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

Overview

Siman 309 Seif 1:

It is permitted for a man to carry his son even though his son is holding a rock and it is not considered as though he is carrying the stone. This is true when the child has yearnings (meaning he will be upset if he is not with his father) **for him and will become ill if his father does not take him but if he does not have such yearnings it is prohibited. Even when the child has yearnings it is only permitted if the child is holding a stone but if he is holding a *dinar* it is prohibited to even hold the child's hand while the child is walking on his own out of concern that the child will drop the coin and his father will transport it. Some maintain that the injunction is to carry a child who is holding a coin but it is permitted to hold a child's hand even though the child is holding a coin.**

- Shulchan Aruch refers to where one is in a courtyard so that the only issue is *muktzah*. (M.B. 1)
- Throwing the stone from his hands is not an option since that will cause him to cry. If the child drops the stone it is prohibited to pick it up and hand it to him. Rather one should lower the child from his shoulders so that the child could lift the rock by himself. (M.B. 2)
- What the child holds in his hands is considered as though his father is transporting that item and therefore prohibited. (M.B. 3)
- It is not permitted to move *muktzah* even if there is a risk the child will become ill since there is no concern for his life. (M.B. 4)

Siman 309 Seif 2:

If one plugged a hole in a basket with a stone it is permitted to move it since it became part of the wall. Similarly, a gourd that has a stone tied to it to add weight so that it could be used to draw water may be used as long as the stone is tied tightly to the gourd so that it is treated the same as the gourd since it is subordinate to it but otherwise it is prohibited.

- Shulchan Aruch refers to where it was fastened or tied tightly to the basket. (M.B. 6)
- In such a case the gourd is *muktzah* since it became the base for a prohibited item. (M.B. 8)

Halacha Highlight

Carrying a child who is holding a stone

Shulchan Aruch Siman 309 Seif 1

נוטל אדם את בנו והאבן בידו

A man may lift his child even though he is holding a stone

Shulchan Aruch (סעי' א') rules that it is permitted to lift one's child who is holding a rock if the child yearns to be with his parent (meaning he will be distressed if he is not with his parent) and will become ill if he is not held. However, if the child does not have these yearnings a parent should not lift a child who is holding something that is *muktzah*. Even when the child has yearnings to be lifted by his parent, this allowance is limited to a child holding a stone but if the child is holding a coin it is prohibited. The reason for the distinction is that when holding a stone if it falls there is no concern that the parent will lift it up and transport it but if a coin falls there is a genuine concern that if the coin falls the parent will retrieve it and come to transport it four *amos* in the public domain.

The reason a parent should not lift his child who is holding a rock when he is not experiencing yearning is that it is considered as though one is handing the *muktzah* (מ"ב סק"ג). Rav Shlomo Zalman Auerbach (שלחן שלמה סק"א) questions this ruling when, seemingly, it should be considered as though one is handling the *muktzah* indirectly (מן הצד) since one is not making physical contact with the *muktzah*. He explains that since this is a common occurrence, moving *muktzah* in such a manner is not considered unusual (שינוי) and all indirect movement of *muktzah* is in some way unusual. Chazon Ish (או"ח סי' מ"ז סק"ב) maintains that it is considered to be indirect movement of the *muktzah* but since one wants the child to hold the stone since it amuses him, it considered as though he is carrying it for a prohibited purpose (כטלטול לצורך דבר האסור).