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Digest
Mishna Berura
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סימן תקי"ד סעיף ב'

Halacha Highlight

Using hot tap water on Yom Tov

Shulchan Aruch Siman 514 Seif 2

להטות הנר כדי להרחיק השמן מן הפתילה

To tilt a lamp so that one distances the oil from the wick

Shulchan Aruch writes that it is prohibited to tilt a lamp to move the oil away from the wick so that the flame should extinguish quicker since such an action is considered a violation the prohibition of extinguishing. Mishnah Berurah (ס"ק י"ד) adds that it is certainly prohibited to remove some oil that is in the lamp since doing so will dim the light which is also a violation of the prohibition of extinguishing. Sha'ar HaTziyun (ס"ק ט"ו) references Elya Rabba who mentions that there are authorities who maintain that if one removes some oil because he intends to consume it, he does not violate the prohibition of extinguishing since it is for the purpose of eating (צורך אוכל נפש) and permitted. However, he acknowledges that many authorities disagree and maintain that it is prohibited to remove oil even if one's intent is to consume the oil.

A related issue discussed by the *Poskim* is whether it is permitted to turn on hot water that is needed on Yom Tov when cold water will enter the tank and become cooked even though one will not use the water that becomes heated. Rav Yosef Shalom Elyashiv (שבות יצחק בדיני דוד שמש פי"א אות א') suggests that even the lenient opinions cited by Elya Rabba would agree that it is prohibited to take the hot water if it will cause cold water to cook. When removing the oil, one intends to consume the oil so that one could argue that the extinguishing is necessary to prepare food. In this case he will not benefit from the *melacha* that results from taking hot water, i.e., cold water becoming cooked. Rav Shlomo Zalman Auerbach (שם אות ב' הע' ** ומבקשי תורה יום טוב סי' מ"ד) agrees with Rav Elyashiv's analysis of the authorities mentioned by Elya Rabba, however, he offers a lenient ruling for a different reason. He argues that the cold water that enters becomes intermingled with the water in the tank and the water that flows from the tap contains some of the cold water that became heated and thus one also benefits from the cold water that enters the tank and becomes cooked.

Overview

Siman 514 Seif 2:

It is prohibited to tilt a lamp to move the oil from the wick since it is considered as though one is extinguishing. It is also prohibited to remove a wick from a lamp, even to place it in another lamp since upon removal it is immediately extinguished. It is permitted to add wicks to a lamp that is burning so that more should burn and it should go out sooner.

- It is obviously prohibited to remove oil from a lamp while it is burning. (M.B. 14)
- Pieces of fat or wax that are in a lamp may be removed if they are distant from the wick being that the wick is not using them as fuel. (M.B. 15)
- It will at the very least diminish the flame. If one cannot grasp the wick it is permitted to tilt the oil away from the wick so that more of the wick is exposed and lift the wick to produce a larger flame and then tilt it back to allow the oil to return to its original position. (M.B. 16)
- Biur Halacha notes that if one intends to extinguish the flame this allowance is limited to one opinion and it is appropriate to follow the stringent position. It is prohibited to heat a wax candle to place on a wall out of concern that one will smooth it. (M.B. 18)