

## A Practical Guide to Shabbos – Class #8

### Shearing and Laundering

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רבי חנינא מיעטף וקאי אפניא דמעלי שבתא, אמר: בואו ונצא לקראת שבת המלכה. רבי ינאי לביש מאניה מעלי שבת, ואמר: בואי כלה בואי כלה

Rebbi Chanina would wrap up in his fine cloak on *Erev Shabbos* and say, "Come, let us go out and greet the *Shabbos* queen!" Rebbi Yanai would say, "Welcome bride, welcome bride!"

-- Shabbat 119a

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This class begins our second set of *malachos*, those involved in preparing the fabrics for the curtains in the *Mishkan*:

וכל אשה חכמת לב בידיה טוו ויביאו מטוה את התכלת ואת הארגמן את תולעת השני ואת השש

And the wise women hand-spun thread and brought it: blue, purple, crimson, and fine linen.

--Exodus 35:25

Shearing, Bleaching (laundering), Combing, Dyeing, Spinning, Warping, Setting the Loom, Weaving, Unweaving, Tying, Untying, Sewing, Tearing

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#### **גזז -- Gozez – Shearing**

*Av Melacha* – shearing sheep for wool.

Principle – removing the outer layer of skin, either to improve the skin or use the removed item.

*Toldot* -- removing hair, nails, or skin.

*Gezeira* – removing hair, etc. from hides.

#### **Possible *Toldot***

*Hair*:

Shaving

Haircuts

Tweezing eyebrows

Brushing hair with a hard brush

Brushing hair with a soft brush

Combing hair

Petting a dog

*Nails:*

- Clipping Nails
- Biting Nails
- Removing a broken / painful nail

*Skin:*

- Removing a scab
- Scratching the scalp if there is dandruff
- Flaking off dry skin

**Questions to think about:**

1. Can you brush a *sheitel* (wig) on *shabbos*?
2. What if you need to trim nails to use the *mikveh* and you forgot to do so before *shabbos*?

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**מלבין -- Melaben – Bleaching / Laundering**

*Av Melacha* – washing and cleaning the wool to make it white

Principle – removing an unwanted substance that is absorbed in a material

*Toldot* -- dusting, wringing, wetting dirty material

*Gezeira* -- soaking; wetting cloth so much that it will inevitably be squeezed when picked up; soiling a material such that you will be tempted to wash it

*Takanot* -- one may not hang wet clothing or laundry in the place where it is normally placed to dry

*Melaben* applies differently depending on the material:

- non-porous / non-absorbent -- plastic, glass, laminated, etc.
- semi-porous / somewhat absorbent-- leather, non-absorbent cloth like some carpets, wool
- porous / absorbent -- most cloth, sponges, towels

*Melabin* also applies differently depending on the type of absorbed substance:

- not absorbed -- lint, feathers, hair, solid foods
- partially absorbed -- mud, *cholent*
- absorbed particles -- dust, hair, powder
- absorbed liquids -- soup, drinks, wine

**Examples**

Non-Porous / Non-Absorbent Material

- Wine spilled on the counter
- Mud splashed on a raincoat
- Rain on a rain poncho
- Mud on boots or water-proof shoes

### Semi-Porous / Somewhat Absorbent Material

- White lint on a black suit
- White lint on a white suit
- *Cholent* on a leather skirt
- Wine on a leather skirt
- Hair in a wool sweater
- Wine on a wool sweater
- Rice on a shirt
- Wet hair

### Porous / Absorbant

- *Cholent* on the tablecloth
- Wine on the tablecloth

### **Questions to consider:**

1. How do you clean up a spill on *shabbos*?
2. What are the issues with rinsing a toothbrush after use?
3. What are the issues with drying dishes on *shabbos*?