



## ***Halacha For Today: Week In Review***

### ***WEEK OF PARASHAS VAYIGASH 5784***



When Reading in Shul, DO NOT Read During Davening or Krias HaTorah



### **CURRENT TOPIC: HALACHOS OF SHABBOS KODESH; HADLOKAS NEIROS**

#### **Halachos for Sunday, December 17, 2023**

1) If one will be eating the Shabbos eve Seudah away from home and be returning to their home later that night, and will be leaving to their destination on Friday afternoon, they may already light the candles in their own home any time after Plag Hamincha (between 45 and 75 minutes before sunset, depending on time of year. For exact time of Plag Hamincha on a particular day please [click here](#) and enter your ZIP code), **as after this time anybody can already light the Shabbos candles and accept upon themselves the sanctity of Shabbos** (unless they stipulated otherwise, which we will B'Ezras Hashem discuss further, tomorrow.) (See Shulchan Aruch Siman 263:4.)

2) However, if they need to leave home before Plag Hamincha in order to get to their destination on time, they cannot light Shabbos candles at home before they leave. (ibid.) Rather, they should leave on the electric lights/lamps that they will need when they return home, but only light the Shabbos candles in the house where they will be eating

Regarding the Bracha on the candles they are lighting in the host's home, it is best if they listen to the Bracha of the hostess as she lights her candles, and be exempted by her. (Based on Shulchan Aruch Siman 263:8, as in this case it is possible that the obligation has been satisfied by leaving the lights/lamps on in their own home, and thus no Bracha may be required in the host's home for these additional candles.)

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## Halachos for Monday, December 18, 2023

**1) As we mentioned previously, a woman who is not eating the Shabbos eve Seudah in her own home and leaves her home before Shabbos, but will be walking back home later that night to sleep in her own home, should light candles in her home any time after Plag Hamincha.**

**If after lighting the candles, the woman wants to drive to where she will be eating the Shabbos Seudah, she has to make a stipulation before lighting that, this time, she does not want to accept the sanctity of Shabbos with the lighting of the candles.** (If no stipulation was made she may not even travel by taxi or bus as a passenger, as it is disrespecting Shabbos to be driven in a vehicle after the sanctity of Shabbos has set in. See Shmiras Shabbos K'Hilchaso Perek 43 footnote 136)

**2) Although this stipulation should only be made in cases of necessity, many Poskim rule that this case is considered necessity.** (Ruling of HaRav Nissim Karelitz Zatzal quoted in Ohr HaNer Perek 4 footnote 78. Of course, every individual must consult their own Rav before executing this stipulation to ensure that their particular circumstance fits the criteria of "necessity". See Mishna Berura Siman 263:44)

**It goes without saying that this stipulation, to postpone the acceptance of the sanctity of Shabbos, does not work beyond sunset.**

## Halachos for Tuesday, December 19, 2023

**1) After making a stipulation to allow her to do melacha beyond candle lighting (in a case where she is eating in a different home that night, as we mentioned previously) , the woman should light the candles and the other lights/lamps around the house with intent that it should be benefitted from when she returns home later that night, and then recite the Bracha over the candles as usual.** (Ideally, the candles should be long enough to still be burning when she returns home, as according to many Poskim the Bracha cannot be recited if, when she returns home, benefit will only be derived from the electric lights. Other Poskim are more lenient. A Rav must be consulted for Halacha L'Ma'aseh.)

**2) Later on when she is at the host's home and the time for Hadlokas Neiros arrives, she should accept upon herself the sanctity of Shabbos at the time that she usually lights when she is at home.** (Preferably she should do this verbally by saying "I now accept upon myself the sanctity of Shabbos for the purpose of 'Tosefes Shabbos', the Mitzvah to accept Shabbos earlier than the actual time it arrives. This verbalization is not necessary when a woman lights the candles at the

regular time, as then her action of lighting the candles serves as her way of accepting the sanctity of Shabbos earlier than sunset. See Mishna Berura Siman 261:21)

### **Halachos for Wednesday, December 20, 2023**

**1) Generally, in a public place, such as a hotel, a hospital or similar, it isn't possible, for valid safety concerns, to light candles in the private room where one is staying.**

**Therefore, one who finds him/herself in such a place, should turn on the light/lamp in their room with intent that this should be in place of the Shabbos candles in their room, and then they should go and light the candles in the designated room, preferably the public dining room where the meal will take place.** (If the only area given to light is the lobby or another area where no meal will take place, ideally, it is best to try and eat something near the candles. Ruling of Rav Nissim Karelitz Zatzal)

