

זרעים

Seder Zera'im (Order: "Seeds")

Agriculture, Taxation, Donations and Blessings

1 *Berakhot* (ברכות): "Blessings" (9 chapters). Laws concerning the *Shema'*, the *Shemona' Esrei* (the "eighteen" blessings of the central prayer), blessings before and after eating different types of food, and miscellaneous blessings¹.

2 *Peah* (פאה): "Corner" (8 chapters). The five agricultural gifts to the poor².

3 *Demai* (דמאי): "Doubtful" (7 chapters). Produce which may have been tithed, and therefore *may* be suitable for consumption.

4 *Kilayim* (כלאים): "Mixtures" (9 chapters). Prohibitions that concern forbidden combinations of seeds, animals and textiles³.

5 *Shevi'it* (שביעית): "Seventh" (10 chapters). The seventh and final year of the agricultural cycle, on which it is forbidden to work the land⁴.

6 *Terumot* ("תרומות"): "Elevated [offerings]" (11 chapters). Stipulations concerning the tax (the *terumah*) given to the *kohanim* (priests) at the end of the harvest⁵.

7 *Ma'aserot* (מעשרות): "Tithes" (5 chapters). After donating *terumah* to the *kohanim*, one tenth of the remainder is given to the *leviyim* (Levites), who assist in the temple but who do not own property. On the third and sixth years of the agricultural cycle, an additional tithe is given to the poor⁶.

8 *Ma'aser Sheini* (מעשר שני): "Second Tithe" (5 chapters). On every year of the agricultural cycle, save the third and the sixth, a second tithe is to be taken from the produce after the first

1. Deuteronomy 6:4-9, 8:10, 11:13, 18-20; Psalms 55:18; Daniel 6:11.

2. Leviticus 19:9-10, 23:22; Deuteronomy 14:28-29, 24:19-22, 26:12.

3. Leviticus 19:19; Deuteronomy 22:9-11.

4. Exodus 23:10-11; Leviticus 25:1-7; Deuteronomy 15:1-3, 9-11; Nehemiah 10:32.

5. Leviticus 22:10-14; Numbers 18:8, 11-12, 25-32; Deuteronomy 12:6, 18:3-5; Nehemiah 10:38-40.

6. Numbers 18:21-32.

tithe has been given to the *leviyim*. It must be either consumed in Jerusalem or redeemed through the setting aside of funds to be used in Jerusalem⁷.

9 *Challah* (חלה): "Rolled [Portion of Dough]" (4 chapters). After preparing dough, one is required to set aside a portion that is donated to the *kohanim* as a tax on bread⁸.

10 *'Orlah* (ערלה): "Foreskin" (3 chapters). The fruit that grows on a tree during the first three years after being planted is prohibited for consumption⁹.

11 *Bikkurim* (ביכורים): "First Fruits" (3 chapters). The donation of the first (or choicest) of ones fruits, be they wheat, barley, grapes, figs, pomegranates, olives or dates¹⁰.

מועד

Seder Moed (Order: "Season")

Shabbat and Festivals

1 (12) *Shabbat* (שבת): "[Day of] Cessation" (24 chapters). Laws of *Shabbat*, particularly as they concern the thirty-nine categories of forbidden labour¹¹.

2 (13) *Eruvin* (ערובין): "Mergings" (10 chapters). A continuation of the laws of *Shabbat* as regards the merging of private and public domains to permit carrying between them, and the symbolic increasing of the *Shabbat* perimeter to permit walking longer distances¹².

3 (14) *Pesachim* (פסחים): "Pesachs"¹³ (10 chapters). Laws pertaining to the *Pesach* offering and the festival in general¹⁴.

7. Leviticus 27:30-31; Deuteronomy 14:22-29, 26:12-15.

8. Numbers 15:17-21; Ezekiel 44:30; Nehemiah 10:38.

9. Leviticus 19:23-25.

10. Exodus 23:19, 34:26; Numbers 18:13; Deuteronomy 26:1-11; Ezekiel 44:30; Nehemiah 10:36.

11. Genesis 2:1-3; Exodus 16:22-26, 29-30, 20:8-11, 23:12, 31:12-17, 34:21, 35:2-3; Leviticus 19:3, 30, 23:3, 26:2; Numbers 15:32-36; Deuteronomy 5:12-15; Isaiah 56:2, 58:13-14; Jeremiah 17:21-22; Ezekiel 20:12; Amos 8:5; Nehemiah 10:32, 13:15-19.

