



B'NAI DAVID-JUDEA

Shabbat Shorts

Last time on Shabbat Shorts, we learned that we must light in a place where we can derive benefit from the light. This is because-- while the technical act of the mitzvah is the kindling-- the ultimate fulfillment of the mitzvah is the derivation of benefit from the light.

So what happens at this time of year when Sukkot comes, and our primary dwelling place is the sukkah? Where do we light-- in our homes or in the sukkah?

The Chayei Adam (quoted in Mishnah Berurah 263:48) reports that some women had the practice of kindling the lights in the sukkah and then moving the lights into the house. He strongly rejects this practice, saying that this is not the proper way to light (לא יפה הן עושין).

What's really going on here? What is the Chayei Adam concerned about? He could be holding by the opinion that we should only move the lights when necessary, possibly because of muktzah. These women were moving the lights between the sukkah and the house unnecessarily!

But there is another big question lurking in the background that appears elsewhere in the laws of sukkah: It's dangerous! The Mishnah Berurah on Orach Chayim 639:8 explains that a person should not have an open flame in a sukkah if there is a risk of it causing a fire.

So what do we do next week on Sukkot?

A person should EITHER light candles on a windowsill outside of the sukkah where the lights can still be seen from the sukkah (as suggested by the Mishnah Berurah), OR light them in the house as long as he or she makes sure to still derive benefit

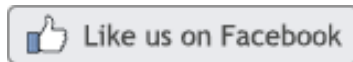
from them, even after the meal (this means the candles need to burn for a long enough period of time).

Stay tuned for our next Shabbat Short when we will finish off our learning on candlelighting...

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