the morning, and we began to daven. I informed him I was going to sleep, at which he told me to come down at 7:00. I told him I would come down when I feel rested enough and able to work and that I can daven when I get up. I went to sleep and at 8:00 a Goy, holding a chicken in his hand, yelled and called Rabbi get up.

I turned around and slept until 9:00. Meanwhile. the other Schochtim worked. The old Schochet R'.....was exhausted on his feet. I told them all that if they all would have done as I had nothing would have happened to them. Why is it that when it comes to the subject of frumkeit, they are all afraid of the proprietor? Why aren't you all afraid of the real owner? Of Hashem?

The fact remains that the day after Yom Kippur, the day of repentance and forgiveness, they were slaughtering without sensitivity and feeling. Their fear of money was greater than the fear of the Creator, even when talking about eating treif and vile meat.

Chapter 54

SLAUGHTERING AN ENTIRE WINTER IN THE FREEZING COLD - LENIENCY OF SCHOCTIM - TOO CHEAP TO BUY A HEATER - THE MANAGER FORCES SCHITA WITHOUT SENSE OF TOUCH THE SUPERVISING RABBI, A PIOUS JEW, BUT DOES NOT KNOW WHAT THE SITUATION IS

It is known that in the slaughter houses it is freezing cold in the winter. I asked the other Schochtim that together we request that the owner purchase an electric heater. The others answered that business there wasn't so good, and it was difficult to ask. I then said that since we each made a week we can buy it ourselves, with each Schochet chipping in. Well, when it came to their money, they forgot about the cold. I told them that if I get cold and lose the feeling in my fingers, I will stop working. The supervising Schochet told me that if I stop work that day, he will not pay me (meaning that I get \$75 less for the week). I answered that if he has to work in my place he should get the money, and I don't need money that isn't kosher anyway. He then went on to say that he has pity on me, since I have to support 7 children. I told him that he does not give me my bread, but

Hashem does and I will not work in the cold, lose the feeling of touch etc. He told me it was easy to talk but a livelihood does not come easily, to which I replied that if 200 million gentiles have what to eat I am sure that I too will have food, especially since I adhere to His wishes. And the day came when it was freezing cold: the snow was 20 inches high, and I was very cold. I informed the others that I won't work any longer under these conditions. The others were just as cold, but for fear of losing their jobs they did not stop, and they didn't believe that I would not return.

The Schochet R'..... was waiting in the cold 1.5 hours, waiting for me to come and relieve him. and I did not appear. The other Schochet also waited for one of the other Schochtim (who also decided he won't work in the cold) to come and relieve him. But he too did not appear. The gentiles started screaming as well, that they too want to quit work since it was so cold.

The foreman rushed to call me, but I refused to come back. He decided to take revenge, and he did not go to work in my place..... The proprietor called from New York to find out what is happening and naturally, I was blamed for the whole commotion. I was called to the phone, but I stood my ground. The owner then called the supervising Rabbi who in turn called me and I told him that all I asked for was a heater and that I refused to work in the freezing cold, because I had no feelings in my hands. When the Rabbi heard that, he told me that I was right and I must not work under those circumstances.

The owner lost a small fortune that day. Thousands of chickens died from the cold. The truck did not arrive, and the Schochtim were petrified that the plant would close and they would be out of work. Naturally. they were all very angry at all the trouble I caused, but I told them that they were forewarned and for a few dollars we could have had the situation rectified.

The Schochtim were told to pack their bags and leave, because the Schita there was being eliminated. The belongings were already on the truck when the owner called and told them to stay where they were and not leave..... The Rabbi then called and asked if the Schochtim left already. When he was told that the owner commanded them to stay, he asked, "whom do you take your orders from, the Rabbi or the goy?" "But if you are already there, then stay."

The next day was a pleasure. Steam heat warmed the entire place....., the cost of which was \$350, and the day's loss was \$ 10,000. The merchants did not receive their wares. The owner never forgot what I caused and was always angry at me . If not for all that commotion, the schochtim would stillbe working without any sensitivity in their hands and this is a prerequisite for Kashrus.

Chapter 55

PIOUS SCHOCHTIM WITHOUT A MIKVE FOR LONG PERIODS OF TIME – A WELL KNOWN SCHOCHET NOT INTERESTED IN A MIKVE AT ALL

At a well known strict schita, there was no mikve. Having no choice I would go to the river, but it was really dangerous. It was in the winter and it was freezing. I had to tell this to two other schochtim so that in case I did not return in 45 minutes, they would go look for me there.

