



**B'NAI
DAVID-JUDEA**
Shabbat Shorts

What if the eruv is down (chas v'shalom)!?

In the next few Shabbat Shorts, we will be focusing on the melacha of transferring (hotzoa), which entails transferring objects from one domain into another domain. Our LA Eruv eliminates much of our concerns about hotzoa, but nevertheless, knowing what the guidelines are is worthwhile-- especially when we spend Shabbat out of town in an area without an eruv or if the eruv is ever down.

When B'nai Yisrael moved in the midbar, they had to deconstruct the Mishkan, and in doing so, they had to transfer its components from the desert floor to the wagons on which they pulled everything, and back. This constituted a transfer between domains-- from the desert ground (reshut harabim, a public domain)-- into the wagons (reshut hayachid, a private domain). And so, the melacha of hotzoa, even though it is not a creative act (moving an object does not physically change it), still derives from the Mishkan.

The importance of this melacha is seen in the fact that of all the melachot, hotzoa has the most halachic literature written on it. Chazal even took this melacha so seriously that they created many additional restrictions related to it. For example, the rabbis ruled that the shofar is not blown on the first day of Rosh Hashanah when it falls on Shabbat, for fear that the baal tokeah will be tempted to carry the shofar between domains to an expert to consult with on the blowing, and thereby transgress hotzoa, גזירה שמא יטלנו בידו וילך אצל הבקי, ללמוד ויעבירונו ד' אמות ברה"ר (Rosh Hashanah 29b).

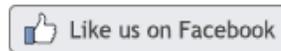
Back in the day, the restrictions around hotzoa were particularly serious. Most people shared a communal oven, and so on Shabbat, they would carry their food between the communal oven and their homes. Additionally, in some areas, water had to be carried from wells. And so, without an eruv, this created big halachic questions! Eruvim therefore became essential in Shabbat observance. We are blessed today not only to benefit from our LA Eruv (which we should continue to support), but also to benefit from refrigeration and our modern kitchens.

Now that we have laid the foundation of hotzoa, stay tuned for the next few Shabbat Shorts when we will unpack practical cases such as the use of strollers, wheelchairs, canes, and jewelry on Shabbat!

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