



B'NAI DAVID-JUDEA

Shabbat Shorts

Previously on Shabbat Shorts"....

*Even if we happen to **not be eating at home** on a particular Friday night, we **nonetheless** light and recite the blessing, as we will still be fulfilling the "delight" aspect of the mitzvah, that of bringing peace to the house (through people not stumbling and tripping).... [OK, but what] if the candles are lit when the house is still enjoying plentiful natural light, and then everyone leaves, not to return until after the candles have gone out? Then the candles have fulfilled neither the "honoring" nor the "delighting" function! **What do we do when we are facing exactly this prospect?***

There are a couple of ways to approach this situation. One, is simply to designate one member of the household to stay back for a least a little bit of time after the sun has gone down, so that he or she in fact *derives benefit from* - and thus delights in - the candles. Another is to light especially long candles which will still be lit when the household returns home from Shabbat dinner.

Before offering a third solution, I'll interject with a question that you may be asking yourself at this point: "The room in which I typically light my candles is invariably also illuminated by electric lights. So what "delight of Shabbat" benefit do my candles provide in any case? Are you suggesting that when we are eating out, we *davka* need to light the candles in a room that is otherwise dark?" Good question.

Indeed, the Shulchan Aruch (263:8) cites an opinion that once one person has lit candles in a particular room, that no one else can subsequently fulfill the mitzvah of candle lighting in that same room, for the room is already illuminated! However, the halachic day is won by the other opinion the Shulchan Aruch cites, which holds that "the more light one adds, the more one adds to the *shalom bayit* and the joy" (Mishna Brurah # 35) - the more light, the more delight. Thus, the fact that there are already electric lights on in a room doesn't preclude us from lighting Shabbat candles in that room - even when we are lighting them only for "delight / peace in the house" purposes.

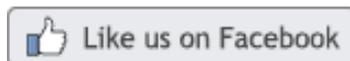
Having mentioned electric lights, we now turn to the third solution, that of turning on an electric light AS your Shabbat candle (and saying the bracha over it!) Two caveats here:

- While most Halachic authorities regard electric light as being an acceptable form of Shabbat lights, this only pertains to **incandescent** (not fluorescent or LED) bulbs, whose filament is compared to a wick.
- For the sake of tradition, you can still light candles AND turn on an incandescent light, though your bracha would pertain only to the latter.

I love feedback!
ravyosef@bnaidavid.com

B'nai David-Judea 8906 West Pico Blvd. Los Angeles, CA 90035
director@bnaidavid.com

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