The Chicago Center
Digest
Mishna Berura
THE DAILY RESOURCE FOR MISHNA BERURA YOMI
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סימן תנ"ה סעיף א'

Overview

Siman 455 Seif 1 (a):

One may not knead other than with water that rested, regardless of whether it is well water, spring water or river water. The water should be drawn during the day (close to bein hashemashos) **or during bein hashemashos. It should not be used for kneading until a full night passed. It is acceptable to draw water on one day to use for many days. If it is warm outside, it should be stored in a cellar which is cold and if it is cold outside it should be stored outside since the cellar is warm. One must rise early and bring it into the house before the sun shines on it, even if it is cloudy.** If one did not bring the water inside early, as long as it did not remain outside until it became warmed, no harm was done. It is preferred if the water is stored under the roof in case one forgets to bring it inside. When transporting the water under the sky it should be covered.

- This requirement applies to all matzos. (M.B. 1)
- It should be left to rest in a vessel after it is drawn. According to Rashi the concern is that the sun is close to the earth during Nissan and others explain that the concern is that at night the sun travels beneath the earth and warms the water so Chazal prohibited using water until it cooled down in a vessel. (M.B. 2)
- The requirement applies to rivers even though the explanations do not apply. (M.B. 3)
- L'chatchila it is proper to draw the water during bein hashemashos so that the water will properly cool, but since it is difficult to pinpoint the moment of bein hashemashos one should draw water close to that time. B'dieved, if the water was drawn earlier there is no need to be stringent and one may knead with that water even l'chatchila. Similarly, if one drew the water at night but before chatzos it may be used the next day even l'chatchila as long as they wait 12 hours from when it was drawn. (M.B. 4)
- In a pressing circumstance one may knead with the water after amud hashachar even though 12 hours have not passed from when it was drawn. (M.B. 6)
- If one does not have a cellar it should be stored in one's house but only in a room that does not have a fire. (M.B. 7)
- Shulchan Aruch refers to where the water is in a location where the sun will hit it but if the sun will not hit it, there is no concern. However, on a cloudy day one must be cautious wherever the water is stored since the sun spreads everywhere on a cloudy day. (M.B. 9)
- If the water becomes lukewarm it is as if it was heated. Lukewarm is when the water reaches the temperature of saliva. Sha'arei Teshuvah writes that if the water is heated at all it may not be used for kneading. (M.B. 10)
- It is not a problem even if it was in the sun if it did not become heated and may be used for kneading. (M.B. 11)
- Rema refers to when the water is being transported to the place where it will be kneaded and it is covered so that it does not become heated in the sun. Later authorities write that it should also be covered when transported from the river so that nothing chometz falls into it. Out of this concern the custom is to filter the water with a white clean garment. (M.B. 12)
- If the water is transported in a glass utensil it should also be covered on the sides. (M.B. 13)

Halacha Highlight

Using different means to cool water

Shulchan Aruch Siman 455 Seif 1 (a)

ושואבין אותן מבעוד יום

We draw them during the day

Shulchan Aruch teaches that one should only knead matzos with water that was left out overnight. He presents two options concerning the correct time to draw the water. First he mentions that one should draw the water during the day that precedes the day it will be used to knead the dough, and then he mentions that one may even draw the water during bein hashemashos but the water should not be drawn after tzeis hakochavim. The reason it should not be drawn after tzeis hakochavim is that the water should rest for the entire night. Rema wrote that one should draw the water right before shekiah. Mishnah Berurah (סק"ד) explains that the best time to draw water for matzos is exactly at bein hashemashos. This allows the water to have cooled for twelve hours during the day and then for twelve hours overnight once it has been detached from the ground. However, since people are not able to pinpoint the exact moment of bein hashemashos it is better to draw the water earlier rather than later. The reason is that once the water was still attached the ground at night it became heated and may no longer be used (ב"י).

Poskim discuss various methods of cooling water and whether they are effective and permit the use of the water even though it was not resting in a vessel for the entire night. Teshuvas Or L'Tzion (ח"ג פי"א תשובה ג') discussed whether the water can be drawn at night and placed in a refrigerator. He ruled that storing the water in a refrigerator is not an effective means of cooling the water to render it usable for making matzos. He also ruled that adding ice to the water does not render it usable if it did not sit out overnight. Rav Yosef Shalom Elyashiv (הערות פסחים מ"ב.) ruled similarly and explained that we do not know how exactly leaving water overnight accomplishes the task of cooling the water and as such there is no alternative other than to follow the instructions of Chazal.