The Chicago Center
Digest
Mishna Berura
THE DAILY RESOURCE FOR MISHNA BERURA YOMI
Mon, Apr 22 2024 ■ י"ד ניסן, תשפ"ד
סימן תע"ב סעיף א'-ד'

Overview

Siman 472 Seif 1:

The table should be set during the day so that he can eat immediately after dark. Even if one is in the *bais midrash* he should leave since there is a *mitzvah* to hurry and eat so that the children should not sleep but one may not recite *kiddush* until nightfall.

- Meaning, one should begin as quickly as possible. (M.B. 1)
- Whether one is studying or *davening* he must hurry and recite *shema* and *amidah* so that he can go straight home. (M.B. 2)
- In other words, they should start quickly so that the children should not sleep because they realize that the delay until they eat will not be very long. This way they will ask מה נשתנה and the parents will be able to respond. (M.B. 3)

Siman 472 Seif 2:

One should set the table with nice dishes according to his means and one should prepare his place to sit so that he will be able to recline as an expression of freedom. Even a poor person who does not possess pillows should sit on a bench.

- Although during the year we minimize this to commemorate the destruction, on Pesach we use many nice dishes as an expression of freedom. (M.B. 6)
- His head should be leaning to the left with pillows beneath his head. (M.B. 7)
- It should say that he will lean on a bench. If someone sits on the floor he should also lean to the left. (M.B. 8)

Siman 472 Seif 3:

When reclining one should not lean back, forwards or to the right, rather he should lean to the left. (There is no difference between a righty and lefty.)

- Even a lefty should lean to the left but if he leaned to the right he fulfilled his obligation. (M.B. 11)

Siman 472 Seif 4:

A woman does not lean unless she is distinguished. All of our women are considered distinguished but the custom is that they do not recline because they rely on Ra'avyah who writes that nowadays one should not recline.

Halacha Highlight

Body position for leaning

Shulchan Aruch Siman 472 Seif 2
ויכין מקום מושבו שישב בהסבה דרך חרות
He should prepare where he will sit so that it will be an expression of freedom

Shulchan Aruch (סע' ב') writes in addition to preparing one's nice dishes, each person in accordance with his means, he must also prepare a place to sit so that he could recline as an expression of freedom. Rema adds that even a poor person who does not have pillows upon which to lean should at least lean (ע"פ הגהות המ"ב סק"ח) on a bench. Mishnah Berurah (סק"ז) further explains that one should sit with his head leaning to the left on a bed or couch with pillows under his head. Although Mishnah Berurah did not mention anything about leaning one's body, Rav Nissim Karelitz (חוט שני פסח פי"ז סק"ו) explains that obviously in addition to leaning one's body it is necessary for one to lean his head. The novelty is that even f one placed pillows beneath his body so that he could lean it is also necessary to place pillows beneath one's head. Rav Yosef Shalom Elyashiv (קובץ והגית גליון 22 ניסן תשע"א עמ' 35) writes that one should lean a bit but not too much to the point that it is uncomfortable. Teshuvas Or L'Tzion (ח"ג פט"ו תשובה א') maintains that preferably one should lean in a manner that is between sitting and lying down so that one's body is at a 45° angle.

If one is sitting on a chair with an armrest, Rav Elyashiv and Rav Shlomo Zalman Auerbach (קובץ והגית שם) explain that it is sufficient for one to place a pillow on the armrest and lean his body slightly to the left. Rav Karelitz (חוט שני שם) writes that in addition to placing a pillow beneath one's arm on the armrest he should place a pillow beneath his head. Teshuvas Or L'Tzion (שם) notes that leaning to the left in the air without actually leaning on something does not fulfill the *mitzvah* since it is not indicative of freedom.

- A mourner within 12 months for a parent or 30 days for another relative, for example, he did not observe *shiva* before Yom Tov, must recline but it should not be so honorable and he should use only one pillow or lean on his friend. The custom is not to wear a *kittel* but we do not protest one who chooses to wear it. (M.B. 13)