The Chicago Center
Digest
Mishna Berura
THE DAILY RESOURCE FOR MISHNA BERURA YOMI
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סימן רנ"ב סעיף ו'-ז'

Overview

Siman 252 Seif 6:

One may not go outside on erev Shabbos close to nightfall with a needle in his hand or a quill out of concern that he will forget and transfer it. It is permitted to go out with tefillin close to dark since one will not forget them.

- The same is true with regards to any other object that one has in his hands. (M.B. 51)
- The same is true if one has any other object in his pocket. It is permitted to go out into a public domain close to nightfall with a needle in his garment in a manner that does not constitute a Biblical prohibition so that if he were to transport it on Shabbos he would not be Biblically liable. Even though he may violate a Rabbinic prohibition Chazal did not institute a decree upon a decree. Accordingly, since nowadays streets qualify as a karmalis rather than a public domain it is permitted for one to go out with something in his hand close to dark. However, according to many Poskim and Shulchan Aruch is amongst them even nowadays streets are categorized as a public domain and as such one should be stringent. Vilna Gaon maintains that when it is close to sunset it is prohibited to go out even into a karmelis. (M.B. 52)
- It is assumed that no one will forget them on one's head since there is a mitzvah to touch them and it is prohibited to lose one's concentration from them. If one is holding them in his hand it is prohibited to go out with them when it is close to dark. (M.B. 54)

Siman 252 Seif 7:

It is a mitzvah to check one's pockets erev Shabbos close to dark so that he should not leave something in them that may not be transported on Shabbos.

- He should check the pockets of any garment that he uses out of concern that he will transport something to a public domain or that he will move a muktzah item. (M.B. 55)
- It seems that the same is true on Shabbos for someone who intends to walk outside of an eruv. (M.B. 56)

Halacha Highlight

Checking one's pockets

Shulchan Aruch Siman 252 Seif 7

מצוה למשמש אדם בכליו

It is a mitzvah for one to check his garments

Shulchan Aruch (סעי' ו') writes that there is a mitzvah for one to check his pockets on erev Shabbos as it is getting dark so that he should not inadvertently go outside with that item in his pocket. Alternatively, there is a concern that there is a muktzah item in his pocket that he will move on Shabbos (מ"ב סי"ק נ"ה). Mishnah Berurah (סי"ק נ"ו) adds that one who will go outside on Shabbos beyond the boundaries of the eruv and commonly places items in his pockets should examine his pockets before he goes outside. Some authorities (מעשה רב אות קמ"א ושו"ע הרב סי' ש"ג סעי' כ"ג) maintain that it is even prohibited for one to place an object in his pocket on Shabbos out of concern that he may inadvertently carry it outside but it is permitted for one to hold objects in his hands.

Sefer Tehilah L'Dovid (סי"ק ט"ז), on the other hand, writes that Chazal only required a person to check his pockets to determine whether there is something in his pocket. In the event that a person realizes that he has something in his pocket, Chazal did not mandate that he remove the item from his pocket since we are not concerned that in a small amount of time he would forget and inadvertently walk outside. Therefore, he rules that it is permitted for one to place objects in his pocket on Shabbos. Rav Shlomo Zalman Auerbach (שש"כ פי"ח הע' קע"ו) rules that in places where there is a Biblical public domain one should be stringent in accordance with the stringent opinion and one should not place items into his pocket on Shabbos. There is a disagreement amongst the Poskim whether there is an obligation to check one's pockets for dirt. Rav Shlomo Zalman Auerbach (שם הע' ק"פ) ruled that there is no reason to check one's pockets for dirt since the dirt is subordinate to the garment and thus it is not considered carrying.