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

Overview

Siman 336 Seif 4:

One must be cautious not to throw seeds where rain falls since this will cause them to sprout. If one throws them for chickens one should not throw more than they will eat in a day or two. If they are thrown in a place where people walk it is permitted since they will not grow in that location.

- Meaning the place is moist due to rainfall that regularly falls. (M.B. 31)
- If it will remain three days or more and the seeds will sprout he will, retroactively, be liable for sowing. (M.B. 33)

Siman 336 Seif 5:

Moss which grew on the handle of a vessel from its moisture is considered attached to the ground and one who detaches it is liable.

- A bucket regularly used to draw water will have mushrooms growing on it. (M.B. 34)
- Detaching something from its place of growth is considered a subcategory of harvesting. (M.B. 35)

Siman 336 Seif 6:

Herbs placed in the ground before Shabbos so that they would remain moist may be grasped and removed, provided that they did not take root and one does not wish for them to take root. If one intended for them to be planted it is prohibited.

- Although dirt is moved it is permitted since it is indirect movement of *muktzah*. (M.B. 37)
- It may also be reinserted provided that the hole did not become covered. (M.B. 38)

Siman 324 Seif 7:

It is prohibited to detach something growing even from a non-perforated pot.

- It is also prohibited to water such plants. (M.B. 41)
- One is liable for detaching something growing from a perforated pot, even if the hole is small provided that a small root (i.e., smaller than an olive's volume) could protrude and this is true even if the perforation is in the side of the pot. (M.B. 42)

Siman 324 Seif 8:

One should not move even a non-perforated pot from the ground and place it on pegs or vice versa, regardless of whether the pot is made of wood or earthenware. If a branch broke away from a tree before Shabbos and it contains a fruit, it is permitted to detach the fruit on Shabbos.

- Rabbinically, it is considered detaching since it receives minimal nourishment from the ground. (M.B. 43)
- Meaning, even though it was raised only slightly it is prohibited and it is certainly prohibited to place it on wood or a garment. (M.B. 44)
- Placing it on the ground is considered sowing. (M.B. 45)

Halacha Highlight

Moving potted plants

Shulchan Aruch Siman 336 Seif 8

עציץ אפילו אינו נקוב

A potted plant even if it is not perforated

Shulchan Aruch (סע' ח') rules that it is prohibited to lift a potted plant, even if the pot is non-perforated, from the ground on Shabbos and place it on pegs. Similarly, it is prohibited to move even a non-perforated pot from pegs onto the ground on Shabbos. Furthermore, this restriction applies whether the pot is made from earthenware or whether it is made from wood. Mishnah Berurah (ס"ק מ"ג) explains that these activities are certainly prohibited if the pot is perforated since the plant draws nourishment from the ground via the perforations but even when the pot is non-perforated it is prohibited since the plant draws some nourishment from the ground and lifting it off the ground severs that nourishment or placing it on the ground introduces that nourishment and thus is prohibited. Additionally, the reason why Shulchan Aruch emphasizes that it is prohibited when one places the pot on pegs is to teach that it is prohibited even though the gap between the bottom of the pot and the ground is minimal, nevertheless, it is prohibited.

Poskim debate whether it is permitted to move potted plants that are resting on a tiled floor where even the space between the tiles is closed. Some authorities contend that in such a circumstance it is permitted since the plant does not derive any nourishment from the ground. Furthermore, even if the floor is made from wood it is permitted since a wooden potted plant that is placed on another piece of wood does not derive nourishment from the ground. Others adopt a stringent position and prohibit moving the pot even in such a case. Moreover, even if one lives on one of the upper stories of an apartment building it is prohibited to move the pot since the plant derives nourishment from the ground. However, if the pot is made from metal or glass and is not perforated it is permitted since the plant does not derive any nourishment in such a case (פסקי תשובות אות ו').