12. Exodus 16:29-30.

13. The word here either denotes the festival of *Pesach*, with which the tractate is concerned, or the offering that is also called *Pesach*. The word's etymology may have something to do with "mercy", or with "leaping over [something]".

14. Exodus 12:1-28, 39, 43-50, 13:3-10, 23:15, 18, 34:18, 25; Leviticus 23:4-8; Numbers 9:1-14, 28:16-25;

- 4 (15) *Sheqalim* (שקלים): "Coins" (8 chapters). The half-*shekel* tax to the temple treasury, used for the general maintenance of the temple and the communal sacrifices¹⁵.
- 5 (16) *Yoma* (יומא): "The Day" (8 chapters). The *Yom Kippur* proceedings in the temple, as well as various laws that pertain to fasting and repenting in general¹⁶.
- 6 (17) *Sukkah* (סוכה): "Booth" (5 chapters). Proceedings on the festival of *Sukkot*, the construction of the *sukkah*, and the laws pertaining to *lulavim* and *etrogim* (the palm branches and citrus fruits waved on the festival)¹⁷.
- 7 (18) *Beitzah* (ביצה): "Egg" (5 chapters). The types of labour that are permitted and prohibited on the festivals¹⁸.
- 8 (19) *Rosh haShana* (ראש השנה): "Beginning of the Year" (4 chapters). The laws pertaining to the beginning of the month (*Rosh Chodesh*), as well as the beginning of the year¹⁹.
- 9 (20) *Ta'anit* (תענית): "Affliction" (4 chapters). Laws pertaining to public fasts, particularly at times of drought, and the prayers to be recited on them. The tractate concludes with a discussion of the 17th of Tammuz and the 9th of Av: two public fasts whose observance, while originally connected to the onset of the Babylonian Exile in c.597 BCE, was later connected to the destruction of the second temple in c.69 CE²⁰.
- 10 (21) *Megillah* (מגילה): "Scroll" (4 chapters). Laws pertaining to the festival of *Purim*, the reading of the Scroll of Esther (*Megillat Ester*), the reading of the Torah in general and the sanctity of the synagogue²¹.

Deuteronomy 16:1-8; Joshua 5:10-11; 2 Kings 23:21-23; Ezekiel 45:21-24; Ezra 6:19-22; 2 Chronicles 8:13, 30:1-5, 13-22, 35:1-19.

15. Exodus 30:11-16; 2 Kings 12:5-17, 22:3-7 (= 2 Chronicles 34:8-14); Nehemiah 10:33-34; 2 Chronicles 24:4-14.

16. Exodus 30:10; Leviticus 16:1-34, 23:26-32; Numbers 29:7-11.

17. Exodus 23:16, 34:22; Leviticus 23:33-43; Numbers 29:12-38; Deuteronomy 16:13-15, 31:10-11; 1 Kings 8:65-66 (= 2 Chronicles 7:8-10), 12:32-33; Ezekiel 45:25; Zechariah 14:16-19; Ezra 3:4; Nehemiah 8:14-18; 2 Chronicles 8:13.

18. Exodus 12:16; Leviticus 23:7-8, 21, 24-25, 28, 30-32, 35-36, 39.

19. Leviticus 23:23-25; Numbers 29:1-6; Psalms 81:2-5; Nehemiah 8:2-12.

20. Numbers 10:9; 1 Kings 8:35-39; Joel 1:14, 2:15-17; Zechariah 7:2-3, 8:19; 2 Chronicles 20:3-4, 9.

21. Esther 9:16-32.

11 (22) *Mo'ed Qatan* (מועד קטן): "Minor Season" (3 chapters). Laws that relate to the permitted and forbidden labour on the days between the first and last days of *Pesach* and *Sukkot* (the "intermediate days", or *Chol haMoed*²²), as well as general laws of mourning²³.

12 (23) *Chagigah* (חגיגה): "Festival Offering" (3 chapters). Laws pertaining to the three pilgrimage festivals (*Pesach*, *Shavuot* and *Sukkot*), the sacrifices to be brought in the temple on those occasions, and miscellaneous laws concerning the cleansing of temple implements after the festival²⁴.

נשים

Seder Nashim (Order: "Women")

Marriage, Divorce and Various Vows

1 (24) *Yevamot* (יבמות): "Sisters-in-Law" (16 chapters). Should a man die without leaving his wife (or one of his wives) any children, the man's brother is obligated to marry the woman and father offspring with her. The laws of "levirate marriage"²⁵, together with laws pertaining to forbidden sexual liaisons, form the subject of this tractate²⁶.

