The Chicago Center
Digest
Mishna Berura
THE DAILY RESOURCE FOR MISHNA BERURA YOMI
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סימן קע"ז סעיף ד'-ז'

Halacha Highlight

Moving to another apartment during a meal

Rema Siman 178 Seif 1

אם היה דעתו לאכל במקום אחר

If he intent to eat in another location

There are three primary topics related to changing one's place during a meal that are clarified in this siman. The first topic is what constitutes a change of location that will trigger the consequence of having changed one's place. Shulchan Aruch maintains that when one moves from one house or room (מ"ב סק"ג) to another in the middle of a meal he has effectively changed locations and is required to recite a beracha acharona on the food that was eaten and a new beracha rishona on the food that he will eat. Rema rules that if he had in mind when he originally recited the beracha rishona that he will eat in another location he has not halachically changed his location as long as both locations are in the same house. Mishnah Berurah (ס"ק י"ב) writes that as long as the two locations are contained under the same roof it is not considered as though one changed his place even if he moves from one floor to another and the two locations are not visible to one another.

Later Poskim debate whether Rema's ruling applies when one leaves one person's domain and enters another person's domain within the same building, for example in an apartment building. Teshuvas B'Tzeil HaChochmah (ח"ו סי' ע') asserts that the matter is dependent upon whether the two locations are contained under a single roof since the Poskim do not mention ownership. Rav Shlomo Zalman Auerbach (שמירת שבת כהלכתה פנ"ד סקכ"ז) maintains that leaving one apartment to enter another apartment is comparable to going from one house to another and according to Shulchan Aruch even intent to move from one house to another is ineffective. Being that the matter is subject to dispute one must make an effort to refrain from switching locations in the middle of a meal of foods that require a בורא נפשות or מעין שלש (פסקי תשובות אות ג').

Stories to Share

Fast Foods

ש"ע, ס' קע"ח, א': "הואיל ושינה מקומו צריך לברך..."

Our generation has changed an amazing amount from earlier generations. In earlier times the only people who ate on the go were bandits or people in an unusual rush for one reason or another. Nowadays mealtime is not nearly as formal as it once was.

Not surprisingly, when someone first learns the halachos on today's amud he gets a big surprise. "One who leaves one domain needs to recite a new blessing?" he wonders. "What if I have something in my mouth and as I am running I leave the first domain? Do I have to remove it from my mouth and make a new blessing?"

When someone asked a similar question to Rav Chaim Kanievsky, zt"l, he ruled decisively. "Even a child who has a candy in his mouth and rushes out of the domain where he made the blessing must take it out of his mouth and make another."

דולה ומשקה, ע' ק"ט

On a different occasion, Rav Chaim confided that such a case had actually happened to him. "When I was a child the Chazon Ish once noticed that I rushed out of the house with a candy in my mouth. When I came back in—with the candy still ensconced in my mouth—the Chazon Ish called me over to him. He explained the halachah of changing domain. 'You need to take the candy out of your mouth and make a new berachah every time you leave a domain,' the Chazon Ish explained."

מעשה איש, ח"ה, ע' י"ד

Overview

Siman 178 Seif 1:

If one was eating in a house and he interrupted his meal and went to another house or if he was eating and a friend called to speak with him outside and he exited the house and returned, since he changed his place he must recite a beracha acharona on what he ate already and recite hamotzi before he finishes eating. If he spoke with his friend in the house even though he moved from one corner to another corner he is not required to recite another beracha. (See below siman 273. If one's intent was to eat in another location it is not considered a change of location as long as both places are within the same house. See below siman 184.)

- Introduction: As soon as one walks outside he has changed his place and his intent to do so when he recited the beracha does not change the halacha. According to some authorities even if he goes into another room it is considered a change of place. However, when going to a different room, intent when one recited the beracha will be effective and one is not required to recite another beracha. Going from one corner to another does not constitute changing one's place.
- Rambam follows R' Sheishes that the halachos of changing one's place apply for any food whereas Rosh follows R' Chisda that it is limited to foods that do not require a beracha acharona in the place the food was eaten.
- Rambam asserts that when one changes his place he must recite a beracha acharona and a beracha rishona. Other Poskim maintain that he is only required to recite a new beracha rishona. The halacha will follow Rema's rulings.
- Shulchan Aruch refers to one who is eating by himself because if he was eating with others and someone remained in the original location, new berachos are not required. (M.B. 1)
- This applies even if he did not spend an extended period of time out of the house. (M.B. 2)
- Changing rooms is also considered to be a change of location unless he had in mind to change rooms. (M.B. 3)
- Leaving the place of the meal constitutes an interruption. (M.B. 6)
- When one will leave his place he must first recite birkas hamazon. B'dieved if he left without first reciting birkas hamazon he must recite birkas hamazon upon his return and then recite hamotzi. (M.B. 7)
- When he first recited the beracha he had in mind to eat in the other location. (M.B. 11)
- One house means under the same roof, even from one room to another or from one floor to another even though one cannot see the second location. If one can see the original location a new beracha is not required even though he did not have in mind to change locations when he began eating. Later authorities are uncertain whether this applies when one moves to another building even if it is nearby and one can see from one building into the next. (M.B. 12)