



Halachically Speaking

Volume 2 Issue 11

Compiled by Moishe Dovid Lebovits
Reviewed by Rav Ben-zion Schiffenbauer Shlita
Piskei Horav Yisroel Belsky Shlita
Reviewed by Horav Yisroel Belsky Shlita

Dancing And Clapping On *Shabbos*

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לרפואה שלמה חנה חיה בת מזל
לזכר נשמת אסתר בת ר' יוסף מנחם
לזכר נשמת מרדכי בן ר' יהודה דוב דערדיק

The *Gemorah*¹ states “that a *takana* prohibiting the playing of musical instruments on *Shabbos* and *Yom Tov* was necessary because one might come to fix the instrument and transgress the *Melacha* of *Makeh B’patish*.” The *Rabbanan* went on to make another *gezeira*, as stated in the *Mishnah* in *Beiza*,² that one may not clap and one may not dance on *Shabbos* or *Yom Tov*.³ One of the reasons for this prohibition is that one might come to fix a musical instrument.⁴ However, *Tosfas*⁵ says this reason does not apply, because we are not professionals in constructing musical instruments. By this *halacha* we find in the *Gemorah* a reason for one not to say anything to one who is dancing and clapping on *Shabbos/YomTov*. Since one is accustomed to dancing and clapping, it is better for him to do it without knowing it is not permitted than to be informed and he will do it anyway.⁶ The *Aruch Ha’s hulchan*⁷ maintains that the dancing and clapping done today is not the same dancing and clapping that was done in the time of the *Mishnah*, and therefore, it is permitted in any situation. However, others argue with this premise.⁸ *Horav Moshe Feinstein zt”l*⁹ maintains that at the time of the *gezeira* it was not accepted by everyone to refrain from dancing etc.

The *Minhagin*

The custom in *Chassidisha*¹⁰ circles is to permit dancing and clapping on *Shabbos/Yom Tov*. Many reasons are offered for this leniency.¹¹ The custom for the rest of *klal yisroel* is to be stringent in this regard.¹² The *Mishnah*

¹ *Eiruvim* 104a. Refer to *Rambam Hilchos Shabbos* 23:4.

² 36a, see *Rosh* 4:2, 5:2, *Rambam Hilchos Shabbos* 23:5, *Kitzur Shulchan Aruch* 80:87, *Chai Adom Shabbos* 44:19.

³ *Gemorah Beiza* 36b, *Tur* 339, *Bach*, *Leket Yosher* page 102, *Shulchan Aruch* 339:3, *Levush* 3.

⁴ *Gemorah* *ibid*, *Shulchan Aruch* *ibid*, *Chai Adom Shabbos* 44:19.

⁵ *Beiza* 31a “*t’nan*.” Refer to *Darhei Moshe* 338:1, *Rama* 339:3, *Levush* 339:3, *Elya Rabbah* 1, *Shulchan Aruch Harav* 2, *Aruch Ha’s hulchan* 7. Some say we are *buki* today refer to *Ritvah Beiza* *ibid*, *Shar Ephraim* 36, *Tzitz Eliezer* 3:16:4, *Shulchan Shlomo* 339:6, *Yechaveh Da’as* 3:49, *Shevet Ha’Levi* 4:37.

⁶ *Gemorah* *ibid*, *Yam Shel Shlomo Beiza* 5:6, *Rama (Teshuvos)* 125, *Prisha* 3, *Rama* *ibid*, *Levush* 3, *Shulchan Aruch Harav* 2. Refer to *Tosfas Mecechtas Shabbos* 45a “*huchi*,” *Yechaveh Da’as* 2:58.

⁷ 339:8.

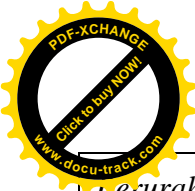
⁸ *Yechaveh Da’as* 2:58.

⁹ *O.C.* 2:100.

¹⁰ Refer to *Igros Moshe O.C.* 2:100, *Nishmas Shabbos* 6:461.

¹¹ They rely on *Tosfas* *ibid*, *Rama* *ibid*, *Aruch Ha’s hulchan* *ibid*, *Minchas Elazar* 1:29. Some say because it is included in *devar mitzvah* when dancing during the *Shabbos seuda* or during *tefilla* etc. Refer to *Minchas Elazar* 1:29, *Lev Avraham* 1:42, see *Yalkut Yosef* 339:7.

¹² *Mishnah Berurah* 10 see 8, see *Yalkut Yosef* 339:5.