2 (25) *Ketubot* (כתובות): "Marriage Contracts" (13 chapters). Obligations of men towards their wives, women towards their husbands, the laws of marriage in general and the drafting of marriage contracts. This tractate also features legislation pertaining to rape²⁷.

3 (26) *Nedarim* (נדריים): "Vows" (11 chapters). Various types of vows, including vows specifically made by women, and the process by which they can be annulled²⁸.

4 (27) *Nazir* (נזיר): "Nazir" (9 chapters). The *Nazir* is the person, male or female, who takes an oath upon themselves to let their hair grow, abstain from eating the product of the vine and

22. חול המועד, lit. "the non-holy [days] of the season".

23. Leviticus 23:37.

24. Exodus 12:14, 23:14-17, 34:20, 23-24; Deuteronomy 16:14-17.

25. *Levir* being the Latin for "brother-in-law".

26. Genesis 38:8; Leviticus 18:6-23, 20:11-21; Deuteronomy 25:5-10; Ruth 4:5, 8-10.

27. Exodus 22:15-17; Deuteronomy 22:13-21, 28-29.

28. Numbers 30:1-17.

from drinking any intoxicants, and to maintain a distance from all corpses, including those of close kin²⁹.

5 (28) *Sotah* (סוטה): "Sotah" (9 chapters). The *Sotah* is the woman who is suspected of adultery by her husband. Additionally, this tractate also deals with the instructions given by priests to soldiers on the battlefield, as well as the laws that concern the one who discovers a human corpse³⁰.

6 (29) *Gittin* (גיטין): "Bills of Divorce" (9 chapters). The laws of divorce and of the drafting of a bill of divorce³¹.

7 (30) *Qiddushin* (קידושין): "Betrothals" (4 chapters). Laws pertaining to betrothal, the first stage of marriage, as well as laws that concern the acquisition of slaves and other property, and the relationship between parents and their children³².

נזיקין

Seder Neziqin (Order: "Damages")

Acquisition of Property, Torts, Business and Judicial Law

1 (31) *Bava Qama* (בבא קמא): "First Gate" (10 chapters). Laws of torts, including bodily harm, damage to property and theft³³.

2 (32) *Bava Metzi'a* (בבא מציעא): "Middle Gate" (10 chapters). Various laws that concern lost property, the giving of loans, the acquisition of property, the ethics of business, the charging of interest, the relationship between employers and their employees, the rights of labourers, the responsibilities of guardians, the leasing of real estate, and the responsibilities of tenants³⁴.

3 (33) *Bava Batra* (בבא בתרא): "Final Gate" (10 chapters). Various laws that concern joint ownership of property, obligations towards the property of others, sizes and weights,

29. Numbers 6:1-21; Judges 13:2-5, 16:17; Amos 2:11-12.

30. Numbers 5:11-31; Deuteronomy 20:1-9, 21:1-9, 24:5.

31. Deuteronomy 24:1-4; Isaiah 50:1; Jeremiah 3:1, 6-8; Malachi 2:13-17.

32. Cf. n31 above.

33. Exodus 21:1-37, 22:1-30; Leviticus 5:20-26, 24:18-20; Numbers 5:5-8.

34. Exodus 22:1-30, 23:1-9; Leviticus 19:13, 33, 25:14, 17, 35-37; Deuteronomy 22:1-4, 23:20-21, 25-26, 24:6, 10-18, 25:4; Jeremiah 22:3; Ezekiel 18:7-8, 22:12, 29; Psalms 15:5; Proverbs 28:8.

inheritance, the drafting of legal documents and the sale of land, animals, food and other objects. *Bava Qama*, *Bava Metzi'a* and *Bava Batra* were all originally one long tractate named *Nezikin* ("Damages")³⁵.

4 (34) *Sanhedrin* (סנהדרין): "Sanhedrin" (11 chapters). The makeup of the court, the means by which witnesses are to be interrogated, the means by which legislation is enacted, and the details of the court's execution of the death penalty³⁶.

5 (35) *Makkot* (מכות): "Beatings" (3 chapters). Originally the conclusion to *Sanhedrin*, this tractate details additional laws concerning capital and corporal punishment³⁷.

6 (36) *Shevu'ot* (שבועות): "Oaths" (8 chapters). Various categories of oaths, whether voluntary or demanded by a court, as well as the result of inadvertently offering a sacrifice while in a state of impurity³⁸.

