The Chicago Center
Digest
Mishna Berura
THE DAILY RESOURCE FOR MISHNA BERURA YOMI
Thurs, September 11, 2025 ■ י"ח אלול, תשפ"ה
סימן תרכ"ז סעיף א'-ב'

Overview

Siman 627 Seif 1:

One must sit in the airspace of the *sukkah.* **One who sleeps under a bed in the *sukkah* – if the bed is ten *tefachim* high he did not fulfill the *mitzvah*.**

- Rema's introduction is to explain why one does not fulfill the *mitzvah* if he slept under a bed. (M.B. 1)
- The ten *tefachim* is measured from the ground to the bottom of the bed and once the bed is ten *tefachim* it becomes an independent *ohel* that interposes between the person and the *schach*. (M.B. 3)

Siman 627 Seif 2:

If one sleeps in a *kilah* – if it is not ten *tefachim* or if it did not have a roof that was a *tefach* wide he has fulfilled the *mitzvah*.

- A *kilah* is a sheet spread over a bed on four poles (in the shape of an inverted v) and the bed is in the middle. (M.B. 4)
- The ten *tefachim* are measured from the ground and not from the top of the bed to the top of the *kilah*. (M.B. 5)
- Magen Avrohom maintains that if the sheets widen to a *tefach* within three *tefachim* of the top of the *kilah* it is considered to have a roof of a *tefach* and it is prohibited to sleep under the *kilah*. (M.B. 6)
- Magen Avrohom in the name of Agudah writes that if there is a *tefach* between the ground and the bottom of the sheets one may not sleep in that *kilah*. (M.B. 6)

Halacha Highlight

Sleeping under a bed in the *sukkah*

Shulchan Aruch Siman 627 Seif 1

הישן תחת המטה בסכה אם היא גבוה עשרה טפחים לא יצא

One who sleeps under a bed in the *sukkah*, if it is ten *tefachim* high he has not fulfilled the *mitzvah*

Shulchan Aruch (סעי' א') writes that if one sleeps under a bed that is ten *tefachim* high measured from the ground until the bottom of the bed (מ"ב סק"ג) he does not fulfill the *mitzvah*. The reason, explains Mishnah Berurah (שם), is that the bed is considered an *ohel* that separates between him and the *schach*. Sefer HaSukkah HaShalem (מילואים לפרק י"ג אות א') notes that since it is unusual nowadays for a bed to be ten *tefachim* (80 cm, 31.5 inches, according to HaRav Avrohom Chaim Noeh) if there is a need, one may sleep under a bed in the *sukkah*. Sefer Piskei Teshuvos (הע' 1) wonders why Sefer HaSukkah HaShalem only permits one to sleep under a bed when there is a need. Seemingly from the *Poskim* once the bed is not ten *tefachim* high it is permitted even *l'chatchila* for one to sleep under the bed.

He then suggests that perhaps the reason is that *l'chatchila* one should sleep under the *schach* without anything intervening item whatsoever between himself and the *schach*. One reason one should strive to sleep directly under the *schach* is that the Yerushalmi (ע' ערוה"ש סע' א') rules that one may not sleep under a table or bed even if it is less than ten *tefachim* high. Although *halacha* does not follow this opinion, nevertheless, one should make an effort *l'chatchila* to fulfill that opinion as well. Another reason is that it may be that Rema introduced the *siman* with the words צריך לישב באויר הסכה—one must sit in the airspace of the *sukkah* to address this matter. In other words, with these words of introduction he is teaching that *l'chatchila* one should make an effort to sleep directly under the *schach* even when it is permitted to sleep with something over his head.

Stories to Share

Making Do

ש"ע ס' תרכ"ז, א': "הישן תחת המטה בסכה אם היא גבוה עשרה טפחים"

Many yeshivos in Israel have a communal sukkah to accommodate all of the bochurim and their guests. At times such sukkos are extremely crowded with hardly any free space to move around. In such sukkos sleeping under a bed or table is sometimes the only option.

When a guest at a full sukkah was presented with two options he wondered which was superior. He could either sleep on the bottom bed of a bunk bed or under a table. Under the table was less comfortable, but they wondered if it was permitted to sleep on the bottom bed of the bunk bed.

The bochurim debated a number of points. "Although there are more than ten tefachim from the floor to the bottom of the top bed, there are ten tefachim from the bottom of the bottom bed until the bottom of the top bed. Presumably this is like less than ten tefachim under a bed on the floor. Just like sleeping under such a bed is permitted, the bottom bed of this bunk bed should also be allowed."

Others claimed that maybe the ten tefachim should be measured from the floor.

When this question reached Rav Yosef Shalom Eliyashiv, zt"l, he answered unequivocally. "When someone wishes to sleep on the lower bed in a bunk bed in the sukkah there must be less than ten tefachim from the floor until the bottom of the top bed. If there is more than ten tefachim it is forbidden to sleep on the bottom bed."

חכו ממתקים, סוכה, ע' מ"ו