

Mishnah Shabbat

Chapter 16

Source Sheet by Michael Werbow

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(1) With regard to **all sacred writings, one may rescue them from the fire** on Shabbat, **whether they are read** in public, e.g., Torah or Prophets scrolls, **or whether they are not read** in public, e.g., Writings scrolls. This ruling applies **even though they were written in any foreign language**. According to the Rabbis, those scrolls are not read in public, but they are still sacred and require burial. **And why does one not read** the Writings on Shabbat? **Due to suspension of Torah study in the study hall**. People came to the study hall at specific times on Shabbat to hear words of *halakha*, and other texts were not allowed at those times. **One may rescue the casing of a Torah scroll from a fire on Shabbat together with the Torah scroll, and the casing of phylacteries along with the phylacteries, even if they have money inside them. And to where may one rescue them? Into an alley that is closed**, which, if it is surrounded on three sides, is considered to be a private domain by Torah law. **Ben Beteira says: Even into an open alley**.

(2) **One may rescue food for three meals** from a fire on Shabbat. One may rescue food **that is suitable for a person for a person;** and one may rescue food **that is suitable for an animal for an animal. How so?** If a fire ignited on **Friday night** before the Shabbat evening meal, **one may rescue food for three meals**. If a fire ignited **in the morning**, after the Shabbat evening meal has been eaten and before the meal of Shabbat day, **one may only rescue food for two meals**. If a fire ignited **in the afternoon**, one may rescue **food for one meal**. **Rabbi Yosei says: One may always rescue food for three meals**, which is the measure that the Sages permitted without distinguishing between the times of day.

משנה שבת ט"ז

(א) כָּל כְּתָבֵי הַקֹּדֶשׁ מִצִּילִין אוֹתָן מִפְּנֵי הַדִּלְקָה, בֵּין שְׁקוּרִין בָּהֶן וּבֵין שְׂאִין קוּרִין בָּהֶן. וְאֵף עַל פִּי שְׁכֵתוּבִים בְּכָל לָשׁוֹן, טְעוּנִים גְּנִיזָה. וּמִפְּנֵי מָה אֵין קוּרִין בָּהֶן, מִפְּנֵי בִטּוּל בֵּית הַמְדַרְשׁ. מִצִּילִין תֵּיק הַסֵּפֶר עִם הַסֵּפֶר, וְתֵיק הַתְּפִלִּין עִם הַתְּפִלִּין, וְאֵף עַל פִּי שְׂיֵשׁ בְּתוֹכָן מְעוֹת. וְלֵהִיכֹן מִצִּילִין אוֹתָן, לְמַבּוּי שְׂאִינוּ מִפְּלֵשׁ. בֶּן בֵּיתְרָא אוֹמֵר, אֵף לְמִפְּלֵשׁ:

(ב) מִצִּילִין מְזוּן שְׁלֹשׁ סְעֻדוֹת, הָרְאוּי לְאָדָם לְאָדָם, הָרְאוּי לְבִהֵמָה לְבִהֵמָה. כִּי־צַד. נִפְלָה דִלְקָה בְּלֵילֵי שַׁבָּת, מִצִּילִין מְזוּן שְׁלֹשׁ סְעֻדוֹת, בְּשַׁחֲרִית, מִצִּילִין מְזוּן שְׁתֵּי סְעֻדוֹת, בְּמִנְחָה, מְזוּן סְעֻדָּה אַחַת. רַבִּי יוֹסֵי אוֹמֵר, לְעוֹלָם מִצִּילִין מְזוּן שְׁלֹשׁ סְעֻדוֹת:

(3) **One may rescue a basket full of loaves** and the like from a fire on Shabbat, **even if there is food for one hundred meals in it. And one may rescue a round cake of dried figs**, even though it is very large, **and one may rescue a barrel full of wine. And one may even say to others: Come and rescue for yourselves. And if** the people who rescue with him were **clever, they make a calculation with him after Shabbat** in order to receive payment for the items that they rescued. **To where may one rescue** items moved from the fire? One may do so **to a courtyard** where an *eiruv* was established, and it is permitted to carry. **Ben Beteira says:** One may do so **even to a courtyard where an eiruv was not** established.

