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Digest
Mishna Berura
THE DAILY RESOURCE FOR MISHNA BERURA YOMI
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סימן רס"א סעיף ב'

Halacha Highlight

Adding to Shabbos

Shulchan Aruch Siman 261 Seif 2 (a)

שצריך להוסיף מחל על הקדש

That one must add from the week to Shabbos

Shulchan Aruch introduces the concept of adding from the mundane week to Shabbos. Interestingly, the source for this obligation is not from an exposition related to Shabbos, it is from an exposition that relates to Yom Kippur. Once the Torah teaches that there is an obligation to extend the restrictions of Yom Kippur to the mundane week before and after, it is then extended to include any time there is an obligation to refrain from melacha, e.g. Shabbos, since the Torah uses the phrase תשבתו שבתכם—You should rest on your Shabbos. Although without this mitzvah it would be necessary for one to refrain from melachah some time before Shabbos since we cannot be precise regarding time, this mitzvah instructs us to add to Shabbos time which is certainly not Shabbos. This obligation is limited to refraining from melacha but the obligations to honor Shabbos and derive pleasure from Shabbos do not apply during this period of time (פסקי תשובות העי' 35). Although one is Biblically required to add time from the week to Shabbos, one who refrains from doing so has only violated a positive command and the violator is not punished at all. The obligation to add to Shabbos applies not only at the outset of Shabbos but it applies at the end of Shabbos as well .(מ"ב ס"ק י"ט)

Since the mitzvah is to refrain from melacha, it must be done verbally (מ"ב ס"ק כ"א) since otherwise it would not be evident that the person is refraining from melacha to fulfill the mitzvah of adding to Shabbos. Mishnah Berurah (ס"ק ל"א) writes that for those of us who read לכה דודי the declaration of בואי כלה at the end constitutes our verbal acceptance of Shabbos. However, in the event that לכה דודי is recited after shekiah it is necessary for one to verbally accept upon himself Shabbos at least two minutes before shekiah (פסקי תשובות אות ד').

Overview

Siman 261 Seif 2 (a):

Some maintain that one must add from the weekday to Shabbos and the time when this must be done is from the beginning of shekiah when the sun is no longer visible on the ground until bein hashemashos and the duration of this time is three and a quarter mil.

- The obligation to add to Shabbos applies at the beginning and end of Shabbos. During this time one is not punished for performing melacha but there is a positive command to refrain from melacha. This time must be before bein hashemashos since during bein hashemashos it may already be night so it would not be necessary for a pasuk to instruct one to refrain from melacha during that time. (M.B. 19)
- Shulchan Aruch is following Rabbeinu Tam who maintains that there are two shekios. After sunset (first shekiah) the day continues for the time it takes to walk three and a quarter mil. After that time the second shekiah begins and this is when light begins to fully disappear and it is called סוף השקיעה. Below I will note that according to many Poskim immediately after the sun sets it is bein hashemashos. (M.B. 20)