**2) Regarding the Bracha on the candles in this case, the prevalent minhag amongst Ashkenazim is to recite a Bracha, whereas Sephardim do not recite a Bracha, rather they can listen to an Ashkenazi woman's Bracha and will thus be exempted for their own lighting.** (See Sefer Ohr HaNer page 30 footnote 90 for a lengthy dialogue about this)

### **Halachos for Thursday, December 21, 2023**

**1) The prevalent minhag is for a woman to light candles wherever she happens to be for Shabbos, even if she isn't in her own home.**

**The above is the case even if her husband or other household members remained home and are lighting candles there.**

**It is, however, ideal in situations where her husband or another household member will be lighting in her home when she is away, to have specific intent, when lighting where she is, not to be exempted from the obligation to light candles via their lighting.** (Ruling of HaRav Nissim Karelitz Zatzal quoted in Sefer Ohr HeNer Page 34)

**2) The minhag used to be that the first Shabbos after giving birth to a child, a woman would not light the candles but rather have her husband do so.** (See Mishna Berura Siman 263:11)

**However, nowadays most women do in fact light the Shabbos candles themselves the first Shabbos after giving birth, as due to the advancement of modern medicine and the modern birthing procedures (which Hashem in His infinite kindness has revealed to us), most women are**

back on their feet shortly after giving birth, and can light in the room where the Seudah will take place and also be present themselves at the Seudah. (See Shu"t Az Nidberu Vol. 11 Siman 2. This is also the ruling of HaRav Shlomo Zalmen Auerbach Zatzal and many other contemporary Poskim)

## **Halachos for Erev Shabbos Kodesh, December 22, 2023 Double Portion L'Kavod Shabbos Kodesh**

### **Halachos for Erev Shabbos Kodesh**

**1) Generally, in a boys' Yeshiva there are no woman present to light the Shabbos candles, and thus the candles are lit by the Bachurim, the yeshiva students.**

**The candles should be lit by only one Bachur, in the dining room of the Yeshivah. (See Mishna Berura Siman 263:30)**

**If the candles belong to the yeshiva, the bachur lighting can light for everyone present without any further requirements. (This works even on behalf of any guests present, who aren't students of the Yeshiva, according to the ruling of Rav Nissim Karelitz Zatzal)**

**If the candles are privately owned by the one lighting, another Bachur should lift the candles up a Tefach and be zoche (Halachic gifting) them on behalf of all the other Bachurim, and only then should they be lit on behalf of everyone else. (See Shulchan Aruch Siman 366:9 and Mishna Berura Siman 263:34)**

**2) Before lighting the candles, the Bachur should open the electric lights in the dining room and have in mind that his Bracha over the candles should also exempt the electric lights which will provide light for the entire student body as they enjoy their Shabbos meal in the Yeshiva dining room. (This is especially important here, as many of the Bachurim will be sitting far away from the candles, and only derive pleasure from the electric lights, and none whatsoever from the candles. See Shmiras Shabbos K'Hilchaso Perek 45 footnote 56)**

### **Halachos for Shabbos Kodesh**

**1) If it is possible, from a safety standpoint, one of the Yeshiva Bochurim should also light candles [with a Bracha] in their dorm room or apartment where they will be sleeping, even if they won't be eating the Shabbos Seudah there. (See Mishna Berura Siman 263:29)**

**They should all ideally listen to the Bracha being recited and have in mind to be exempted with it. (Mishna Berura Siman 263:30. See also Shu"t Shevet Haleivi Vol. 1 Siman 52)**

2) Even though only one of them is lighting, the other roommates should “chip in” to this lighting by giving the one lighting a coin or two, so that it should satisfy their obligation as well.

Alternatively, as with the Bochur lighting in the Yeshiva dining room, he can have someone lift the candles up a Tefach before lighting them and thus be “zoche” them as a gift for all those being exempted by this lighting. (See Mishna Berura Siman 263:34)

Here too, as with all candle lighting, if other electric lights/lamps will be left on in the room, they too should be turned on with the Mitzvah in mind and the Bracha over the candles should exempt the other lights as well.

Ideally, the candles should still be lit when the Bochurim return from the Seudah to their apartment, so they can benefit from the light.

**אין לנו על מי להישען אלא על אבינו שבשמים**

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