(4) **And one may carry there all the utensils, and put on all** the garments **that he can wear, and one may wrap all** the cloths **that he can wrap** around himself in order to rescue his property. **Rabbi Yosei says:** One may put on only **eighteen garments** at once, as people sometimes wear that number of garments, but not more. However, **one may again put on** that number of garments **and carry it out. And he may say to others: Come and rescue with me.**

(5) **Rabbi Shimon ben Nannas says: One may spread out a moist goat's hide over a box, a chest, or a closet that caught fire, because** the fire **singes** and does not burn it. The fire does not burn the wet goat's hide but merely singes it, and by doing so the wooden vessels are preserved. **And one may establish a barrier** against the fire **with all vessels, both full and empty, so that the fire will not pass. Rabbi Yosei prohibits** using **new earthenware vessels full of water, because they cannot withstand** the heat of **the fire and they will burst and extinguish the fire**, and it is prohibited to cause the fire to be extinguished on Shabbat even indirectly.

(ג) מְצִילִין סֵל מֵלֵא כְּכָרוֹת,
וְאֵף עַל פִּי שְׂיֵשׁ בּוֹ מֵאָה
סְעָדוֹת, וְעֵגוּל שֶׁל דְּבִלָּה,
וְחֻבִּית שֶׁל יַיִן. וְאוֹמֵר
לְאַחֲרִים, בָּאוּ וְהִצִּילוּ לָכֶם.
וְאִם הָיוּ פְּקֻחִין, עוֹשִׂין עִמּוֹ
חֶשְׁבוֹן אַחֲרֵי הַשַּׁבָּת. לְהֵיכֵן
מְצִילִין אוֹתוֹ, לְחֻצֵר
הַמְּעֻרְבֶת. בֵּן בֵּיתְרָא אוֹמֵר,
אֵף לְשֵׁאִינָה מְעֻרְבֶת:

(ד) וּלְשֵׁם מוֹצִיא כָּל כְּלֵי
תְּשֻׁמִּישׁוֹ, וְלוֹבֵשׁ כָּל מָה
שְׂיָכוֹל לְלַבֵּשׁ, וְעוֹטֵף כָּל מָה
שְׂיָכוֹל לְעֻטֵף. רַבִּי יוֹסֵי אוֹמֵר,
שְׂמֹנֶה עָשָׂר כְּלִים. וְחוֹזֵר
וְלוֹבֵשׁ וּמוֹצִיא, וְאוֹמֵר
לְאַחֲרִים, בָּאוּ וְהִצִּילוּ עִמִּי:

(ה) רַבִּי שִׁמּוֹן בֶּן נָנָס אוֹמֵר,
פוֹרְסִין עוֹר שֶׁל גְּדִי עַל גְּבִי
שְׂדֵה תִּבְיָה וּמְגִדֵל שְׂאֵחוֹ בְּהֵן
אֶת הָאוֹר, מִפְּנֵי שֶׁהוּא מְחַרְדֵּי.
וְעוֹשִׂין מְחֻצָּה בְּכָל הַכְּלִים,
בֵּין מְלֵאִים בֵּין רִיקָנִים,
בְּשִׁבִיל שֶׁלֹּא תֵעָבֵר הַדִּלְקָה.
רַבִּי יוֹסֵי אוֹסֵר בְּכֻלֵּי חֶרֶס
חֲדָשִׁים מְלֵאִין מִיָּם, לְפִי שֶׁאֵין
יְכוֹלִין לְקַבֵּל אֶת הָאוֹר וְהֵן
מִתְבַּקְּעִין וּמְכַבִּין אֶת הַדִּלְקָה:

