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Digest
Mishna Berura
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סימן ש"ו סעיף א'

Halacha Highlight

Preparing for after Shabbos

Shulchan Aruch Siman 306 Seif 1
חפציך אסורים אפילו בדבר שאינו עושה שום מלאכה
Attending to one's affairs is prohibited even if one does not engage in any melacha

Shulchan Aruch (ש"ו סע' א') writes that the pasuk ממצוא חפצך teaches that one may not attend to his affairs on Shabbos even if it does not involve the performance of a melacha. For example, it is prohibited for one to inspect his property to determine what work he needs to do after Shabbos. Rema (ע' מהדורת דרשו דהחליפו מקום דברי הרמ"א לסוף הסע' "כדמוכח בביאור הלכה ד"ה "להביא" שכתב 'וכדלקמיה' ומזה נגרר שנתחלף ד"ה של ס"ק ו' "דאסור לטיילי" ב"דאסור לטלטל" ופשוט דקאי על דברי הרמ"א וכן משמע בבה"ט ס"ק ג'.) adds that one may not even walk about to find a horse, boat or wagon for travel after Shabbos. Mishnah Berurah (סק"ו) explains that this is prohibited only when it is evident from one's behavior that he is attending to the activity that he intends to do after Shabbos. However, if it appears as though he is just taking a walk it is permitted even though his intent is to find a horse or the like. In the event that one intends to take a walk but has a choice of two paths and chooses the path that will allow him to find a horse, Rav Moshe Feinstein ruled that permissibility depends on whether his intent to find a horse for use after Shabbos is evident or not.

Rav Shlomo Zalman Auerbach (שמירת שבת כהלכתה פכ"ט הע' כ"ב) writes that it is permitted for one to look at merchandise in a window as long as one does not look at the prices. Since one does not intend to purchase anything and it is enjoyable to "window shop" it is permitted. He also ruled that when it is raining outside it is permitted to stand under a bus stop even though one intends to take the bus after Shabbos. The reason is that standing under the bus stop when it is raining is an activity that people do even when they do not intend to ride the bus so his intent to take the bus after Shabbos is not obvious (שם הע' כ"ד).

Overview

Siman 306 Seif 1:

ממצוא חפצך—"By not pursuing your affairs" teaches that one may not attend to weekday affairs even if they do not involve any melacha. For example, inspecting one's property to see what work he must do the next day or walking to the entrance of the country so that he could quickly go out to the bathhouse at night, are prohibited. Similarly, one may not walk to the edge of the techum before nightfall to hire workers. It is also prohibited to walk around to find a horse, boat or wagon for travel. **One may walk to the edge of the techum to bring in his animal. Some maintain that if the animal cannot walk by foot, for example, a small lamb, one is not permitted to walk to the edge of the techum for it since one may not bring it home on Shabbos being that one may not move animals since they are muktzah.**

- It is problematic only when it is evident that one is inspecting his property but if it is not, it is permitted since it is no worse than contemplating work related matters. (M.B. 1)
- One may not go out to the edge of the techum before dark to prepare for a prohibited activity even if only Rabbinically prohibited. (M.B. 2)
- It is prohibited to go to the edge of the techum only if it is for an activity that cannot be done in a permitted manner. (M.B. 3)
- All opinions agree about this and it is introduced with the words ויש אומרים because the ruling is not found in earlier sources. (M.B. 4)
- This activity is prohibited only if it is evident that he intends to do melacha after Shabbos. (M.B. 6)