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

Overview

Siman 303 Seif 10:

A woman may not go out wearing a ring with a signet and if she does she is liable. If it does not have a signet she may not go out but if she does she is exempt.

- Since it is not common for women to go out with a signet ring it is not an adornment. (M.B. 26)

Siman 303 Seif 11:

A woman may not go out wearing a כוליאר which is a piece of jewelry used to fasten her shirt. It is also prohibited to go out with a כובלת which is a bundle of aromatic spices.

- A כוליאר is normally worn to hold a shirt closed but this woman is not using it for that purpose so that it is a burden rather than an adornment and that is why she is liable. When it is worn to fasten her shirt it is permitted even l'chatchila for her to go out wearing it since she would not remove it and thereby leave herself exposed. (M.B. 29)

Siman 303 Seif 12:

If a woman is missing a tooth and replaces it, if it is made from gold she may not go out wearing it because due to the fact that it looks different, others will embarrass her and she will remove it and carry it. If it is made from silver which looks like her other teeth it is permitted and certainly it is permitted if it is actually another tooth.

Siman 303 Seif 13:

A woman may not go out with a shoe that is torn on top since people will laugh at her and she will carry it. It is also prohibited to go out wearing a new shoe out of concern that it will not be her size unless she tried wearing it before Shabbos to confirm that it is her size. A man may go out in these circumstances since they are not so particular. There is no concern regarding other garments, even for a woman.

- A man may do both. (M.B. 34)

Siman 303 Seif 14:

A woman may go out with threads of hair, whether they are from her own hair or someone else's hair and even an animal's hair as long as an elderly woman does not go out with a young woman's hair and a young woman does not go out with an elderly woman's hair.

- This is not similar to the case of a wig discussed in seif 18 which a woman may not wear outside since in that case it is an adornment whereas here it is merely threads. (M.B. 36)

Halacha Highlight

An adornment meant to be carried by hand

Shulchan Aruch Siman 303 Seif 11

ולא בכובלת

And not with a כובלת

Shulchan Aruch (סע' י"א) rules that a woman may not go out wearing a כובלת. He explains that a כובלת is a bundle of sweet smelling spices. Mishnah Berurah (סק"ל) explains that a woman who has a foul odor wears this bundle of spices to mask her odor. The reason this does not violate the Biblical prohibition is that it qualifies as an adornment. However, Chazal prohibited a woman from wearing them out of concern that she will remove it and inadvertently carry it. Biur Halacha (ד"ה שקשור בה) clarifies that Shulchan Aruch's ruling is limited to where the bundle still retains some actual spices, but in the event that the spices are no longer bound together and one has just the knot that held them together but still retains some of the smell of the spices she is Biblically liable for transporting it and we do not say that the knot retains the status of an adornment due to the smell that it absorbed.

Mishnah Berurah (ס"ק ל"א) also writes that a woman may not go out with a jar of oil fastened to her arm. Poskim discuss whether it is permitted for one to go out with something that is an adornment but is carried by hand. For example, is it permitted for a woman to carry a purse that is merely decorative? Elsewhere (סי' ש"א ס"ק ס"ו) Mishnah Berurah wrote that there is no rationale to allow men who carry a decorative cane to carry it on Shabbos. Even though the sole function of the cane is decorative and for that reason should be categorized as an adornment, nevertheless, Chazal never permitted transporting an adornment by hand. Sha'ar HaTziyun (ס"ק ע"א) notes that although Elya Rabba maintains that one could be lenient in such a case, nevertheless, it is difficult to rely upon his position since many authorities maintain that it is prohibited.