

THE SHABBOS WEEKLY

HALACHA SERIES ON HILCHOS SHABBOS

Published by



These halachos were shown by Rabbi Ostroff to HaGaon HaRav Moshe Sternbuch, shlita

based on the shiurim given by

RABBI DOVID
OSTROFF shlita

developed from the Chabura of the
Shulchan Aruch Project

Parshas Eikev 5764

Would the issur of preventing a fellow Jew from violating an issur on pastime bread ovens apply to regular ovens?

In the previous shiur we learned that there is a problem to remove bread with a baking spatula that was pasted on the side of an oven, and only the person that wrongfully pasted the bread may remove it. This is based on a rule that one Jew does not violate an *issur* in order to prevent another Jew from committing an *issur*.

If a Jew put food in an oven *b'issur* on Shabbos, another Jew may take it out the oven in order to prevent the other Jew from violating an *issur*, because there is no problem with the actual removing. The problem is that often the food item put in the oven is *muktze*, in which case the *Elya Raba* says¹ that in such a case one may not remove it from the oven, in order to prevent a fellow Jew from violating an *issur*.

*What if someone placed food on the fire *b'issur*? May or must I remove it from the fire before it cooks?*

The same *halacha* would apply to a pot that was placed on the fire contrary to the *halacha* - whether it was done with the intention of violating an *issur* or whether it was placed unintentionally. One must make a distinction between food that is *muktze*, such as raw potatoes or raw beans, which are inedible in their raw state, in which case one

¹ See *M"B* 254:40.

August 6, '04

Volume III Issue 39

will not be permitted to remove them from the fire according to the *Elya Raba* and food that is edible such as water, fruit, certain vegetables etc.

What if a person is coerced to violate an issur? May or must a lesser issur be violated in order to prevent the greater issur?

The basis for this question is a very interesting but disastrous case mentioned in the *Shulchan Aruch*² - a case where one's daughter was forced out of one's home on Shabbos by gentiles with the purpose of converting her to Christianity. The *Mechaber* says that one must violate the Shabbos in order to retrieve her. The basis for this *p'sak* is that one must violate one's Shabbos in order to prevent one's daughter - or any Jew from that matter - who will be coerced into violating many many violations throughout her entire life.

Who however says that when a person is coerced to violate a single *issur*, that I must violate an *issur* in order to prevent another person from violating his *issur*?

The *Mishna Berura*³ cites the *Rama*⁴ who says that one may not violate an *issur* in order to prevent a fellow Jew from being coerced into violating even a greater *issur*. The *Mishna Berura* says that even if he was forced into *avoda zara*⁵ one may not violate

² *Simon* 306:14.

³ *Simon* 306:58.

⁴ *Simon* 328:10.

⁵ Idol worshipping.

the Shabbos in order to help him, because violating the Shabbos is equivalent to *avoda zara* and who says that your *issur* is less severe than his.

The *Mishna Berura* adds⁶ that if one is forced to violate one of the three cardinal sins and it is probable that that person's life would be forfeited, it is possible to violate the Shabbos in order to save a life.

However, one should violate an *issur d'rabanan* in order to prevent a fellow from being forced into an *issur d'oraissos*.⁷

I see someone about to turn on a light, not realizing that it is already Shabbos. May I attract their attention by throwing a stone nearby?

Based on the case of the oven above, we see that one may not even violate a small *issur* in order to prevent another from an *issur*, even though the *issur* is unintentional. Accordingly one will not be permitted to violate even an *issur d'rabanan* in order to prevent a fellow Jew from violating an *issur*.

It is possible that if many people could be saved from violating the Shabbos it would be different.

Vort on the Parsha

The *Parsha* opens with the *posuk*, וְהִיא עַקְבַּתְשְׁמַעַן, where the word עַקְבַּת also means heel, and *Rashi* explains that if a person will heed the *mitzvos* that one usually tramples underfoot then one will merit receiving all the *b'rachos* written in the *parsha*.

⁶ *Simon* 328:31.

⁷ We see that the *PM"G* (see the *Sha'ar Hatisun* 306:50) says that it is possible that one should even walk outside of 12 *mil* because it is only a נאץ, which is obviously more severe than a *d'rabanan*.

Rav Sternbuch *shlita* cites the Sochochover Rebbe, the *Arnei Nezer*, who explains that it is harder for a person to do *t'shuva* for sins that are trampled underfoot because an integral part of *t'shuva* is to realize that one has sinned and sins that one violates without noticing are much harder to deal with.

Rabeinu Yonah in *B'rachos* points out that the price of a *korban Chatas*, which is offered to atone for a definite sin, costs less than an *Asham*, which is brought when it is not sure one has violated the sin. The reason being that when one is not sure if a sin was violated one does not see any necessity to atone for it, and through paying a steeper price for the *korban* one will be forced to come to terms with the fact that a sin might have been committed.

Here too, if one is willing to overcome one's natural inclination to commit "small" sins, one will surely merit many *b'rachos*.

Food For Thought

May one violate the Shabbos for someone who is ill?

*Does it make a difference whether one violates an *issur d'oraissos* or *d'rabanan*?*

Should one preferably have a gentile violate for an ill person?

May Shabbos be violated in the normal manner for an ill person?

Answers coming next week.