7 (37) *'Eduyot* (עדייות): "Testimonies" (8 chapters). A collection of legal statements attributed to early generations of rabbis, presented according to their names and not to any theme. This tractate is sometimes called *Bekhirta* ("Choice"), possibly reflecting its honoured status³⁹.

8 (38) *'Avodah Zarah* (עבודה זרה): "Foreign Worship" (5 chapters). Prohibitions against idolatry, and restrictions on social and business intercourse with idolaters⁴⁰.

9 (39) *Avot* (אבות): "Fathers" (6 chapters). Like *'Eduyot*, this tractate is presented around the names of the rabbis whose opinions are recorded, rather than around any theme. *Avot* is the only tractate of the Mishna to deal solely with ethical, rather than legal, concerns. Its popularity is such that it is also frequently published as a stand-alone text, to which the title *Pirqei Avot* ("Chapters of *Avot*") is frequently applied.

10 (40) *Horayot* (הוריות): "Warnings" (3 chapters). Regulations pertaining to communal sin offerings, as well as the sin offerings of the *kohen gadol* (high priest) and the king, the

35. Leviticus 19:35-36; Numbers 27:8-11; Deuteronomy 21:15-17, 25:13-17.

36. Exodus 23:2; Leviticus 21:10-12; Numbers 35:30; Deuteronomy 13:13-18, 16:18-20, 17:6-20, 21:18-23.

37. Exodus 20:16; Numbers 35:9-28, 32; Deuteronomy 5:17, 19:1-21, 25:1-3.

38. Exodus 20:7; Leviticus 5:1-13, 20-26, 19:12; Numbers 30:3.

39. The Talmud (Berakhot 28a) states that Tractate 'Eduyot was composed on the day that Rabban Gamliel II was deposed for having publicly humiliated his brother-in-law, and Rabbi Elazar ben Azariah appointed to the position of *Nasi* in his stead. On that day, the guard at the entrance to the study house was sent away, and hundreds of students filed in to relate teachings that they had heard from their masters. Those teachings, according to this tradition, are what comprise the tractate's contents.

40. Exodus 23:13, 24, 32-33, 34:12-16; Leviticus 18:3; Deuteronomy 7:1-5, 25-26, 12:1-3.

function of the court, and the procedure that operates when the *kohen gadol* or the court mistakenly issues an erroneous ruling⁴¹.

קודשים

Seder Qodshim (Order: "Sacred Things")

Temple Procedures, Slaughtering of Animals and Food Preparation

1 (41) *Zevachim* (זבחים): "Slaughtered [Animals]" (14 chapters). The procedure by which the seven different kinds of animal and bird sacrifices take place, and the means by which they can be invalidated⁴².

2 (42) *Menachot* (מנחות): "Meal Offerings" (13 chapters). The procedure by which the nine different kinds of meal offerings take place, and the means by which they can be invalidated. This tractate also mentions laws concerning *tzitzit* and *tefillin*⁴³.

3 (43). *Chullin* (חולין): "Non-Holy Things"⁴⁴ (12 chapters). Laws concerning the slaughter of animals for the purpose of consumption, as well as the preparation of food⁴⁵.

4 (44) *Bekhorot* (בכורות): "Firstborns" (9 chapters). Laws of firstborn sons as regards inheritance and vocation as well as firstborn livestock, and the procedure whereby the latter is sacrificed, as well as what may make it unfit for ritual slaughter⁴⁶.

5 (45) *'Arakhin* (ערכין): "Valuations" (9 chapters). The means by which people and land are valued for the purposes of monetary donations to the temple⁴⁷.

41. Leviticus 4:1-23; Numbers 15:22-29.

42. Leviticus 1:1-17, 3:1-7:38.

43. Leviticus 2:1-16, 5:11-12, 6:7-11, 13-17, 7:9-10, 23:17, 24:5-9; Numbers 5:15, 15:4-10.

44. Here, as in n22 above, I chose "non-holy" as the English for חול, as "secular" and "profane" carry connotations of irreligiosity and vulgarity.

45. Genesis 32:33; Exodus 22:30; Leviticus 17:13-14, 22:28; Deuteronomy 12:20-24, 14:21, 18:3-4, 22:6-7; Ezekiel 4:14.

46. Exodus 13:2, 11-15, 22:28-29, 34:19-20; Leviticus 27:26, 32; Numbers 3:13, 18:15-18; Deuteronomy 12:17-18, 15:19-23, 21:15-17; Nehemiah 10:37.

