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בס"ד

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The Beracha and Kashrus of Popcorn

A fruit or vegetable which is ground to the point where it is non-recognizable does not retain its previous *beracha*, and one recites a *shehakol* on it.¹ An example of this is corn which is made in flour and a product is made from this corn.²

Popcorn is made in the following way: there is a kernel inside the corn which is surrounded by starch. The starch contains water, and when it is heated the water turns into steam and the pressure forces the starch to explode. The explosion is what makes the odd shaped popcorn.

The *beracha* on popcorn is *hadama* since it is corn that is heated and the heating does not change its *beracha* status.³

Bishul Akum

Corn is not a food which is fit to be served on a king's table. Therefore, if a *goy* makes popcorn there is no concern of *bishul akum*.

Kashrus Concerns

Many popcorn machines have oil placed in them to give it a better taste and make them pop. Although one may be using *kosher* oil, a certification has to be given on the finished popcorn itself since if a *goy* is using the machine and he runs out of *kosher* oil he will use any oil which he sees.

¹ Shulchan Aruch 202:7, Mishnah Berurah 42-43, 208:38.

² Refer to Vezos Ha'beracha page 101.

³ Vezos Ha'beracha pages 102-103. Refer to Be'er Moshe 2:12, Oz Nedberu 10:8:3, Ohr L'tzyion 2:14:11, Yabea Omer O.C. 7:29:15, Pnei Ha'shulchan pages 86-87.