The Chicago Center
Digest
Mishna Berura
THE DAILY RESOURCE FOR MISHNA BERURA YOMI
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סימן תק"ז סעיף ה'-ו'

Overview

Siman 507 Seif 5:

One may not smear oil on a new oven or stove nor may they be polished with a rag. It is permitted to fire them, even the first time, provided that one does not cool it with cold water in order to strengthen it. If it was overheated and it is necessary to cool it with water so that one will be able to bake, it is permitted to do so. For that reason it is permitted to soak a broom in water so that one should be able to cool the oven even though in the process he will extinguish some of the coals.

- This involves forming a utensil. (M.B. 26)
- An oven does not become strengthened when it is initially heated. Magen Avrohom asserts that our ovens do become hardened when initially heated but others disagree with that assessment. (M.B. 27)
- One's intent is that the bread should not burn. (M.B. 29)
- If the oven was overheated so that one is concerned that the bread will burn one may soak a broom in water in order to cool down the oven as well as to shovel out the small coals that remained after the first shoveling and this is permitted even if in the process one extinguishes some of the fire since it is necessary to prepare the food. However, the allowance applies only if the food will become ruined but if a piece will merely become singed which will diminish its appearance it is prohibited. (M.B. 31)

Siman 507 Seif 6:

It is permitted to bake in an oven that is filled with bread even if one only needs one loaf. However, this is true regarding their ovens that were small and they would place the dough on the walls of the oven so that when the walls were full the heat would not escape and the bread would bake nicely but in our ovens one may not bake more than he needs.

- Some authorities maintain that if one's intent is to bake bread for during the week it is prohibited since each loaf requires its own exertion. (M.B. 32)
- It is even prohibited to ask a gentile to do this. (M.B. 34)
- Some *Poskim* allow this even in our ovens provided that one requires at least one loaf for Yom Tov but if one eats a small bit just to permit baking, it is prohibited. In a pressing circumstance, e.g., one forgot to make an *eruv tavshilin* and requires bread for Shabbos he may rely on this opinion and bake before the morning meal. Bakers who have gentiles bake for them on Yom Tov to have fresh bread available after Yom Tov by eating a small amount of that bread on Yom Tov have violated a prohibition according to all opinions. (M.B. 35)

Halacha Highlight

Baking more loaves than necessary

Shulchan Aruch Siman 507 Seif 6

אף על פי שאינו צריך אלא פת אחד

Even though he does need more than one loaf

Shulchan Aruch (סע' ו') discusses the permissibility of baking more bread than one needs. He explains that in the time of Chazal ovens were small and the heat of the fire easily escaped through empty spaces. Common practice was to fill the walls with dough and bake many loaves at the same time since the additional loaves retained the heat in the oven and all of the loaves were better quality loaves. Thus although one did not need more than one loaf for Yom Tov it was permitted to bake many loaves since the loaf that one required was enhanced by the presence of the other loaves. Mishnah Berurah (ס"ק ל"ב) notes that this allowance is limited to where one's intent is to actually enhance the quality of the loaf that he is baking but if his intent is to bake bread for use during the week it is prohibited. However, in our times one may not bake any more than what one intends to use on Yom Tov. The reasoning is that in our ovens the loaves that are baked are not enhanced by the presence of the other loaves and thus the allowance to bake additional loaves no longer applies. Mishnah Berurah (ס"ק ל"ה) notes that there are *Poskim* who maintain that Shulchan Aruch's leniency applies even to our ovens provided that one intends to use one of the baked loaves on Yom Tov.

Teshuvas Be'er Moshe (ח"ח סי' קל"ז) writes that regarding our ovens that are electric or gas fueled and are designed in a manner that the ovens retain their heat, there is no difference whether there is a single loaf of bread in the oven or whether there are multiple loaves of bread in the oven and thus it is prohibited to bake any more loaves than are necessary for use on Yom Tov.