After working there for 4 months, I told each Schochet that thank G-d, we were making \$ 350/wk and that each one should give me \$50 that would pay to build a kosher mikve. The schochtim told me that it was a shame to waste the money, because the place might close down any day. I told them that if the place closes, I will reimburse them. I also suggested building the mikve with my own money and then when they would come and use it, then they would pay. They said if the mikve was good and warm they would use it because they were not obligated to go in the cold.

Within two weeks, I built a mikve, with a well of rain water. The Mikveh was hot every day. The Schita was different then, and everyone paid, except for one Schochet who refused to pay. He claimed that - one;

he might be leaving the place soon, and two, the place might be closing down soon. The plant was in operation for 15 years already, why should it close all of a sudden? And even if it did , you pay to go to any other Mikveh then why not here? All the other Schochtim fought with him to pay, but he refused. In the end we let him go in, just as long as he went to the Mikveh before Schita...-

Chapter 56

A WICKED ORTHODOX SCHOCHET REFUSES TO ALLOW DEFECTS TO BE CORRECTED - SLAUGHTERING AND SALTING WITH MACHINES - A SCHOCHET ENFORCES SILENCE OF MASHGIACH .

When there was a great outcry regarding slaughtering and salting with machines, there was a need for some pacification among the public, so a Mashgiach was sent to the place.

The Mashgiach arrived in the morning with the Schochtim and the old Schochet told him that once a new person appeared in the Synagogue and immediately started mixing into the directorate of the Synagogue. He made everything his business.

So the head of the Congregation stood up and chanted, "one came to live and stood judgment"....

The old Schochet insisted that everyone sing along, including me. At first I did not know what was going on, since he was telling a story, but then I saw that this song was taking too long. Then I understood that he meant for the Mashgiach to mind his own business and keep his mouth closed and not mix into anything.

We never heard a word from the Mashgiach, and he kept out of everyone's business, even what he was sent there for. In any event, he didn't last very long, because the old Schochet called the Rabbi and told him that the Mashgiach doesn't do anything anyway, and it is a waste of money to keep him. This old Schochet, such a respectable Cantor and Rabbi, was responsible for many obstacles and for causing others to eat treif...

Chapter 57

A SCHOCHET FEEDS TREIF - PRIVATE MIXED UP SCHITA - LED A PRIVATE SCHITA 30-35 YEARS AGO - CAUSED MANY TRAGEDIES

The old Schochet (the above mentioned Cantor) was a Schochet twice a week. During the rest of the week he polished gold. He would sit in bars with other friends. He would dress so that no one would recognize him. Religious Jews did not eat of his Schita as far back as Europe.

He was a constant house fixture in the home of Rabbi..... in Europe, and therefore was considered respectable and fine when he was really a low-life.

But here in the U.S. he became a butcher. The first few years he had a chicken slaughter house. As long as it was in Brooklyn. the people were able to see what was happening close by. (I heard from others that there too there were great problems).

Many Schochtim were needed. and he then decided to leave Williamsburgh. He moved the plant to..... and slaughtered with a moving wheel. The chickens rotated about 3.000 an hour with two Schochtim who had to schecht 1.500 each. The wings of the chicken no one ever caught. The chickens would throw themselves in the middle of the Schita. The knife was knocked about many times. but defects were never found on the knives.

They lied to everyone and told them it was only because of the blessing from the Rebbe that they had so much kosher.....Only these three Schochtim had the merit to work there. No one else was given that holy privilege.... for only those Schochtim went along with all his ways and went down to his level...Thousands of people. good. pious Jews. unfortunately ate Treifus. because of these Schochtim and their Schita.

KOL HASCHITA

Chapter 58

Scheduled differences between meat and chicken.

The following is a listing of the difference between bovine (cattle) and fowl (poultry) meat. It will be observed that by abstaining from eating bovine meats one keeps his soul from troubles as well as the souls of the members of one's household...and causing the salvation from innumerable risks. This schedule was formulated by a group of shoachim and experts in the field.

