The Chicago Center
Digest
Mishna Berura
THE DAILY RESOURCE FOR MISHNA BERURA YOMI
Mon, Jun 10, 2024 ■ ד' סיון, תשפ"ד
סימן תקי"ד סעיף ד'-ה'

Overview

Siman 514 Seif 4:

If a lamp extinguished and one wishes to kindle it again that day, it is permitted to cut off the top of the wick so that it will be easier to kindle. The remaining oil and wick are permitted on Yom Tov that follows Shabbos or on the two days of Rosh HaShanah.

- Removing the top of the singed wick is not considered an act of making a utensil but one may not use a utensil to sever a part of the wick itself. (M.B. 28)
- Above in *siman* 501 in Mishnah Berurah we wrote in the name of authorities that *l'chatchila* one should be stringent to, at the very least, kindle the wick from the second end. (M.B. 29)

Siman 514 Seif 5:

A useless lamp, meaning one that is not needed, may not be kindled. A lamp in the *bais haknesses* is not considered useless and may be kindled even on the second day of Yom Tov after *mincha* and doing so is not considered as though one is preparing for the week since kindling it at that moment fulfills a *mitzvah*. It is permitted to prepare wicks and a lamp on Yom Tov after *mincha* if one intends to kindle the lamp that day but if not, it is prohibited.

- Even using the light to display one's wealth is prohibited since it is not necessary for Yom Tov or for his physical well-being. If it will honor Yom Tov it is permitted and is even considered a *mitzvah*. If there will be a *bris milah* it is permitted to kindle lights since this gives honor and generates endearment for the *mitzvah*. (M.B. 30)
- The lamp may even be kindled in the *bais haknesses* during the day since it honors the place. (M.B. 31)
- If it is close to dark it is even permitted for one to kindle the light in his home since he needs the light at that time. (M.B. 33)
- Setting up wax candles to use at night is also permitted while yet day due to the prohibition against exerting oneself for the next day of Yom Tov. (M.B. 35)

Halacha Highlight

Kindling a *yahrtzeit* candle

Shulchan Aruch Siman 514 Seif 5

נר של בטלה

An idle lamp

Shulchan Aruch (סע' ה') writes that it is prohibited to kindle an idle lamp – נר של בטלה. He then explains that an idle lamp is one that it not needed. Mishnah Berurah (סק"ל) further elaborates that not only is it prohibited to kindle a light that is not required altogether, but even one that will be used to show his wealth and lavishness is prohibited since it will not serve a Yom Tov or a physical need for the one kindling the flame. However, it is permitted and it is even considered a *mitzvah* to kindle a light to honor Yom Tov. Additionally, if there will be a *bris milah* it is permitted to kindle lights since the lights give honor to the *mitzvah*.

Biur Halacha (ד"ה נר של בטלה) writes that one who did not kindle a *yahrtzeit* candle before Yom Tov should kindle it in the room where he will eat since it will add light to that room. Nowadays, however, that we have electricity that provide an abundance of light, there are authorities who write that kindling a *yahrtzeit* candle in the room where one will eat is not permitted since the candle will not add any noticeable light to the room. Therefore, they advocate following Biur Halacha's alternate suggestion to kindle the *yahrtzeit* candle in the *bais haknessess* since kindling lights in the *bais haknesses* is always considered a *mitzvah*. Biur Halacha notes that these approaches represent a *l'chatchila* approach but in a pressing circumstance one may kindle the lights in any circumstance since there are authorities who consider the light to involve a *mitzvah* since it is kindled to honor the deceased. Moreover, there are authorities who maintain that common custom is to be lenient and permit kindling a *yahrtzeit* candle in one's home, even though it will not add any noticeable light. On the other hand, there are authorities who prohibit kindling a *yahrtzeit* candle altogether. Therefore, the preferred approach for those who did not kindle the candle before Yom Tov is to kindle it in the *bais haknesses* in the room where there is a *minyan*.