The Chicago Center
Mishna Berura Digest
THE DAILY RESOURCE FOR MISHNA BERURA YOMI
Mon, May 1 2023 ■ י' אייר, תשפ"ג
סימן רס"ד סעיף ז'-סימן רס"ה סעיף ב'

Overview

Siman 264 Seif 7:

If one wrapped pitch, wax or cheilev around a wick it may be kindled.

- The restriction is when the disqualified oils are poured in a vessel and the wick is placed in it but in this configuration that fuel will be drawn after the wick. (M.B. 24)

Siman 264 Seif 8:

The one kindling must kindle the majority of the wick that emerges from the lamp.

Siman 264 Seif 9:

There is no need to singe the wick. Nevertheless, the custom is to kindle the wick and then extinguish it so that it should be scorched and the fire will then grab hold of it nicely.

- This is done even with candles like the ones that we use. This should be done by the man of the household. (M.B. 28)

Siman 264 Seif 10:

One may not use rags even if they have been scorched.

- This refers to thick worn-out linen since the fire does not catch onto them well. One may not use an old earthenware lamp unless one re-baked it in a fire. A poor person may use such a lamp rather than forgo Shabbos lights, which is an obligation. (M.B. 29)

Siman 265 Seif 1:

One may not place a perforated vessel filled with oil on the opening of a lamp so that the oil will drip into it out of concern that one will remove some oil and violate the prohibition of extinguishing. If one attached the vessel with lime or clay it is permitted since it is one vessel and people will refrain from touching it due to the Shabbos prohibition.

- Since the oil is in a different vessel people will not refrain from touching it but since it was designated as fuel one who removes some violated the prohibition of extinguishing. (M.B. 1)

Siman 265 Seif 2:

A person may not fill a plate of oil and place it next to the lamp with some of the wick inside so that the lamp draws its oil out of concern that one will remove some of the oil from the plate.

- One may have thought that since the wick is resting in the plate people will refrain from removing the oil. (M.B. 3)
- In this case as well if it were attached with lime or clay it is acceptable. (M.B. 4)

Halacha Highlight

Lighting disposable lights

Mishnah Berurah Siman 264 Seif Koton 29

אין מדליקין על השלחן בנר חרס ישן

One may not kindle on the table an old earthenware lamp

Mishnah Berurah (סי' רס"ד ס"ק כ"ט) remarks that one should not kindle on the Shabbos table an old earthenware lamp. The reason is that once it was used it becomes repulsive and it is inappropriate for one to have a repulsive item on the Shabbos table. It is permitted to use a lamp that is glass or earthenware that is glazed since it does not become repulsive from use. If one has a regular earthenware lamp it can be re-baked in a kiln and then re-used. In the event that one is poor and all he owns is an earthenware lamp, he may use it on his Shabbos table for his Shabbos lights. It is better to kindle lights and fulfill the mitzvah than to forgo the obligatory mitzvah of kindling Shabbos lights (שם מ"ב).

Tur (ריש סי' רס"ג) cites Chazal who emphasize that a person should make an effort to have a nice lamp (נר יפה). Poskim explain that Chazal refer to both the light as well as the lamp. In other words, one should make an effort to use wicks and fuel that will produce a clear bright flame. Additionally, one should make an effort to obtain a beautiful lamp to hold the Shabbos lights. This is similar to Chanukah lights about which the Poskim write that one who has the means should obtain a menorah of silver. Shulchan Aruch HaRav (סי' רס"ג קונטרס"א סק"א) limits this obligation to the lamp that is kindled in the place where one eats but one does not have to make an effort to obtain beautiful lamps for the lights that are placed in other locations in the house. Accordingly, there are Poskim who write that it is improper for a woman to use disposable lights for her Shabbos lights. However, it seems logical that this restriction is limited to a woman who is kindling lights in her home but when a woman is a guest at someone else's home there is no issue to kindle disposable lights (פסקי תשובות אות ח' והע' 38).