MEAT	CHICKEN
<p>1. The knife is very long and heavy — about 20 inches long thereby making it very difficult to sharpen and make smooth.</p> <p>Onerous and time consuming to sharpen it when it begets a small nick.</p>	<p>1. The knife is relatively small, about 4 inches, and easy to sharpen and make a razor smoothedged as required by law.</p>
<p>2. Because of its extreme sharpness, it is extremely difficult to examine, since the entire length of the long knife requires examination. The</p>	<p>2. The examination is relatively easy and uncomplicated. It does not hurt the nail.</p>



KOL HASCHITA

MEAT	CHICKEN
<p>supervising rabbis are afraid to press their fingernail on the knife because of its sharpness.</p>	
<p>3. Thus, the shochet's fingernails are quickly spoiled. The knife is examined after each shechitah. Hundreds of animals are slaughtered daily.</p>	<p>3. The knife is not examined after every shechitah. The examination does not hurt the nail.</p>
<p>4. The necks of the animals are dirty especially in winter, with sand and dirt (and dirt remains even after rinsing the neck with water) and it nicks the knife immediately. The shochet must spend the time allotted to him to rest between the slaughterings (lest he be tired) to sharpen knives.</p>	<p>4. The fowl's neck is clean and does not ruin the knife's kashrus.</p>
<p>5. The shechitah incision is made as high as possible, so that not too much meat will go with</p>	<p>5. Not applicable.</p>

KOL HASCHITA

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KOL HASCHITA

MEAT	CHICKEN
the head. This causes hargramos (slaughtering above the proper location).	
6. During th shechitah the shochet only holds the knife, not the animal itself, as such it is sometimes difficult to feel an interruption in the shechitah (known as 'shehiah'), or too much pressure (known as 'derassah'), pressing.	6. The head is grasped with his hand and feels if it moves; he can discern whether shechitah or dera-sah occurred.
7. If the shechitah is invalid or if the animal is found to be trefah after the shechitah , extreme caution must be taken to avoid mixing the parts, e.g. the head of the non-kosher animal with the heads of the kosher animals (with the body of the kosher animals, etc.) since every part is placed in a different place.	7. The small bird is cast into the box designated for trefos; it is completely separated from other fowl.
8. There are no separate knives for cutting the parts where chelev is	8. Not applicable.

KOL HASCHITA

MEAT	CHICKEN
<p>attached and the other parts that require cutting (Chulin - A shochet must have three knives).</p>	
<p>9. Shechita slaughter is required m'dorayso according to all views. Scriptural ordinance.</p>	<p>9. Some rule that slaughter of fowl is not required by the Torah, but is a Rabbinical enactment (See Kenesses Hagedolah 29, Bdeh, Primegadim).</p>
<p>10. The examination of the food and wind pipes after the slaughter to discern whether it was properly cut is accomplished by feeling (with the hand) and looking (with eyes) to ascertain that, at least, the larger part of the two pipes was cut through.</p> <p>In animal slaughter, this is done immediately after the shechitah, when blood is spurting strongly from the incision...it is not visible to the eye (or, at</p>	<p>10. The shochet presses his thumb and clearly sees the shechitah incision of both organs, ascertaining beyond doubt that they have been properly slaughtered.</p>

KOL HASCHITA

MEAT	CHICKEN
<p>least, very difficult to see). Feeling with the hand, also, takes place when the blood is spurting strong on the shochet's hand, causing him to examine the pipes hurriedly. (See Simlah Chadashah 25; Turei Zahav quoting Maharil; see also Torahs Zevach, Zevach Shmuel, Responsa Keshav Sofer 14.)</p>	
<p>11. The body is large and heavy (from 800 lbs. to 1000 and more) and in many instances depending on the shechita procedure. The animals neck can weigh down upon the knife during the shechitah, thereby causing sheiah or derassah (See Simlah Chadashah 6; Zivchei Ratzon; Responsa Radam, Yoreh Deah 2; Darchei Teshuvah 2 Minchas Zevah indicates that this procedure raises many legal questions.</p>	<p>11. Not applicable.</p>

KOL HASCHITA

MEAT	CHICKEN
<p>12. In many places the animals are shackled, hanging with their feet up and head down. Many halachic authorities prohibit this (See Pekudas Elazar also Responsa Igros Mo-she).</p>	<p>12. Not applicable.</p>
<p>13. From the moment of slaughtering until the animal reaches the place where the lung is inspected, it is thrown from place to place by gentiles. Many halachic authorities raise serious apprehensions that adhesions may be ripped during this process (See Responsa Maharsham, Shevet Halevi).</p>	<p>13. Not applicable.</p>
<p>14. The body of the animal is divided and cut into many pieces. If during the lung inspections the animal is pronounced trefah. It is</p>	<p>14. Not applicable.</p>