*Berurah*¹³ maintains that one should not be lenient, even for a *devar mitzvah*, unless it is in a situation where one will not listen if he is told it is not allowed. The custom in many *shuls* is to make a circle and dance by the last *Lecha Dodi*.¹⁴ The sources originate from *Rabbeinu Chananel*.¹⁵ If one follows the latter custom, and finds himself in a *shul* where the entire *tzibbur* is dancing at *Lecha Dodi*, he may dance with them during *bein hashmushos* of either Friday night, or if dancing is taking place during *bein hashmushos* of *Motzei Shabbos*.¹⁶ During any other time if he feels that by separating from the *tzibbur* he will be violating *darchei shalom*, he should try to dance with some type of a *sheinu*.¹⁷

Dancing At A Seudas Mitzvah

Some *poskim* say at a *devar mitzvah*¹⁸ like by a marriage it would be permitted to dance and clap on *Shabbos/Yom Tov*.¹⁹ Included in this would be *seudas shabbos*,²⁰ an *afruf*,²¹ and a *sheva berochos*.²² Therefore, dancing and clapping would be permitted in the aforementioned situations according to those who permit dancing and clapping on *Shabbos/Yom Tov*.²³ Most *poskim* maintain that it is only permitted to dance and clap at *Simchas Torah* and not for any other occasion.²⁴ Some *poskim* maintain if one is not dancing, but merely walking in a circle it is not called dancing,²⁵ while others maintain it is called dancing.²⁶ The custom of the *Chassidim* is in accordance with the first opinion stated.

Banging On The Table/Floor

Many times one is singing a song and wants to bang to the beat on the table or on the floor with his feet. However, only non-rhythmic beating is permitted unless done with an instrument designed for noise making. The same is true when banging on the floor with your feet. Banging in a rhythmic manner in both of the above situations is forbidden (see footnote).²⁷

¹³ 10, Refer to *Mishnah Berurah* 415:2, see *Igros Moshe* ibid, *Yechaveh Da'as* 2:58, 3:49, *Yabea Omer* 3:22:5, the *Kaf Ha'chaim* 14 says that a G-D fearing person should not dance on *Shabbos*.

¹⁴ Refer to *Darchei Chaim V'Sholom* 374, *Otzer Chaim* 142, *Nishmas Shabbos* 6:463, *M'boa V'ad Tzeiso* 21:8:footnote 36

¹⁵ *Mesechtas Bava Kama* 32a.

¹⁶ *Horav Yisroel Belsky Shlita*, see *Eishel Avraham Butchatch* 299:10, *Nishmas Shabbos* 6:463.

¹⁷ *Horav Yisroel Belsky Shlita*. Refer to *Avnei Yushfei* 2:35:7.

¹⁸ Refer to *Eishel Avraham Butchatch* 339:3.

¹⁹ *Yam Shel Shlomo Bieza* 5:6, *Elya Rabbah* 38:4, *Minchas Elazar* 1:29, *Nemukei Orach Chaim* 339:1:page 157, *Salmas Chaim* 194 (old print), see *Aruch Ha'shulchan* 7. Refer to *Divrei Yatziv Y.D.* 110, *Tzitz Eliezer* 3:16:4.

²⁰ *Minchas Elazar* ibid, *Kovetz Bais Aaron V'Yisroel* 107:page 129:10, see *Avnei Yushfei* 2:35:3 who is stringent. Refer to *Kuzrei mamer sheini* 50:page 116.

²¹ *Avnei Yushfei* 2:35:4, see *Ohr L'tzyion* 2:43:9, refer to *Prisha E.H.* 62:13. Refer to *Nesuin K'hilchosam* 15:81.

²² Refer to *Eishel Avraham Butchatch* 339, *Avnei Yushfei* 2:35:4 in the name of *Horav Elyashiv Shlita*, *Nesuin K'hilchosam* 13:32, *Nishmas Shabbos* 6:462. In regard to *Chassidim* dancing by a *tisch* refer to *Avnei Yushfei* 2:35:5.

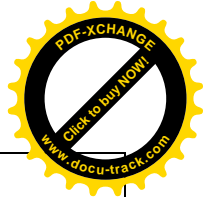
²³ Refer to *Shulchan Aruch Harav* 2, *Minhag Yisroel Torah* 339:1.

