The Chicago Center
Digest
Mishna Berura
THE DAILY RESOURCE FOR MISHNA BERURA YOMI
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סימן תל"ג סעיף א'-ג'

Overview

Siman 433 Seif 1:

The search must be done by the light of a candle rather than the moon. If one did not search for chometz the night of the 14th when he searches for *chometz* the day of the 14th he may not search by the light of the sun; rather he must use candlelight. An אכסדרה that has an abundance of light may be searched by sunlight and the same halacha is true when searching near a skylight.

- If one searched for *chometz* on the day of the 13th by candlelight he must search for *chometz* again on the night of the 14th but he should not repeat the *beracha*. If, however, he searched by candlelight the night of the 13th and was careful to not bring *chometz* into that room he does not have to search that room again the night of the 14th. (M.B. 1)
- If one searches for *chometz* during the day he should do the search as early as possible. (M.B. 5)

Siman 433 Seif 2:

One may not use a torch, only a lamp and it may not be fueled by fats or oils; rather it should be a candle made of wax. It should be a single candle but two candles that are twisted together are considered a torch.

- If the search was done by the light of a torch it must be repeated with a candle. If he used a lamp fueled by fats or oils there is a disagreement whether he must repeat the search. (M.B. 10)

Siman 433 Seif 3:

One must search all the places into which there is a concern that *chometz* was brought. Therefore, the rooms of the house and the upper floor must be searched since a person will occasionally enter such a room while holding bread. Storerooms of wine and wood from which one does not take his supply need not be searched.

- One is required to search in those places in which there is concern that one brought in *chometz* even though he does not regularly use it for *chometz*. (M.B. 13)
- Any room in which there is a possibility that a person entered in the middle of a meal and left behind bread must be searched. (M.B. 14)

Halacha Highlight

Searching for *chometz* in front of an open window

Shulchan Aruch Siman 433 Seif 1

ואכסדרה שאורה רב אם בדקו לאור החמה דיו

An אכסדרה that has an abundance of light, if one searched for *chometz* by the light of the sun it is sufficient.

Shulchan Aruch writes that generally one is obligated to search for *chometz* by the light of a candle. Even if for some reason one did not search for *chometz* the night of the 14th and he is performing the search on the day of the 14th, he must use a candle to assist his search and may not rely upon the sunlight. An exception to this rule is searching an אכסדרה which the Gemara relates has an abundance of light due to its configuration. Magen Avrohom (סק"ב) explains that an אכסדרה is a structure that is built on four posts and has no walls. Mishnah Berurah (סק"ד) cites the opinion of those who explain that an אכסדרה has three walls and is open on the fourth side. Although it has a roof, it receives plenty of light from the open side of the structure. Once there is room for the light to enter one may search for *chometz* without a candle even if the sun is not shining directly into the room from that open side. Furthermore, even if the day is cloudy a candle is not necessary and one may rely upon the light that enters the אכסדרה (שו"ע הרב סע' ג' ודי').

Shulchan Aruch also mentions that one may search a part of a room that has a skylight over it. Mishnah Berurah (סק"ז) writes that the same halacha applies if there is a window in the wall. In other words, one may search opposite a window by the light of the sun without a candle. He then adds that if the window is not merely an opening in the wall but is covered with glass, a candle is required. Maharsham in his work Da'as Torah (לסע' א') explains that this ruling regarding the window applied in earlier generations where the glass was not clear but nowadays that our glass windows are clear one may search for *chometz* opposite windows. For this reason, there is no issue for a person to search for *chometz* while wearing glasses (ע' נטעי גבריאל פי"ז סע' י').

Stories to Share

Searching, not finding

ש"ע תל"ג ג': "בודק כל המקומות שיש לחוש שמא הכניסו בו חמץ..."

On today's amud we find that one is obligated to check any place into which it is plausible that chometz was brought throughout the year.

The group of bochurim that joined the Chazon Ish for bedikas chometz felt that this was a great privilege. After all, isn't serving Torah scholars even greater than learning Torah? But after a short time, one particular group began to feel quite frustrated. The Chazon Ish was very strict, looking carefully even in the most unlikely places for chometz.

He requested that the bochurim pull out his tallis from his tallis bag and shake both tallis and bag out. He gave similar instructions regarding his tefillin.

When the bochurim saw that the Chazon Ish was going to search carefully for an extended time they asked him why such a comprehensive search was necessary. "After all, weren't the rooms cleaned? Isn't it obviously that we aren't going to find anything anyway?"

The Chazon Ish replied that they were in error. "Chazal said to search, not that you must find."

Afterwards he added, "Since the poskim rule that one must clean out the rooms before doing bedikah, it is obvious that one must search regardless of apparent likelihood of finding anything. The reason for bedikah is that perhaps one will find a gluskah yafah, an appealing morsel of chometz. Clearly it is possible to find something even after cleaning."

מעשה איש, ח"א, ע' ק"נ