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MEAT	CHICKEN
<p>often difficult to search and trace for the other animal parts and oft, errors are made by substituting a second animal's parts for the trefah one which remains in its place, as kosher.</p>	
<p>15. Many problems are encountered in the internal and external lung inspection. For example: 1) The inspection is hastily performed...those knowledgeable of the profession are fully aware of the pressure exerted by the assembly-line. Gentile workers, shouting, "Hurry up!!! Hurry up!!!" when their work is by the inspectors, 2) The reporting of the findings of adhesions orally, without taking immediate personal action to remove the suspect carcass from further kosher processing..causing thereby, the possibility of confusion.</p>	<p>15. The lungs do not require inspection. If inspection is desired, it can be accomplished in a relatively short period.(one minute)</p>



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16. It is extremely tempting to try to avoid declaring many animals **trefah** (when necessary) due to the implicit financial repercussions. It is impossible to slaughter a large quantity of animals at once...a maximum seventy to one hundred twenty an hour. Moreover, many halachic questions arise from the general shechitah process without need to increase this number by questioning additional procedures. Nails in the second stomach. **As such the owner complains loudly and vehemently when too many animals are rendered trefah.**

17. According to **Daas Torah**, quoting manuscript of **Beis Yosef** in the name of two thousand great rabbis. Two **shochtim** must be

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16. **Not applicable. Live chicken cost approximately twenty-five cents a pound, if not less.**

17. **This procedure is the "preferred" one; it is not essential.**



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MEAT	CHICKEN
<p>present at the slaughter of every animal; two must examine the knife; two must inspect the lungs. This is usually not done. (This is required according to Chasam Sofer, Maharam Schick, Divrei Chaim, haflaah, etc.).</p>	
<p>18. According to Rabbi Shlomo Kluger o.b.m. (in his innovations). The owner of the animal may not be present in the slaughter-house during the shechitah and the bedikah (inspection of the lung). ²</p>	<p>18. Not applicable.</p>
<p>19. The supervision is not too good, because most rabbis do not understand what they see. To be a good mashgiach (kashrus audit supervisor) one must learn the practice of lung-inspection, just as if he wished to be a bodek (inspector) himself.</p>	<p>19. Not applicable.</p>



KOL HASCHITA

MEAT	CHICKEN
<p>20. Rabbinic supervision over) shechitah is of little value, since the rabbi cannot understand what is happening unless he studied the laws of shechitah and practiced it under the same system used today. (See Shemirah Tova.)</p>	<p>20. Not applicable.</p>
<p>21. The third and fourth stomachs require inspection since, quite often, nails are found sticking into them.</p>	<p>21. Not applicable.</p>
<p>22. Removal of chelev (fat), which is sadly neglected especially in the U.S.A.</p>	<p>22. Not applicable.</p>
<p>23. There are designated rabbis who visit the slaughter-house from time to time to verify the propriety of the process (according to their understanding). However, butcher shops that have hashgacha from a specific rabbi do not</p>	<p>23. Not applicable. The slaughterhouse is usually near the section inhabited by the Jewish population... visits by those who give hashgacha on</p>

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MEAT

provide assurance that that particular rabbi witnessed the **shechitah** or the **bedikah**, because **most of them never even trod over the threshold of the slaughter-house, not even once, because it is usually far away. Moreover, they understand very little of what transpires there. Those who rely on the store mashgichim as supervising the shechitah are making a huge mistake, since their hashgachah only covers the meat salting and rinsing process performed in the store.**

24. We find at present the majority of animals are not kosher. The assumption prevalent in earlier years, that most animals were kosher does not apply today (Bnei Yissoschor, month of

CHICKEN

the sore, are more frequent.

