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

Overview

Siman 242 Seif 1 (b):

The statement that one should treat Shabbos like a weekday rather than rely on others for support applies to one who is facing financial difficulties and should limit his expenses during the week so that he has money to spend on Shabbos. Ezra enacted that people should launder their garments on Thursday to honor Shabbos. The custom is to knead a quantity of dough so that one is obligated to separate challah so that one has loaves to "break" for Shabbos and Yom Tov. This is a way to honor Shabbos and one should not deviate from this practice. Some write that in some places the custom is to eat מוליתא which is called פשטיד"א on Shabbos night to commemorate the man which was covered above and below but I haven't seen people concerned for this.

- Shulchan Aruch refers to one who does not have something to use as collateral to obtain a loan because if he did he is obligated to borrow money so that he does not neglect the mitzvah of oneg Shabbos as Chazal teach that Hashem promises to repay money borrowed to honor Shabbos. (M.B. 3)
- When it comes to the money one spends on Shabbos and Yom Tov the more a person spends the more Hashem will provide for them. It is permitted to borrow with interest for the Shabbos meal or another seudas mitzvah from a gentile or from a Jew using one of the leniencies that permit such a loan. (M.B. 4)
- One should not launder his garments on erev Shabbos so that he will be available to attend to other Shabbos needs. Accordingly, one should be careful not to wear the same garment for several Shabbosos so as not to violate Ezra's enactment. (M.B. 5)
- Later authorities write that even one who is lenient with regards to pas palter should be stringent on Shabbos and Yom Tov as a means of honoring Shabbos and Yom Tov. If one has no alternative, obviously it is acceptable to use pas palter. (M.B. 6)
- The meat is covered on both sides with dough. (M.B. 7)
- In our places the custom is to eat this food. (M.B. 8)

Halacha Highlight

Laundering one's clothing on Thursday

Shulchan Aruch Siman 242 Seif 1 (b)
שיהיו מכבסים בגדים בחמישי בשבת
That they would launder their garments on Thursday

Shulchan Aruch relates that one of the enactments of Ezra was that people should launder their garments on Thursday in order to honor Shabbos. Mishnah Berurah (סק"ה) explains that one dimension of the enactment is that people should have clean clothes for Shabbos. The reason the clothing should be laundered on Thursday rather than Friday is so that people will have time on Friday to attend to other Shabbos needs. Shemiras Shabbos K'Hilchasa wonders whether this enactment remains in force nowadays that we have washing machines and there is no concern that one will not be able to attend to the other Shabbos needs. Although the enactment was instituted by Ezra, a comparable Beis Din is not necessary to cancel the enactment. The reason is that since he gave the rationale behind the enactment, once that rationale does not apply the enactment is no longer in force.

Teshuvas Or L'Tzion (ח"ב פט"ז תשובה א') rules that if one also has a dryer, it is permitted to do laundry on Friday, but if one dries clothing on a clothes line it is prohibited. Rav Nissim Karelitz, on the other hand, prohibits doing laundry on Friday. He explains that it is not because of the principle that once an enactment was adopted it applies in all circumstances – לא פלוג; rather the enactment was that they should do their laundry on Thursday and that obligation remains in force even if one owns a washing machine and a dryer. Poskim debate whether it is permitted to do laundry on Thursday night. Rav Nissim Karelitz (שם) maintains that it is prohibited since the enactment was to do laundry on יום חמישי and Thursday night is not יום חמישי. Teshuvas Or L'Tzion (שם) disagrees and maintains that it is permitted. Rav Chaim Pinchas Sheinberg (חידושי בתרא) rules that during the winter, since Shabbos preparations begin Thursday night, one may not do laundry but during the summer it is permitted to do laundry on Thursday night.