

Jewish Literacy Programme

Year 6 ~ Week 18

English Translation

חומש Words

to, for them (masc.)	לָהֶם
from you (masc., sing.)	מִמֶּךָ
(and) he got angry	וַיֵּחָר
he shall be killed	מוֹת יוּמָת
he shall pay	שָׁלֵם יִשְׁלֹם
(and) he built	וַיִּבֶן

English Translation / Explanation

G.K. Words

The ל"ט מלאכות (3)

(The 39 creative activities forbidden on Shabbos)

Threshing (separating food from its non-edible covering)

טָש 1

- One may not use a sponge on Shabbos [because he will squeeze the water out - a *Toldoh* (sub-category) of טָש]
- One may not squeeze any fruit that is normally squeezed for juice. *
- One may not squeeze lemon into tea. **
- If your hair got wet, you may not squeeze the water out. ***

Grinding or breaking down substances into very small particles

טוֹחֵן 2

- Anything that grows on the ground may not be cut into tiny pieces. *
- There are two major exceptions concerning the prohibition of grinding:
 - foods that don't grow on the ground do not have a prohibition of טוֹחֵן. **
 - there is no prohibition of grinding something that was already ground. ***
- You are not allowed to scrape dried mud off your shoes or clothing because it crumbles.

Selecting or sorting a mixture

בוֹרֵר 3

Of all the melachos, the Mishnah Berurah writes that people make most mistakes with Borer because of their lack of knowledge of its many halachos. The general rules are:

You may select from a mixture if ALL THREE of the following conditions are met:

- You may take **what you want** from what you do not want;
- You must take **with your hand**, not with a utensil;
- You must be selecting it **for immediate use**.

SEE **DISCUSSION** OVER PAGE

Selecting with wind

זוֹרֵה 4

Blowing a piece of dirt out of your food on שָׁבֵת is forbidden by the זוֹרֵה because of the מְלָאכָה of זוֹרֵה.

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Chumash Words with Pesukim

to, for them (masc.) / and the waters were for them as a wall, to their right and to their left	לָהֶם \ וְהַמַּיִם לָהֶם חוֹמָה מִיְמִינֵם וּמִשְׁמָאלֵם (שְׁמוֹת י"ד: כ"ב)
from you (masc., sing.) / for the thing is too heavy for you	מִמֶּךָ \ כִּי־כָבֵד מִמֶּךָ הָדָבָר (שְׁמוֹת י"ח: י"ח)
(and) he became angry / Bilom's anger was kindled (Bilom became angry) and he hit the donkey with his staff	וַיִּחַר \ וַיִּחַר־אַף בִּלְעָם וַיִּךְ אֶת־הָאֲתוֹן בַּמִּקֶּל (בְּמִדְבָּר כ"ב: כ"א)
he shall be killed / whoever touches the mountain shall surely be put to death	מוֹת יוֹמָת \ כָּל־הַנֹּגֵעַ בָּהָר מוֹת יוֹמָת (שְׁמוֹת י"ט: י"ב)
he shall pay / he shall surely pay, ox for ox	שָׁלֵם יִשְׁלֵם \ שָׁלֵם יִשְׁלֵם שׂוֹר תַּחַת הַשׂוֹר (שְׁמוֹת כ"א: ל"ו)
(and) he built / Avrohom built the altar there...and bound Yitzchok, his son	וַיִּבֶן \ וַיִּבֶן שָׁם אַבְרָהָם אֶת־הַמִּזְבֵּחַ ... וַיַּעֲקֹד אֶת־יִצְחָק בְּנוֹ (בְּרָאשִׁית כ"ב: ט')

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Notes

דש

* Therefore, you may not squeeze out the grapefruit-half that you ate to get out the juice [but you may eat the grapefruit-half with a spoon even though some juice might be squeezed out while taking the fruit, *as long as your intention is not for the juice*].

** However, one can squeeze the lemon into a solid; therefore, he may squeeze it onto a spoon of sugar and then put the sugar into the tea; likewise one may squeeze a lemon onto fish.

*** However, you may use a towel to absorb the water

טוחן

* Therefore, you may not cut an onion into tiny pieces (dicing) [but you may cut it into small pieces that are a little larger than you usually cut it, preferably right before the meal].

** Therefore, one may cut meat or cheese into tiny pieces, but not with a specialized grinding utensil, like a grinder or grater.

*** Therefore, one may crumble challah or a biscuit [since these are made from flour that was already ground], but not with a specialized grinding utensil.

בורר

DISCUSSION

Question: How can two people do the identical action on Shabbos, one doing nothing wrong while the other is breaking one of the Melochos, that is, he is מַחֲלֵל שָׁבֶת ?

Answer: There are many cases involving **Borer** that this is so! Let's just give two examples:

1) Reuven and Shimon are sitting down sharing a bowl of mixed nuts.

They both take out cashews. Reuven likes cashews and wants to eat them, so he has done nothing wrong, but Shimon wants the rest of the nuts cashew-free because he doesn't like cashews, so by taking out the cashews he has done Borer !

Reason: One is permitted to separate a mixture by taking what he **wants** and leaving what he doesn't want, but he may not take out what he doesn't want and leave the rest there.

2) Rachel and Leah are both setting up their Shabbos tables in their houses.

They are both separating knives from the mixed cutlery.

Rachel is setting up to eat immediately after the table is set, so she has done nothing wrong.

Leah, however, is setting up to eat after she comes home from shul, and has therefore done *Borer*.

Reason: One is only allowed to remove the good, or what she wants, for **immediate** use. If she takes the "good" but it is not for immediate use, like here, where she went to shul first, it is forbidden by the Torah.
