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סימן שט"ו סעיף י"ג

Halacha Highlight

Returning a drawer into its place

Shulchan Aruch Siman 315 Seif 13

בגד ששוטחין על פי החבית לכסות

A cloth that is spread over a barrel to cover it

Shulchan Aruch rules that it is prohibited to spread a cloth over the mouth of a barrel if some of the contents were poured out so that there is a gap between the cloth and the contents since the cloth would form an *ohel*. If one wishes to cover the opening of the barrel he must leave some of it exposed so that he does not form an *ohel*. Mishnah Berurah (ס"ק מ"ח) writes that if a table drawer slipped completely out of the table and it has a depth of a *tefach* it may not be returned to its place since doing so involves forming an *ohel*. Sha'ar HaTziyun (ס"ק נ"ו) notes that Kitzur Shulchan Aruch seems to reject this position since the *ohel* in this case would be formed from top to bottom and Chazal did not prohibit making an *ohel* when it is formed top to bottom. Sha'ar HaTziyun then suggests that perhaps Chaye Adam maintains that forming an *ohel* from top to bottom does not violate the prohibition when the normal way to form the *ohel* is bottom to top but when the normal manner of forming the *ohel* is from top to bottom it would be prohibited.

Other authorities also disagree with Chaye Adam and contend that since the drawer is designed to come out and returned to its place it does not appear as though one is forming an *ohel* (פסקי תשובות אות ט'). Chazon Ish (או"ח סי' נ"ב ס"ק י"ד) challenges this ruling from the fact that when one returns the drawer all he does is form walls and it is permitted to from walls as long as they do not permit something, even if those walls are placed beneath a roof. Rav Shlomo Zalman Auerbach (שמירת שבת כהלכתה פכ"ד הע' פ"ה ובח"ג שם) writes that a drawer from a cabinet may be reinserted according to all opinions. Since the cabinet is already considered an *ohel* when one inserts the drawer he merely diminishes the size of the *ohel* which is not prohibited.

Overview

Siman 315 Seif 13:

If one will spread a garment over the mouth of a barrel to cover it he should be certain not to spread it out over the entire barrel since that would form an *ohel*, rather he should leave some of it exposed. This is true when there is a gap of a *tefach* between the contents and the cover but if there is not a gap of a *tefach* it is permitted since it would not constitute an *ohel*.

- Although it is permitted to return a pot onto a stove without concern for forming an *ohel* since the walls are already in place, in our case since the walls are very wide an *ohel* would be formed. Magen Avrohom writes that placing a cover over a wide box is prohibited if the cover is not attached with a hinge but if it is not wide it is permitted since the walls were already formed. It is prohibited to transport it and then place the cover on top since placing it down is comparable to forming the walls. For that reason when tables are placed on barrels one must first turn over the barrel so that the mouth is on the ground and the table will be placed on the bottom that is closed. (M.B. 48)
- It is not full because if it were it would not form an *ohel* but when some of the contents were removed it is prohibited since the cover will form an *ohel*. Some maintain that a cover never forms an *ohel*. One should follow Shulchan Aruch's position since that represents the majority opinion, therefore, if one has a large barrel of wine he should not cover it entirely if the barrel is not full but one need not protest those who are lenient since there are authorities to rely upon. (M.B. 49)