The Chicago Center
Digest
Mishna Berura
THE DAILY RESOURCE FOR MISHNA BERURA YOMI
Shabbos, Feb 25 2023 ■ ד' אדר, תשפ"ג
סימן רנ"ד סעיף ט' סימן רנ"ה סעיף ג'

Overview

Siman 254 Seif 9:

Similarly, one may not full a container of water and place it in a tanur on erev Shabbos as it is getting dark and if one did so the water is prohibited until after Shabbos after k'dei she'ya'asu.

- Although water can be consumed without being cooked, nevertheless, it tastes better heated as opposed to fruit and thus the concern that one may stoke the coals applies. (M.B. 49)
- In our ovens where the coals are removed or covered or if the opening is sealed closed with clay it is permitted. (M.B. 50)
- There must be enough time for the water to become warm even if it is not fully heated. (M.B. 51)

Siman 255 Seif 1:

One may not start a wood fire close to dark unless the fire takes hold of the wood so that the fire can burn independently without the assistance of other wood. If it is a single log the fire must grab hold of the majority of its thickness and circumference. If the fire did not catch to this degree it is prohibited to benefit from the fire on Shabbos out of concern that one will stoke it and move the wood so that the flame will burn better. When the fire took hold before Shabbos one may warm himself by the fire and use the light, whether it is on the ground or whether it is on a lamp and even if it is fueled with a material that may not be used for a wick.

- Kindling the winter oven is subject to the same halachos unless it is sealed with clay. However, it seems to me that one should refrain from kindling a fire close to the onset of Shabbos; rather the wood burning should be completed before Shabbos since it is common for pieces to remain burning which will have to be extinguished and one will have no choice but to ask a gentile to extinguish the fire and one should not put himself into such a circumstance. (M.B. 1)
- In other words, one should have to call for additional pieces of kindling to place under the logs so that they should ignite. (M.B. 3)
- The fire should penetrate the logs to a majority of its depth and a majority of its circumference. (M.B. 4)
- Taz warns against sitting too close to the fire but Elya Rabba is not concerned about one sitting too close to the fire unless one is engaged in an activity that requires one to look closely at something or if one is reading near the fire since there is a concern that he wil adjust the flame. (M.B. 7)

Halacha Highlight

Heating water before Shabbos

Shulchan Aruch Siman 254 Seif 9
לא ימלא אדם חבית של מים וכו'
A person may not fill a container of water etc.

Shulchan Aruch (סי' רנ"ד סע' ט') writes that one may not place a container of water in a tanur on erev Shabbos as Shabbos is about to begin and if one did so in violation of this halacha the water is prohibited until after Shabbos b'k'dei she'ya'aseh. Mishnah Berurah (ס"ק נ"א) clarifies that this restriction is limited to when there is not enough time for the water to become heated before bein hashemashos. If there is sufficient time for the water to become heated it is permitted. Mishnah Berurah also emphasizes that the water need not become fully heated; rather as long as it becomes heated it is sufficient but he does not specify how warm the water should become before Shabbos. Sha'ar HaTziyun (ס"ק מ"ח) writes that one should look in Biur Halacha siman 253:1 for a more specific measurement. Over there it indicates that the food should reach ma'achal ben d'rosai which is half of the foods cooking time. Shulchan Aruch HaRav (סע' ט"ו) writes explicitly that the water should be half heated before Shabbos begins.

The difficulty with this is that it seems to indicate that water should reach 50°c before Shabbos but it is difficult to assert that water that is 50°c is considered half cooked since people would not consider that to be a warm drink. People generally expect water to reach at least 70°c or 80°c before it is considered warm enough to drink. Due to this difficulty in ascertaining what is the minimum temperature water should reach before Shabbos, it is preferable for one to make sure that water boils before the onset of Shabbos. This is especially true since according to many Poskim one should be stringent and assure that all foods are fully cooked before the onset of Shabbos (פסקי תשובות אות ו').

Siman 255 Seif 2:

There are authorities that maintain that concerning coal even if the fire took hold on only part of it, it is permitted since because they burn progressively.

Siman 255 Seif 3:

A fire fueled with pitch, sulfur, straw and stubble, even if the fire took hold on only part of it, it is permitted. The same is true regarding a fire fueled with reeds or date pits that are scattered but if the reeds are bundled or the pits are in a basket the fire must take hold to the point that it burns independently. Some authorities maintain that the opposite is true.

- The same is true concerning fat, wax or anything else that melts. (M.B. 9)