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Digest
Mishna Berura
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סימן של"ז סעיף א'

Halacha Highlight

Pushing a carriage

Shulchan Aruch Siman 337 Seif 1
גורר אדם מטה
A person may pull a bed

Shulchan Aruch rules that a *melacha* that is performed without intent to perform that *melacha* (*melacha she'aino miskaven*) is permitted. However this principle applies only when the unintended *melacha* is not an inevitable result (*pesik reisha*) of his permitted action but if the *melacha* is an inevitable result of his action it is prohibited. Consequently, it is permitted to drag different pieces of furniture, whether large or small, provided that one does not intend to make a furrow while dragging the furniture. Mishnah Berurah (סק"ד) cites Magen Avrohom who writes that if the piece of furniture is very large so that it is inevitable that if it is dragged on the ground it will make a furrow it is prohibited to drag it on the ground. Furthermore, it is prohibited to drag such a large piece of furniture even on paved ground so that one should not drag it on unpaved ground.

Sefer Ketzos HaShulchan (סי' קמ"ו בדה"ש ס"ק נ"ב) ruled that it is permitted to push a baby carriage on the ground even if it leaves tracks. The basis of his ruling is the Gemara in Beitza (23b) that rules that one may pull a wagon, even if very large, since it does not dig a furrow; it pushes down the dirt that is beneath the wheels. Rav Shlomo Zalman Auerbach (שמירת שבת כהלכתה פכ"ח הע' צ"ט) further explains that not only is it permitted to push a carriage straight but it is even permitted to make turns since even when making turns the carriage presses the dirt down rather than make an actual furrow by digging up the dirt. He also added that even if the wheels do make a furrow in such a circumstance, it is not clear that it is prohibited if the ground is soft since the dirt will immediately fall into the furrow. Additional factors that point to leniency are the fact that the digging of the furrow is done in an unusual manner, is destructive and is not inevitable and when one combines all of these factors, it produces a leniency that permits pushing a carriage.

Overview

Siman 337 Seif 1:

It is permitted to perform a *melacha* if he does not intend to perform that *melacha* provided that it is not inevitable. Therefore, one may drag a bed, chair or bench, whether large or small, provided that he does not intend to make a furrow. It is permitted to spray water on the floor of the house since he does not intend to smooth the ground, rather his intent is to hold down the dust.

- Plowing both softens the dirt as well as fills in the holes so that the ground is level. Therefore, one who performs an act that accomplishes the same goal has violated the prohibition against plowing [and if it is done in one's home he has violated the prohibition against construction since the house is thereby improved. (Intoduction)
- Even though it is common for a furrow to be made when dragging furniture and that would constitute a subcategory of plowing, nevertheless, it is permitted since it is not inevitable that a furrow will be formed. (M.B. 3)
- Magen Avrohom writes that very large furniture should not be dragged since it is inevitable that it will make a furrow. It is prohibited to drag, even if the floor is tiled since we prohibit dragging on tiled floors to avoid confusion with non-tiled floors. (M.B. 4)
- This involves spraying water on the ground of the house so that the dust should settle. (M.B. 5)