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

Overview

Siman 302 Seif 4:

A מכבש (a utensil used to press garments after laundering which is comprised of two boards between which a garment is placed) **that belongs to an ordinary person may be loosened to remove from it a garment needed for Shabbos. If it belongs to a professional it is prohibited since the pieces are tightly attached and releasing them resembles dismantling the machine.**

- One may also not press garments needed for the week. (M.B. 20)
- There is a disagreement whether it is permitted if one loosened the boards before Shabbos. (M.B. 21)

Siman 302 Seif 5:

A garment that was laundered is stiff and it is common to rub it with one's hands to soften it and this may be done on Shabbos since one's intent is to soften it. One may not rub a scarf since it makes it shine and resembles cleansing (מלבן). Hats and other linen garments share the same halacha as a scarf.

- It is prohibited to use a roller as one normally does. (M.B. 22)
- The hat is also made from linen and the reason linen is treated more stringently is that it becomes stiff after laundering and softening it whitens it. (M.B. 25)

Siman 302 Seif 6:

One may wipe the mud on his foot (or shoe) **on a wall but not on the ground out of concern that he will level the ground. There is an authority that prohibits even the use of a wall.** Another opinion permits both. It is also permitted to remove it with some (earthenware that one is permitted to move).

- In seif 8 we are stringent out of concern that one will peel off some leather as opposed to this case. Accordingly, Taz writes that on Shabbos one should not scrape his shoes with the piece of iron placed in front of the bais haknesses to wipe his shoes. Magen Avrohom is stringent even when the iron is thick without a sharp edge. If one wipes his shoe gently it is permitted and certainly when the mud is wet there is no reason to be stringent. (M.B. 26)
- When the wall is made from stone it appears as though one is adding to the wall but if it is made from wood it is permitted. (M.B. 27)
- One must be cautious not to wipe his foot over a hole so that he should not level out the ground. There is a disagreement whether one should be lenient or stringent in both cases and regarding a wall one may certainly follow Shulchan Aruch's lenient opinion. (M.B. 28)

Halacha Highlight

Wiping dirt from one's shoes

Shulchan Aruch Siman 302 Seif 6

טיט שעל רגלו (או על מנעלו)

If one has dirt on his foot (or on his shoe)

Shulchan Aruch and Rema (סע' ו') address the issue of wiping dirt off of one's feet or shoes. According to the first opinion it is permitted for one to rub his shoe on a wall to remove the mud but one may not rub his shoe on the ground to remove it. The reason one may not rub his shoe on the ground is out of concern that in the process he will level the ground which is a prohibited activity on Shabbos. He then cites an opinion that prohibits wiping one's shoe on a wall as well. Mishnah Berurah (ס"ק כ"ז) explains that when wiping one's shoe on the wall it appears as if one is adding to the structure of the wall. According to this opinion one may only wipe his shoe on a beam or a large stone that will not move as one wipes his shoe (שעה"צ ס"ק ל"ה). Rema cites an opinion that is lenient in both cases. This opinion is not concerned with the appearance of adding to the wall since the wall is inferior anyways and is also not concerned that while wiping one's shoe he will level out the ground. Rav Shlomo Zalman Auerbach (שולחן שלמה ס"ק י"ב) contends that nowadays all opinions would agree that there is no issue with giving the appearance of adding to the wall since people consider it an act of soiling the wall.

Mishnah Berurah (ס"ק כ"ח) cites a dispute regarding the halacha in this case. Taz rules that one may follow the lenient opinion since the issue relates only to a Rabbinic prohibition and thus one may rely upon the lenient opinion. He then references other authorities who maintain that one should adopt a stringent approach and should refrain from wiping dirt from his feet on a wall as well as on the ground. He then concludes that one may be lenient concerning the use of a wall since most authorities subscribe to the lenient opinion about this matter.