



Parshas Terumah 5765

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*If it is getting late, should the husband light the candles?*

This can involve serious *sholom bayis* (harmony) problems because the wife may feel that she was cheated out of a mitzvah unique to her. Indeed if it is close to sunset the husband must light the candles but everything should be done to avoid such a situation. Rav Sternbuch *shlita* adds that within the five minutes before sunset the candles must not be lit at all by anyone, as it is difficult to ascertain the exact time of sunset.

*If a couple are eating out on Friday night, but are sleeping at home, where should they light?*

Everyone agrees that in order to benefit and enjoy the light.<sup>1</sup> the main place to light Shabbos candles is on or near one's dining room table. The problem is that we find that the *Mechaber* cites two opinions, as follows:<sup>2</sup> "when two or three people are dining together, the first opinion, the *MaHaril*, says that each person recites the *b'racha* individually". The seemingly weakness of this opinion is that once the dining room has light from the first set of candles, what does the second or third person add by lighting there. In addition if that person does light there, the *b'racha* would be in vain. The *Mishna Berura* explains<sup>3</sup> that this opinion

holds that the more light the merrier and therefore one may light candles and recite a *b'racha* even though other candles are already lit.

The *Mechaber* continues: "not all agree to this", referring to the *Ohr Zaruah*, which would mean that even if one were to light next to other candles, one would not be permitted to recite a *b'racha*.

*Which opinion do we follow?*

Although in the *Beis Yosef* it says that although the *Ohr Zaruah* is not happy with this custom, there are those that do light with a *b'racha* next to other candles. The *Beis Yosef* explains this custom and says that it is because they hold that the more light the merrier. Nevertheless, in the *Shulchan Aruch* he rules that only one person should recite the *b'racha* when more than one person is lighting.

Consequently, when several people are lighting together in the same place, Sephardim may only recite one *b'racha*.

The *Rama* continues that we do not follow that custom, meaning that we light with a *b'racha* even when other people are lighting there. The *Mishna Berura* however adds to this,<sup>4</sup> that if one has a room for himself, one may light there with a *b'racha* even though one is not eating in that room. This implies

<sup>1</sup> *M"B* simon 263:2 and 45.

<sup>2</sup> *Simon* 263:8.

<sup>3</sup> *Simon* 263:35.

<sup>4</sup> *Simon* 263:38.

that if one is able to light in a place where others are not lighting, one should *l'chatchila* do so.

*How does this manifest itself in our case?*

Sephardim should light at home and not where they are eating out because the *Mechaber* says that one may not recite the *b'racha* if other candles are already lit. Ashkenazim have the option to light either where they will be eating or in their home, and it appears from the *Mishna Berura* that it is preferable to light at home. However, whenever one lights at home, one must make sure that one derives benefit from the candles, which means that one is home for a while after lighting them, or they will still be alight when one returns home.

*If a couple are invited out for Shabbos and are sleeping in a separate apartment, where should they light?*

The same rule applies as above.<sup>5</sup> Sephardim should light candles in the apartment they are staying in and even Ashkenazim might have a preference to light in this apartment. They must make sure that the candles are lit in a safe place, not next to curtains etc. and that they will still be alight after the meal when they return home.

*When a son and daughter-in-law have a room in their parent's home, where should they light?*

It is not very practical to light in one's bedroom and as such it is not a viable solution. In this case the Ashkenazim would light in the dining room together with the mother of the house and Sephardim should make one *b'racha* for all the candles. This is

done by gathering together at candle lighting and one woman makes the *b'racha* and all the women light their respective candles.

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Vort on the Parsha

The *אור החיים הקדוש* points out to the letter vov that is written before the word *ו-יקחו לי* תרומה, which suggests that the sentence is connected to something beforehand, which is a bit strange being that it is the second sentence of the parsha.

The *אור החיים הקדוש* says that the possuk itself refers to the physical taking and giving of a donation towards the Mishkan and the Torah is telling us that the **heart** must precede the physical. One's **heart** must want to give as it says *אשר ידבנו לבו* and then the hand follows suit.

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Food For Thought

*Is there a problem reciting a b'racha when in the same room there are electric lights?*

*Must one accept Shabbos with the candle lighting?*

*May one light and stipulate that one does not want to accept Shabbos with the lighting?*

*If the father of the house accepts Shabbos early, do the members of the household follow suit?*

Answers coming be"H next week.

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<sup>5</sup> See the *SS"K* 45:8.

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Dedicated in memory of our beloved Zeidy, R' Aharon Grossbard z'l on his first yahrtzeit, Rosh Chodesh Adar I.

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**Note:** The purpose of this series is intended solely for the clarification of the topics discussed and not to render halachic decisions. It is intended to heighten everyone's awareness of important practical questions which do arise on this topic. One must consult with a proper halachic authority in order to receive p'sak.