

What *bracha* is recited on peanut butter (a spoonful of peanut butter eaten plain)?

There are

two opinions regarding the *bracha* on peanut butter. Here, we will discuss the opinion that holds that the *bracha* on peanut butter is *Shehakol*.

Shulchan

Aruch (OC 208:8) writes that one recites *Ha'adama* on cooked beans. The Rama adds that if the beans completely disintegrate, one recites *Shehakol*. Therefore, it should follow that the *bracha* on peanut butter would be *Shehakol*, since the peanuts completely lose their identity. However, the Magen Avrohom 208:13 explains that the *bracha* on disintegrated beans is downgraded to *Shehakol* because this is not the normal way this food is eaten—cooked beans are normally eaten when they are

still identifiable as beans. If so, since most peanuts today are processed into peanut butter, should we recite *Ha'adama* on peanut butter? Rav Shlomo Zalman Auerbach, *zt"l* said that even today one should recite *Shehakol* on peanut butter, because whole peanuts taste better than ground peanuts, and peanuts are not ground to improve their taste. Therefore, once the peanuts lose their form, the *bracha* is downgraded to *Shehakol* (see Rabbi Bodner's Halachos of Brachos, p. 410).

Store-bought

chunky peanut butter is also *Shehakol*, since it is made of smooth peanut butter, with peanut chunks added afterwards.