²⁴ Refer to *Maharik* 9:page 24 (new), *Darchei Moshe* 669:3, *Magen Avraham* beginning of 669, *Pri Megadim Eishel Avraham* 339:1, *Be'er Heitiv* 2, *Shulchan Aruch Harav* 2, *Kitzur Shulchan Aruch* 80:87, *Chai Adom Shabbos* 44:19, *Tosfas Shabbos* 339:3, *Michtam L'Dovid* 19, *Lev Chaim* 3:61, *Mishnah Berurah* 8, *Aruch Ha'shulchan* 9, *Kaf Ha'chaim* 339:10,13, 669:23, *Shevet Ha'Levi* 4:37, *Minhag Yisroel Torah* 669:4, *Yalkut Yosef* 339:7-8, *Yabea Omer* 7:56:6, *Ohr L'tzyion* 2:43:9, *Menuchas Ahava* 3:24:22, *Asei Lechu Rav* 2:30.

²⁵ Refer to *Yerushalmi Beiza* 5:2, *Yechaveh Da'as* 2:page 216, *Yalkut Yosef* 339:6, *Nishmas Shabbos* 6:460.

²⁶ *Avnei Yushfei* 2:35:7.

²⁷ *Horav Yisroel Belsky Shlita*, see *Avnei Yushfei* 2:35:2, *Shemiras Shabbos K'hilchoso* 28:35. This is not according to the *Chassidim*.



Clapping

Clapping that is done to create a musical effect, such as clapping when singing a song is forbidden, and can only be done with a *sheinu* (see footnote).²⁸ Snapping one's fingers is permitted as long as it does not go along with a specific beat.²⁹

During Davening

Many times a song is sung during *davening*, and the *tzibbur* claps, even without a *sheinu*. This clapping is not the clapping that *chazal* prohibits, therefore, when one is *davening*, and a song is being sung he is permitted to clap.³⁰

In Camp

In many summer camps during the *zemiros* on *Shabbos*, the campers get on the benches and start dancing and clapping. It seems that there might have been a *hor'ah* in previous times which permitted it.³¹

Applauding

Applauding after one delivers a speech etc. is prohibited to be done on *Shabbos/Yom Tov*.³²

Whistling

One is permitted to whistle on *Shabbos/Yom Tov* along with others who are singing etc. even if it is to the tune of a specific song.³³

²⁸ Horav Yisroel Belsky Shlita, see *Yerushalmi Beiza* 5:2, *Rif* page 20, *Rambam Hilchos Shabbos* 23:5, *Kesef Mishnah* 5, *Bais Yosef, Shulchan Aruch* 339:3, *Chai Adom Shabbos* 44:19, *Biur Halacha v'lesapek*, "Shemiras Shabbos K'hilchoso 1:page 189:42, 28:26. This is not according to the *Chassidim*. Refer to *Avnei Yushfei* 2:35:7 why clapping with a *sheinu* is permitted.

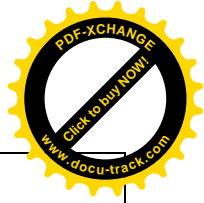
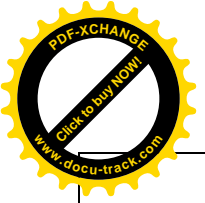
²⁹ Refer to *Yalkut Yosef* 339:8, *Nishmas Shabbos* 6:466, if it is done *derech shir* it is forbidden (see *Bais Yosef, Shulchan Aruch* 339:3, *Magen Avraham* 2, *Machtzis Ha'shekel, Yaskil Avdi sheilas shalom* 4:7). Some say snapping that is done to wake someone up is forbidden (*Mishnah Berurah* 338:1, 339:9, see *Shemiras Shabbos K'hilchoso* 28:36, *Nishmas Shabbos* 6:466). When one wants to quiet a child by clapping it should be done with a *sheinu*. (*Mishnah Berurah* 338:1).

³⁰ *Eishel Avraham Butchatch* *ibid*, *Nemukei Orach Chaim* *ibid*, *Oz Nedberu* 13:14, *Nishmas Shabbos* 6:465.

³¹ Horav Yisroel Belsky Shlita.

³² Horav Yisroel Belsky Shlita.

³³ Refer to *Rama* 338:1, *Magen Avraham* 2, *Shulchan Aruch Harav* 2, *Mishnah Berurah* 3, *Aruch Ha'shulchan* 6, *Kaf Ha'chaim* 7, *Shemiras Shabbos K'hilchoso* 28:37, *Yalkut Yosef* 338:9:pages 70-71, *Nishmas Shabbos* 6:362. See *Machzik Beracha* 338:1, *Birchei Yosef* 1. Refer to *Yalkut Yosef* 338:footnote 5 if one is permitted to compose a song on *Shabbos*.



זמנים – פרשת כי תשא
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סו"ז ק"ש גר"א- 9:03
מוצ"ש ר"ת- 7:17

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