24. Not applicable.

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MEAT	CHICKEN
<p>Adar, p. 99b. Responsa Hisorerus Teshuvah 1:107)</p>	
<p>25. The procedure of affixing a seal on the animal is not too helpful. In the slaughter-house a kosher seal is affixed to a large "cut" pounds of beef (approximately two hundred pounds.)</p> <p>When this cut arrives at the butcher shop, it is divided into smaller pieces suitable for retail sale. At this stage, the seals are no longer existent. When the customers purchase this meat; he must rely on the honesty and integrity of the butcher whose independence is tainted by his pecuniary interest in his merchandise.</p>	<p>25. An entire chicken to which a seal is affixed after the slaughtering can be purchased.</p>
<p>26. It is very difficult to find an animal that is kosher according to all authorities (Poele Yoetz, trefah.)</p>	<p>26. With fowl, it is possible.</p>
<p>27. It is called bosor Ta'veh ("meat of lust,") and those who eat it on weekdays become materialistic (Writings of Ari).</p>	<p>27. Not applicable.</p>

Regarding Meat By-Products

One who eats meat, probably eats the derivative products (e.g. sausages, salami, pastrami, etc). It is axiomatic that any product consisting of a compendium and combination of ingredients and where the individual component ingredients are not inspected in their pure state, requires more stringent kashrus review, since the mixture may contain ingredients which are deemed kosher only in instances of emergency and extenuating circumstances. Were the eater aware of this, the inclusion of those particular ingredients, he would positively abstain therefrom and many times even become disgusted by it.

These by-products include animal fats; the probability of chelev inclusion is much more possible (bordering on near certainty) since it is not visible in the end product. Moreover, it includes all sorts of inferior meat cuts and fats...ingredients to color it red...to make it appear fresh. See response Minchas Yitzchak stating that sausages are colored with small black African flies, which are dried and pulverized. The powder is added to the sausages while it is being cooked. Reliable and note worthy physicians have criticized the inclusion of this ingredient that is very harmful to the stomach and blood system.1, hence detrimental to well-being. Who needs it?

Saved from inadvertent sin

One who abstains from eating meat of animals all the days of the week will be saved from sinning even inadvertently. (Shulchan Aruch HaAri).

It is extremely difficult to find meat that is kosher according to all views. I, therefore, derive much pleasure from the pious who 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 Shulchan Hatahor, Rabbi Aaron Roth o.b.m. (author of Shomer Emunim, T ohoras Hakodesh, etc

14

Which Halachic Authority to Follow .

Regarding substances we should be careful to be stringent even according to the view of a single authority, even though all other authorities may rule leniently (Siddur HaAri, by Rabbi Shabbatai, cited by Yehuas Chochmah, Shalah's will, 64).

15

Medical Admonitions

Physicians testify that nowadays animal bovine meats are not healthy since the animals do not feed nor grow naturally. Animals receive various inoculations to fatten them quickly after birth; to hasten the growing process, etc. This is liable to have side effects resulting in sickness and ailments to the person ingesting those foods (including cancer G-d forbid) thereby doctors being unable to detect from whence its origin. May the L-rd guard his people from any harm. Now you know why...Israeli and the Arab countries buy no meat from U.S.A. They travel further to South America for their uninoculated meat purchases.

The Beis Hamikdosh In these days, when our hearts and our minds are too clogged by any anguish over the exile of the Shechinah or to experience deep pain for the destruction of the Beis ha Mikdosh, what can be done about the Talmudic maxim: "Anyone who does not mourn for its destruction does not merit to see its reconstruction". Even when we fast on the prescribed fast days, it is done out of habit, and to fast throughout the year is beyond our strength. If our Sages admonished that whoever does not see the Temple rebuilt in his time , is considered as though it were destroyed in his time, it appears that it is absolutely obligatory not to take off one's mind the Shechina's exile and its anguish over its children who are exiled from their Father's table. The Shechina wails about this three times in the night. This is implied in the Holy Zohar and the writings of the Holy Arizal, who dwell at length on the matter...for every Jew to rise at midnight and join in the anguish of the destruction of the Temple.

I believe that a possible rectification, in accordance to the current level of this generation: as explained in Shhar ha Kedusha, that everything is measured according to the level of the generation, a proper thing will be to at least abstain from Bovine meats to show one's pain [as we do in the 3 week period between the 17th Tammuz and the 9th of Av] and with this intention he will surely receive the proper reward from Hashem having brought before the Almighty a pleasant smelling sacrifice [Sodei ha Devarim, Parashat Teruma, on the verse "And they shall make me a Sanctuary"]