



How many mitzvos can one do with spoiled meat?

Before we move on to the next topic, we will discuss a few hashkafic concepts regarding the challenge of technology, which the *gedolim* of our times refer to as “the *nisayon* of our generation.”

We will start by sharing the following fictional story related by *Rebbi Elimelech Beiderman shlit'a*:

R' Yankel who was known to one and all as a terrible miser. It once happened that R' Yankel finished eating his supper, and one piece of meat remained. He didn't want to waste anything, so he decided to save it for later.

A few days went by and the piece of meat remained untouched. It soon began to spoil and emit a nasty odor. When R' Yankel's wife told him that it was time to

throw out the offensive piece of meat, he replied, ‘You want to throw out such a big, expensive piece of meat? No. I can still use it to do a mitzvah.’

“What mitzvah could you possibly do with a spoiled piece of meat?” she asked, confused.

R’ Yankel answered, “Warm up the meat, set it nicely on a plate, and I’ll take care of the rest.”

R’ Yankel left the house and his wife obediently did as he requested. She warmed up the rotten meat and plated it nicely.

A short while later, R’ Yankel returned home with a guest in tow, one of the poor local peddlers. He was dressed in his usual dirty clothes and torn shoes and his hunger was etched on his face. R’ Yankel sat him down by the table and presented him with the spoiled meat.

The indigent man had not tasted meat in many months. He was so excited to be served this meal that he didn’t pay much attention to the malodorous smell. His hunger pangs overtook him, and he ravenously wolfed down the entire portion, showering R’ Yankel with thanks and blessings for being so kindhearted and taking care of him so well.

As soon as the peddler left the house, R’ Yankel told his wife, “Didn’t I tell you we could still use the piece of meat for a mitzvah? We just fulfilled the mitzvah of *hachnasas orchim* with it!”

A day later, the spoiled meat began to do its work. The poor man became very sick. R' Yankel heard about the man's plight and immediately ran over to do the mitzvah of *bikur cholim*.

The impoverished man had no money to call a doctor to his bedside, and he tragically passed away a few days later. Of course, R' Yankel attended the funeral and accompanied the *niftar* to his final resting place. He also paid a *shivah* call to the unfortunate family to comfort them upon their loss.

When he returned home, he happily told his wife, "Look at how many mitzvos I got from that one piece of spoiled meat! *Hachnasas orchim, bikur cholim, halvayas hameis, and nichum aveilim...!*"

The leaders of our generation tell us that when the internet is used without the proper safeguards in place, despite its potential to facilitate good deeds, it remains just like the spoiled meat. When meat is spoiled, it must be disposed of immediately.