



Overview

Halacha Highlight

Siman 430 Seif 1:

The Shabbos before Pesach is called *Shabbos HaGadol* because of the miracle that occurred. It is customary to read the *hagadah*, from עבדים היינו until על כל עונותינו, after Mincha. We also stop saying ברכי נפשי on that Shabbos

❖ When *Shabbos HaGadol* occurs on *Erev Pesach* the *hagadah* is read that day but the *drosha* is the week before. (M.B. 2)

Siman 431 Seif 1:

At the beginning of the night of the 14th of Nissan we search for *chometz* by candlelight in the cracks and crevices in all the places that one may have entered with *chometz*.

❖ One should search for *chometz* immediately after nightfall so that one should not become lazy or forget to do the search. (M.B. 1)

❖ One must also nullify his *chometz* at night. (M.B. 2)

❖ We use candlelight to be able to properly search in cracks and crevices and since a candle is necessary Chazal enacted the search at night since the light of the candle shines brighter at night. Additionally, night was chosen since people are home at night. (M.B. 3)

❖ The obligation to search is not only in those rooms in which one commonly brings *chometz* but every place that one occasionally brings in *chometz* must be searched. (M.B. 4)

Searching for *chometz* by the light of a candle

Shulchan Aruch Siman 431 Seif 1

בודקין את החמץ לאור הנר

We search for *chometz* by the light of a candle

Shulchan Aruch writes that on the night of the fourteenth of Nissan we search for *chometz* by the light of a candle in the cracks and crevices of all the places where one may have brought *chometz*. Mishnah Berurah (סק"ג) explains that Chazal instructed that the search should be by the light of a candle specifically because the light of a candle allows one to search for *chometz* even in cracks and crevices in the walls and floors. Since the light of a candle provides an effective light for searching for *chometz* there are those who turn off the lights in the room before before searching for *chometz* to maximize the effectiveness of the candlelight. Most people, however, are not particular about this and search for *chometz* with a candle even though the lights are on in the room (עי' פסקי תשובות אות ב').

Poskim (עי' פסקי תשובות אות ב') write that if one cannot obtain a candle for *bedikas chometz*, he may use a flashlight and may even recite the beracha. The rationale is that there is no halachic rationale to avoid using a flashlight for *bedikas chometz*. The only reason that we are particular to use a candle is that we avoid changing customs that were practiced by our ancestors. However, in a circumstance in which one cannot use a candle it is perfectly acceptable to use a flashlight. Furthermore, there are Poskim who write that in those places that one fears using an open flame that could possibly ignite something, e.g. under a couch or bed, one may use a flashlight even *l'chatchila*. The reasoning is that one who uses a candle to search for *chometz* when there is a fear that he may ignite the furniture will not do a thorough job searching for *chometz* in that location.

Stories to Share

Checking for Chometz

ש"ע תל"א, א': "בכל המקומות שדרך להכניס שם חמץ..."

Today's amud begins the halachos of *bedikas chometz*. Although many are very strict regarding these halachos, it is important to stress that along with being stringent one must not feel pressured or overwrought. On the contrary, *chumros* should be an outgrowth of *ahavas Hashem*, an extra effort to draw near to Him, the opposite of stress.

Once, during *bedikas chometz* in the house of the Chazon Ish, a bochur found a bottle of whiskey. Obviously, the young man was gratified at having found it but wondered whether it should be sold or thrown out.

As always during *bedikas chometz*, the Chazon Ish was in a very exalted state of mind. When the bochur showed him this find and asked what was to be done, he was surprised by his reply. "Tell all the bochurim to stop checking the house for *chometz* and come here, since there is a *l'chaim* to be drunk."

That is exactly what happened. The bochurim came over

and the Chazon Ish poured each a drink. When they were all supplied with one, the Chazon Ish drank *l'chaim* with each of them."

On another occasion, a bochur climbed on top of a closet in the Chazon Ish's house and stood there scrubbing for a few minutes. When the Chazon Ish noticed how long he was at his labors, he asked him what he was doing.

The young man replied, "I found a cookie here and have been trying to remove any trace that may be left..."

The Chazon Ish's good-natured reply was accompanied by a bright smile. "Get down fast," he said. "If not, you yourself will turn into *chometz* which must be sold to a goy!"

מעשה איש, ח"ג, ע' קל"ג