

A Practical Guide to Shabbos – Class #3

Gathering and Threshing

By Rabbi Dovid Bendory

מתנה טובה יש לי בבית גנזי ושבת שמיה ואני מבקש ליתנה לישראל לך והודיעם: אמר ליה הקדוש ברוך הוא למשה.

The Holy One, Blessed be He, said to Moshe: I have a good gift in my storehouse, and Shabbat is its name, and I ask that I give it to Yisroel. Go and tell them.

-- Shabbat 10b

***M'amer* – Gathering**

Av Melacha – gathering stalks of grain to make sheaves

Principle – Creating a new unit from individual pieces that (1) come from the ground and (2) are where they are normally gathered into units.

Gezeira – There is a rabbinic prohibition on gathering items that do not grow from the ground.

Possible *Toldot*

Gathering fruits from under a fruit tree
Making a fruit basket for sale or gift
Raking leaves into piles
Stringing figs
Stringing cheerios
Collecting flowers into a bouquet
Gathering toys scattered around the room
Gathering silverware
Collecting stones
Pushing crumbs into a pile
Stacking up plates

***Dosh* – Threshing**

Av Melacha – Separating grain from its husk.

Principle – breaking down an object into its usable components (or into usable and unusable components); removing part of an object from its natural container

Chayav (Torah prohibition) – if the part you are separating is desired

Gezeira / Assur (Rabbinic prohibition) – if the part being separated is of nominal significance

Possible *Toldot*

Shelling nuts
Peeling eggs
Peeling a banana / orange / grapefruit / etc.
Squeezing fruit juice from the fruit
Sucking juice from the fruit (like oranges)
Juice that oozes out from the fruit
Milking a cow
Nursing a baby
Expressing milk for the baby to drink (into a bottle)
Expressing milk (for relief for the mother)
Squeezing out liquid from a cloth
Baby wipes
Squeezing lemon into tea
Squeezing lemon onto fish (“*M'matek*”)

Squeezing lemon onto salad
Squeezing a tea bag
Squeezing brine from pickles
Crushing snow or ice to force the water out
Walking on snow or ice (which squeezes out water)
Walking on wet ground (which squeezes out water)