

A Practical Guide to Shabbos – Class #9

Combing, Dyeing, Spinning, and Weaving

By Rabbi Dovid Bendory

ד"א ויאמר משה אכלוהו היום רבי יהושע אומר אם תזכו לשמור את השבת עתיד הקב"ה לתת לכם שלשה מועדות פסח ועצרת וסוכות לכך נאמר ויאמר משה אכלוהו היום ר' אלעזר המודעי אומר אם תזכו לשמור את השבת עתיד הקב"ה ליתן לכם שש מדות טובות ארץ ישראל ועולם הבא ועולם חדש ומלכות בית דוד וכהונה ולוייה לכך נאמר אכלוהו היום. ר' אליעזר אומר אם תזכו לשמור את השבת תנצלו משלש פורעניות מיומו של גוג ומגוג ומחבלו של משיח ומיום דין הגדול לכך נאמר אכלוהו היום

מכילתא דרבי ישמעאל בשלה - מס' ד ויסע פרשה ד ד"ה ויאמר משה

Rebbi Yehoshua said: If we merit to keep *shabbos*, Hashem will give us three festivals: *Pesach*, *Shavuos*, and *Sukkos*. Rebbi Elazar HaModai said: If we merit to keep *shabbos*, Hashem will give us six benefits: the Land of Israel, the World to Come, a Renewed World, the Davidic Kingship, *Kohanim*, and *Levi'im*. Rebbi Eliezer said: If we merit to keep *shabbos*, we will be saved from three cataclysms: the War of Gog and Magog, the Birth Pangs of the Messianic Age, and the Day of Great Judgement.

-- *Mechilta d'Rebbi Yishmael B'Shalach*

מנפץ -- Menapetz – Combing

Av Melacha – combing out the raw wool sheered from sheep

Principle – untangling a tangled mass of fibers to create usable fibers

Toldot – untangling a mass of string or yarn; beating flax

Possible *Toldot*

Combing hair or a *sheitel* (wig)

Untangling *Tzitzit*

Untangling a necklace

צובע -- Tzove'ah – Dyeing / Coloring

Av Melacha – dyeing wool

Principle – adding or strengthening color to improve an object

Toldot – adding color to material or flesh to change or strengthen color

Possible Toldot (Tzove'ah / Dyeing)

Makeup

- washing off makeup
- powder colors / makeup that is not oil-based
- applying lipstick, blush, eye shadow...

Cleaning up spills

- Using a rag
- Using a towel
 - A white towel...
 - ...that you would like to make a different color
 - ...that is going to be ruined
 - A towel that is the same color as the spill (a red towel for red wine)
 - A towel that is a different color from the spill (a light blue towel for red wine)
- Using a disposable napkin

Adding color to food is generally permitted, but there is room to be strict in certain cases...

- Mixing red and white wine
- Making tea
- Adding food color

טווה -- Toveh – Spinning

Av Melacha – spinning thread out of wool

Principle – twisting raw fibers into a usable object (string or thread)

Toldot – twisting thread; twining string; twisting wicks

Possible Toldot

Braiding or twisting existing usable string or thread into a stronger string or rope (*kosher*)

מיסך -- Maysech – "Warping"

Av Melacha – preparing the warp threads on a loom (vertical threads; the shuttle is used to pass weft threads over and under the warp threads)

Principle – preparing threads for weaving

עושה בתי גרינן -- Oseh batei Nirin – Setting up the Loom

Av Melacha – placing the warp threads through the loops on a loom

Principle – positioning threads for weaving

אורג -- Oreg – Weaving

Av Melacha – interweaving the weft threads in the warp threads

Principle – creating fabric by weaving

Toldot (Oreg / Weaving) –

- basket weaving
- positioning thread into woven cloth
- embroidery
- crochet
- needlepoint
- rug-hook
- knitting
- re-inserting hair into a *sheitel*
- braiding a *sheitel*

Possible *Toldah*

Flattening out a pulled thread in a sweater (or any cloth)

פוצע -- Potze'ah – Unweaving

Av Melacha – removing or cutting woven threads in order to correct prior weaving

Principle – removing or tearing threads in a fabric for a constructive purpose

Toldot – unweaving any of the items in the *toldot* of *oreg* for a constructive purpose

Toldah

Removing a thread from any cloth to throw it away is a *d'rabbanan* if it is simply garbage (a hanging thread) or (possibly) a *d'oraita* if it improves the cloth