47. Leviticus 25:25-34, 27:1-8, 16-24, 28.

6 (46) *Temurah* (תמורה): "Substitution" (7 chapters). Laws that concern the substitution of one consecrated animal or object for another⁴⁸.

7 (47) *Keritot* (כריתות): "Excisions" (6 chapters). Laws that concern the accidental violations of any of the thirty-six biblical prohibitions that merit *karet* ("[spiritual, or figurative] excision").

8 (48) *Me'ilah* (מעילה): "Trespass" (6 chapters). Reparations made to account for the improper use of animals or objects consecrated to the temple⁴⁹.

9 (49) *Tamid* (תמיד): "Perpetual" (7 chapters). The animal and meal offerings that occur twice daily, once in the morning and again in the evening, as well as details concerning the division of labour amongst the *kohanim*⁵⁰.

10 (50) *Middot* (מדות): "Measurements" (5 chapters). Details concerning the size and dimensions of the temple and its various chambers⁵¹.

11 (51) *Qinim* (קנינים): "Nests" (3 chapters). Various additional details as concern the procedure by which the six different kinds of bird sacrifices take place⁵².

טהרות

Seder Taharot (Order: Pure Things)

Ritual Impurity and the Process of Purification

1 (52) *Keilim* (כלים): "Utensils" (30 chapters). The various levels of impurity, insofar as they affect various types of objects⁵³.

2 (53) *Ohalot* (אהלות): "Dwellings" (18 chapters). The impurity of corpses, insofar as it affects both people and the dwellings in which the corpse is laid⁵⁴.

48. Leviticus 27:9-10, 27:32-33.

49. Leviticus 5:14-16.

50. Exodus 29:38-42, 30:7-8; Numbers 28:1-8; 2 Kings 16:15; Ezekiel 46:13-15; Nehemiah 10:34; 2 Chronicles 13:11.

51. Ezekiel 43:11.

52. Leviticus 1:14-17, 5:7, 12:8, 14:21-31, 15:14-15, 29-30; Numbers 6:10-11.

53. Leviticus 11:29-36, 15:4-6, 9-12, 19-27; Numbers 19:14-15, 31:19-24.

54. Numbers 19:11-22.

3 (54) *Nega'im* (נגעים): "Physical Afflictions" (14 chapters). Various skin conditions, including leprosy, and the means by which the affected person may be purified⁵⁵.

4 (55) *Parah* (פרה): "Cow" (12 chapters). The process whereby a special mixture involving the ashes of a red heifer may be prepared, and by which the ceremony of removing corpse impurity from a person may be enacted⁵⁶.

5 (56) *Taharot* (טהרות): "Pure Things" (10 chapters). The various levels of impurity, insofar as they affect foods and liquid, the vessels in which the foods are prepared and the people who prepare them⁵⁷.

6 (57) *Miqvaot* (מקואות): "Bodies of Water" (10 chapters). The construction of ritual baths, as well as the procedure of immersion for both people and objects⁵⁸.

7 (58) *Niddah* (נידה): "Impurity"⁵⁹ (10 chapters). Laws concerning the impurity of women who are menstruating or who have given birth⁶⁰.

8 (59) *Makhshirin* (מכשירין): "Things that Make Suitable" (6 chapters). Laws that pertain to foods that are rendered impure again by coming into contact with an impure liquid⁶¹.

9 (60) *Zavim* (זבים): "[Genital] Discharges" (5 chapters). Various types of genital discharges and the means by which the afflicted person may be purified⁶².

10 (61) *Tevul Yom* (טבול יום): "Daily Immersion" (4 chapters). The regulations that concern a person or an object with a minor contamination, such that they require both ablution and the completion of the day⁶³.

11 (62) *Yadayim* (ידיים): "Hands" (4 chapters). Laws pertaining to the ritual washing of the hands, as well as discussion concerning the sanctity of certain texts, and debates between the Pharisees and the Sadducees on matters of impurity law.

12 (63) *'Uktzim* (עוקצים): "Stalks" (3 chapters). The various levels of impurity, insofar as they affect various types of plants and fruit.

55. Leviticus 13:1-59, 14:1-57; Deuteronomy 24:8.

56. Numbers 19:1-22.

57. Leviticus 11:29-32, 17:15.

58. Leviticus 11:31-32, 36, 15:13, 16; Numbers 31:23.

59. Possibly, "Isolation".

60. Leviticus 12:1-8, 15:19-31, 18:19, 20:8; Ezekiel 18:6.

61. Leviticus 11:34-38.

62. Leviticus 15:1-33.

63. Leviticus 11:32, 22:6-7.

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