



Volume 7. Issue 13

Kilei Zeraim – Wheat and Spelt

After completing the third *masechet*, this week we begin *masechet kilayim*. The *masechet* deals with the various forbidden mixtures relating to grains (*kilei zeraim*), grains planted in vineyards (*kilei kerem*), animals (*kilei behema*) and fabrics (*kelei begadim*). The *masechet* opens with *kilei zerayim* detailing pairs of grains that, despite being different, may be planted together and would not violate the prohibition of *kilayim*. A closer look at the *Mishnah* can teach us much about the prohibition of *kilei zerayim*.

The *Bartenura* points out that even though the pairs of grain listed do not constitute *kilayim*, two grains for different pairs would. For example, wheat and spelt (*kusmin*) would not be allowed to be planted together.

The categorisation of species listed in this *masechet* is not specific to *kilayim*. The *Mishnah* (*Trumot* 2:6) teaches that anything listed in our *masechet* as being different types is considered different types for *trumot u'ma'asrot*. This means for example that one would not be able to separate *trumah* from spelt for *tevel* wheat.

The *Bartenura* notes however that when discussing the laws of *challah*, the *Gemara* (*Menachot* 70a) teaches that *kusmin* is a type of wheat. He explains that for the laws of *challah*, wheat and spelt can combine to make the minimum quantity thereby requiring the separation of *challah*. Yet, for the laws of *kilayim* they are considered different species. Note that for the laws of *challah* not all grains combine – they must be of the same “type” (*Challah* 4:2)¹. Why

then is there a difference between the laws of *kilayim* and the laws of *challah*?

The *Tosfot R' Akiva Eiger* explains that for *kilayim* and *trumah* the focus is one the species of products in question; *trumah* is separated from grain. For *challah* however, since *challah* is separated from dough, the issues is with the similarity in the dough form (*isa*).² The *Mishnah Rishona* understands that this assessment is based on similarities in appearance and taste of the bread. How is categorisation assessed for *kilayim*?

Citing the *Tosfot Yom Tov* (1:5), the *Mishnah Rishona* explains that for *kilayim* the differences in physical appearance are of prime importance, even if their tastes are similar. The apparent difficulty with this assertion is that that *Yerushalmi* teaches that two species of wheat are not considered *kilayim* even if their colour is different!³ The *Mishna Rishona* therefore refines his explanation. In the case of varieties of wheat their taste is identical; consequently differences in appearance are not significant. With the pairs in our *Mishnah* however, there are minor variations in taste. Because their appearance is similar, they are not considered *kilayim* if planted together. If their appearance was different it would be considered *kilayim*. That said, if there is a large variation in taste, then even if the species have a similar appearance, they would be considered *kilayim*.

Yisrael Yitzchak Bankier

¹ The *Bartenura* (*Menachot* 10:6) explains that this is when the types of dough are kneaded separately yet “bite” into one another. If however the grains are kneaded together, then even different types combine.

² See the *Tosfot R' Akiva Eiger* for an another answer.

³ See *Kehati's* introduction to this *Mishnah*, for the *Yerushalmi*.

Revision Questions

דמאי ה' – ה' א' – ה' א'

- How should a *ger* and *goi* divide their inherited possessions? (י' א')
- If an *am ha'aretz* selling fruit in *Surya* admits that the fruit is from Israel yet claim that tithes have been taken, is he believed? Why? (י' א')
- Explain the issue raised regarding a *chaver* who buys produce for himself and an *am ha'aretz*. (י' א')
- Can one separate *trumot* and *ma'asrot* from *demai* on *Shabbat*? What can a *chaver* do if he accepts an invitation to eat at an *am ha'aretz's* house on *Shabbat*? (י' א')
- Continuing from the previous question, provided that the *chaver* makes the necessary "preparation" what must he do before, e.g., drinking wine at the meal? (י' ב')
- What must an employee do before eating food provided by his *am ha'aretz* employer (3 opinions)? (י' ג')
- If someone purchases wine from a *Kuti* and does not have time to separate *trumot* and *ma'asrot* before *Shabbat* what can they do during *bein ha'shmashot* (between sunset and nightfall)? (י' ד')
- If one has dates that are *tevel* at home, and is unable to get home and separate *trumot* and *ma'asrot* before *Shabbat* what should he do? Does he act differently if the dates were *demai*? (י' ה')
- What is the ruling if someone has two baskets of *tevel* produce and says: (י' ו')
 - "The *ma'asrot* of the first basket shall be in the second basket"?
 - "The *ma'asrot* of this one shall be in the other, and the other's in this one"?
 - "The *ma'asrot* of each shall be in the each other's basket"?
- What should one do if he has a mixture of: (י' ז')
 - 100 parts *tevel* and 100 parts *chulin*?
 - 100 parts *tevel* and 100 parts *ma'aser rishon*?
 - 100 parts *chulin* and 100 parts *ma'aser rishon*?
 - 100 parts *tevel* and 90 parts *ma'aser rishon*?
 - 90 parts *tevel* and 80 parts *ma'aser rishon*?
- What should one do if when separating *ma'aser rishon* from barrels of wine, he is unaware of his intention when saying: (י' ח')
 - The outer row shall be *ma'aser*?
 - Half the outer row shall be *ma'aser*?
 - A row shall be *ma'aser*?
 - Half a row shall be *ma'aser*?
 - One barrel shall be *ma'aser*?

כלאים א' – א' – ג'

- The first *Mishnah* lists pairs of produce – would they be considered *kilayim* if planted together? (א' א')
- The second and third *Mishnayot* lists pairs of vegetables – are they considered *kilayim*? (א' ב' – ג')

Local Shiurim

Sunday -Thursday

After *Ma'ariv*
Mizrachi Shul
 Melbourne, Australia

Friday & Shabbat

10 minutes before *Mincha*
Beit Ha'Roeh
 Melbourne, Australia

ONLINE SHIURIM

Rabbi Chaim Brown
www.shemayisrael.com/mishna/

Rav Meir Pogrow
613.org/mishnah.html

Rabbi E. Kornfeld
Rabbi C. Brown
<http://www.dafyomi.co.il/calendar/myomi/myomi-thisweek.htm>

SHIUR ON KOL HALOSHON

Rabbi Moshe Meir Weiss
 In US dial: 718 906 6400
 Then select: 1 – 2 – 4

Next Week's Mishnayot...

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	שבת קודש
3 rd October כ"ה תשרי	4 th October כ"ו תשרי	5 th October כ"ז תשרי	6 th October כ"ח תשרי	7 th October כ"ט תשרי	8 th October ל' תשרי	9 th October א' חשוון
Kilayim 1:4-5	Kilayim 1:6-7	Kilayim 1:8-9	Kilayim 2:1-2	Kilayim 2:3-4	Kilayim 2:5-6	Kilayim 2:7-8

