SHABBAT: Carrying on Shabbat. Walls vs. Wires

Previously, we explained the debate between the rabbis on the mater of the definition of a public domain. If a public domain is an area where 600,000 people circulate or an area with wide streets (see **here**) . Today, we should examine another related matter . As we know the whole principle of this type of *'erub* is that by enclosing a public domain (*reshut harabbim*) that domain becomes a private domain (*reshut hayahid*) allowing us then to carry in that area during Shabbat. The question is what kind of enclosing will turn a public domain into a private domain? In order to to turn a public neighborhood into a private one you have to have a real fence around it. Think about a private gated neighborhoods or gated communities very common in South america (and Florida). These neighborhoods, according to Wikipedia, are enclosed with " a closed perimeter of walls and fences". Similarly, when we have an area which is Halakhically considered a public domain either because it has wide streets or because it has an actual circulation of 600,000 people, if that area is enclosed with an *'erub* made of "walls and gates", then it will be permitted to carry in that area. (To clarify: The definitions of reshut harabbim and reshut hayahid have to do not with who owns the property but with some topographic and architectural features. A forest owned by one single individual but which has no walls or fence surrounding it would be a public domain. On the other hand, even an entire city, if surrounded by walls with gates that close at night, would be a private domain). Now, there are areas which are not considered a public domain. For example: a village with very narrow streets and a small population. These areas are viewed like a semi-public domain (in Hebrew karmelit). We still cannot carry on Shabbat in semi-public domains, but the requirements for turning these areas into private domains are more flexible.

(*To be continued…*)

Shabbat Shalom.

Candle Lighting in NYC: 8:00 pm

Shabbat Ends in NYC: 9:01 pm

Let’s Go Moroccan

Sephardic food at its best.

by Levana Kirschenbaum