The Chicago Center
Digest
Mishna Berura
THE DAILY RESOURCE FOR MISHNA BERURA YOMI
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סימן רי"ז סעיף א'

Overview

Siman 217 Seif 1:

If one enters the store of a spice seller who has many varieties of spices he should recite: בורא מיני בשמים. If he sat there the entire day he only recites the beracha once. If he enters and exits and enters and exits he recites the beracha each time he enters. This is true if he did not have intent to return but if he had intent to return he does not repeat the beracha.

- Although the storeowner intends to sell the spices rather than smell them, since it is to his advantage for people to smell them so that they should want to purchase them, a beracha is recited. Therefore, if the spices are in a backroom one does not recite a beracha when smelling them even if his intent is to enjoy the smell unless he takes them in his hands to smell. (M.B. 1)
- Many authorities hold that one is required to recite a beracha even though he does not have intent to smell the spices since they are designated for smell and he enjoys that smell. (M.B. 2)
- Since he is not taking any of the spices by hand and is merely enjoying the aroma that they simultaneously produce, he recites the beracha that incorporates all of the varieties of spices. (M.B. 3)
- It doesn't matter whether he became distracted or not. There is a disagreement whether the store owner recites a beracha when he enters the store so it is best if he has intent to enjoy the smell and then is obligated to recite the beracha according to all opinions. (M.B. 4)
- This is true only if his intent was to return immediately. (M.B. 6)
- If one smelled a bundle of spices and then placed them down and his intent was to smell them again he does not repeat the beracha even if he leaves as long as his intent is to return immediately. If he went to work or to daven in the bais haknesses he must repeat the beracha. (M.B. 6)
- Even if he smells different spices upon his return he does not repeat the beracha. (M.B. 7)

Halacha Highlight

Entering a flower shop or nursery

Shulchan Aruch Siman 217 Seif 1
הנכנס לחנותו של בשם
If one enters the store of a spice peddler

Shulchan Aruch rules that one who enters a store that sells spices is obligated to recite: בורא מיני בשמים. Although the owner has in mind to sell the spices rather than to smell them, nevertheless, since he benefits from the fact that others smell them being that it entices them to want to purchase some, it is necessary to recite the appropriate beracha. Similarly, one who enters a store that sells flowers or a nursery should recite the appropriate beracha on the smell since the smell entices customers to purchase flowers. This is true even if one does not have the specific intent to enjoy the smell of the flowers (ע' מ"ב סק"ב). However, it is preferred for one to specifically have in mind that he intends to benefit from the smell of the flowers before reciting the beracha. Even better would be if he were to take some of the flowers in his hands before reciting the appropriate beracha. This applies when one's intent is to remain in the store or nursery for a period of time or to purchase flowers. If one entered the store to have a short conversation with the store owner a beracha is not recited (פסקי תשובות אות א').

The requirement to recite a beracha when one enters a nursery is limited to where they also sell flowers to the public. However, if the nursery grows flowers to sell to merchants who sell them to the public one does not recite a beracha when entering the nursery. Such a circumstance would be comparable to the circumstance discussed in the Mishnah Berurah of the spices stored in a backroom (סק"א) upon which one does not recite a beracha. Even if one enters such a nursery with the intent to smell the flowers and purchase some, one does not recite the beracha since that is not their purpose at this point (פסקי תשובות אות א' והע' 1).