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

Overview

Siman 261 Seif 2 (b):

If one wants to add this entire time to Shabbos, he may do so and if he wants to add only some of that time to Shabbos, he may do so as long as he adds some time from the week to Shabbos. The duration of bein hashemashos is the amount of time it takes to walk three-quarters of a mil which is the distance of 1500 amos, before dark. If one wants to accept Shabbos any time after plag hamincha he may do so. (See below siman 267)

- This is done by verbalizing that one wishes to add to Shabbos or by answering borchu. There is a debate whether a mental acceptance of Shabbos is effective. The custom is that when a woman kindles the Shabbos lights she accepts upon herself Shabbos. (M.B. 21)
- One must add more than just a moment. The amount of time that one should add including bein hashmeashos is almost half an hour. (M.B. 22)
- According to many authorities bein hashemashos begins when the sun sets and continues from that point for three-quarters of a mil and after that three medium size stars appear which is Biblically night, for all matters. One should not wait to kindle lights until the last moment; rather one should kindle the lights when the sun is visible on the top of trees. One who refrains from melacha 30 or 20 minutes before shekiah is praiseworthy and fulfills the opinions of all of the Rishonim. Regarding motzai Shabbos Biur Halacha explains that the three-quarters mil is adjusted according to the season and place and the Gemara's timing is based on Bavel in the spring and fall when the days and nights are of equal length. In the places that we live which are further north it takes longer to become night. (M.B. 23)
- According to the Torah night begins for all matters once three stars are visible. (M.B. 24)
- It then becomes prohibited for one to perform melacha. If one accepted Shabbos earlier than plag hamincha his acceptance is ineffective. Plag hamincha is an hour and a quarter before night. There is a disagreement whether the hour and a quarter is in advance of shekiah or in advance of nightfall. Therefore, if one accepted Shabbos after plag hamincha in advance of shekiah one should be stringent and refrain from melacha. (M.B. 25)

Halacha Highlight

The amount of time necessary to add to Shabbos

Shulchan Aruch Siman 261 Seif 2 (b)

ושעור זמן בין השמשות הוא שלשת רבעי מיל

The time of the duration of bein hashemashos is ¾ of a mil

Shulchan Aruch rules that fulfillment of adding to Shabbos involves refraining from melacha during the time before shekiah. Following Rabbeinu Tam's opinion, Shulchan Aruch explains that when the sun sets it is still halachically day and remains so for the amount of time it takes to walk 3.25 mil which is 58.5 minutes after sunset. After 58.5 minutes, begins the second shekiah which is bein hashemashos, the time in which there is doubt whether it is halachically day or night and this period extends for 13.5 minutes. Therefore, according to his opinion, one must add time to Shabbos by refraining from work during the 58.5 minutes after sunset until the second shekiah. Mishnah Berurah (ס"ק כ"ג) notes that many authorities disagree with Rabbeinu Tam and Shulchan Aruch and maintain that the period of bein hashemashos begins immediately after the sun sets below the horizon. Therefore according to that position the time when one must add to Shabbos is before sunset.

Mishnah Berurah (שם) writes that one should not wait until the last minute to add to Shabbos and one who is stringent will refrain from work half an hour or at least twenty minutes before shekiah. Sha'ar HaTziyun (ס"ק כ"א) explains that one who refrains from work 20 minutes before shekiah fulfills even the position of R' Eliezer from Metz that bein hashemashos begins ¾ of a mil before shekiah and even if one were to adopt the stringent position that a mil is 24 minutes, ¾ of that would be 18 minutes and if one refrains from work 20 minutes before shekiah he has added to Shabbos even according to these strict opinions. This makes it evident that it is sufficient to add even 2 minutes of the week to Shabbos to fulfill this obligation אג"מ או"ח ח"א סי' צ"ו (וספר שבות יצחק תוספת שבת עמ' רט"ו ואילך). However, other Poskim contend that one should add ten minutes to Shabbos before shekiah and in a pressing circumstance it is sufficient to add five minutes.