(6) If a gentile comes to extinguish a Jew's fire on Shabbat, **one may not say to him: Extinguish, and: Do not extinguish, because responsibility for his rest is not incumbent upon the Jew. However, if a Jewish child comes to extinguish a fire on Shabbat, they do not listen to him** and allow him to extinguish it, even though he is not yet obligated in mitzva observance, **because responsibility for his rest is incumbent upon the Jew.**

(ו) נְכָרִי שָׁבָא לְכַבּוֹת, אֵין אוֹמְרִים לוֹ כִּפֶּה וְאֵל תִּכְכֶּה, מִפְּנֵי שְׂאִין שְׁבִיתתו עֲלֵיהֶן, אֲבָל קָטַן שָׁבָא לְכַבּוֹת, אֵין שׁוֹמְעִין לוֹ, מִפְּנֵי שְׁשִׁבִיתתו עֲלֵיהֶן:

(7) **One may overturn a bowl on top of a lamp so that fire will not take hold in the ceiling beam on Shabbat. And** similarly, one may overturn a bowl **on top of a child's feces** inside the house so he will not touch it and dirty himself, **and on top of a scorpion so that it will not bite. Rabbi Yehuda said: An incident came before Rabban Yoḥanan ben Zakkai in his village of Arav, where a person covered a scorpion on Shabbat, and Rabban Yoḥanan said: I am concerned that he is liable to bring a sin-offering because he might have violated a Torah prohibition.**

(ז) כּוֹפִין קְעָרָה עַל גְּבֵי הַנֵּר בְּשִׁבִיל שְׁלֵא תִאָּחַז בְּקוֹרָה, וְעַל צוֹאָה שֶׁל קָטָן, וְעַל עֵקֶרֶב שְׁלֵא תִשָּׂה. אָמַר רַבִּי יְהוּדָה, מִעֲשָׂה בָּא לְפָנֵי רַבֵּן יוֹחָנָן בֶּן זַכַּי בְּעָרֵב, וְאָמַר, חוֹשֵׁשׁ אֲנִי לֹא מִחֻטָּאת:

(8) If a gentile kindled a lamp on Shabbat for his own purposes, a Jew also uses its light; and if the gentile kindled it for a Jew, the Sages prohibited to utilize its light. Similarly, if a gentile drew water from a well in the public domain to give his animal to drink, a Jew gives his own animal to drink after him from the same water; and if he drew the water initially for the benefit of a Jew, it is prohibited for a Jew to give his animal to drink from that water. Similarly, if a gentile made a ramp on Shabbat to disembark from a ship, a Jew disembarks after him; and if he made the ramp for a Jew, it is prohibited. There was an incident in which Rabban Gamliel and the Elders were traveling on a ship and a gentile made a ramp on Shabbat in order to disembark from the ship on it; and Rabban Gamliel and the Elders disembarked on it as well.

(ח) נְכָרִי שֶׁהִדְלִיק אֶת הַנֵּר, מִשְׁתַּמֵּשׁ לְאוּרוֹ יִשְׂרָאֵל, וְאִם בְּשִׁבִיל יִשְׂרָאֵל, אָסוּר. מִלֵּא מִים לְהַשְׁקוֹת בְּהֵמָתוֹ, מִשְׁקָה אַחֲרָיו יִשְׂרָאֵל, וְאִם בְּשִׁבִיל יִשְׂרָאֵל, אָסוּר. עָשָׂה גּוֹי כְּבֶשׂ לִירֵד בּוֹ, יוֹרֵד אַחֲרָיו יִשְׂרָאֵל, וְאִם בְּשִׁבִיל יִשְׂרָאֵל, אָסוּר. מִעֲשָׂה בְּרַבֵּן גַּמְלִיאֵל וְזִקְנִים שֶׁהָיוּ בָּאֵין בְּסַפְיָנָה, וְעָשָׂה גּוֹי כְּבֶשׂ לִירֵד בּוֹ, וְיֵרְדוּ בּוֹ רַבֵּן גַּמְלִיאֵל וְזִקְנִים: