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Digest
Mishna Berura
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סימן תק"ז סעיף א'

Halacha Highlight

Baking in a new oven

Shulchan Aruch Siman 507 Seif 1
ובלבד שלא תהא חדשה
Provided that it is not new

Shulchan Aruch rules that it is permitted to bake in a פורנ"י which is a large oven that opens on the side. The reason it is necessary for Shulchan Aruch to emphasize what would seem obvious is that a פורנ"י requires a larger fire and as such one could entertain the possibility it should be prohibited since it involves unnecessary exertion. Additionally, one may have though it should be prohibited since it could give the impression that one is baking to have bread during the week. However, this allowance is limited to circumstances in which one needs a large quantity of bread since many guests arrived or if one does not have access to a smaller oven (מ"ב סק"א). Shulchan Aruch then rules that one may not use a new פורנ"י out of concern that pieces of plaster from the roof of the פורנ"י may fall onto the bread, thereby ruining it.

Mishnah Berurah (סק"ח) notes that Shulchan Aruch implies that our bread ovens are treated the same as a פורנ"י from the time of Chazal and as such it would be prohibited to bake bread in a new bread oven. However, later authorities adopted a lenient position concerning this matter since our ovens are made from bricks and mortar so that it is unusual for pieces to fall off into the baking bread. Sha'ar HaTziyun (סק"ח) relates that Darkei Moshe maintains that our ovens are not comparable to a פורנ"י unless it is an industrial size oven and Magen Avrohom cites his opinion. Other authorities, however, do not even cite his opinion concerning this matter and some of the authorities who do cite his position offer an alternative understanding of his position. Sha'ar HaTziyun then notes that if one examines the words of the Or Zarua from which Darkei Moshe drew his position, it will be evident that Rema's position does not accord with Or Zarua who maintains that all ovens are treated the same as a פורנ"י.

Overview

Siman 507 Seif 1:

It is permitted to bake in a פורנ"י which is an oven similar to ours that is large and whose opening is on the side provided that it is not new out of concern that it will crumble, ruining the bread and one will therefore refrain from rejoicing on Yom Tov. It is permitted to heat food in an אנטיכי (A large cauldron).

- It is permitted even though it necessitates making a large fire that requires additional exertion. (M.B. 1)
- Meaning this is the first time it is being heated. (M.B. 2)
- Some of the plaster may fall into the bread. Later authorities permit using ovens made from bricks and mortar since they are strong and pieces will not fall onto the bread. There are, however, authorities who maintain that one may not use an oven for the first time on Yom Tov since that strengthens the oven but others are lenient. (M.B. 3)
- In this case, as well, the novelty is that it requires additional effort. (M.B. 4)