



Volume 10. Issue 38

Just Passing Through

The *Mishnah* (1:4) dealt with the issue of entering a city of idol worship on the day of their festival, even just to meet with someone (*Rashi*). The *Mishnah* rules that if the road leads exclusively to the city then one is not allowed to travel to the city. If however the path passed through to another city then it is permitted. We will attempt to understand this ruling.

Rashi explains that in the first case, the person is susceptible to suspicion (*chashda*) that his going to the city to take part in the celebrations. In the latter case, one will say that he is simply passing through and journeying on the next city. The *Ritva* maintains that in the first case it is prohibited at all costs¹ and draws parallel between our *Mishnah* and the laws of entering a house of idol worship.

The *Tifferet Yisrael* anticipates the following question on the position of *Rashi*. One might ask that there are many other situations where actions are prohibited based on *chashda* even though there is genuine possibility that the person is acting in a permissible manner. For example, one is forbidden to eat almond milk with meat since it appears he is eating milk and meat together (unless he demonstrates otherwise); a cow may not be taken out on *Shabbat* wearing a bell as it appears it is being taken to market; and so on. Here too, how is the possibility that the person is passing through a valid grounds to permit his entry into the city?

The *Tifferet Yisrael* offers two answers. The first is that in the second case there are two doubts – a *sfeik sfeika*. Perhaps the person is passing through and even if his is not, perhaps he will only be engaged in permissible

activities. The second answer is that the violation he might be suspected of is quite extreme – joining in the public celebration focused on idol worship. Consequently there would be a tendency to judge this person favourably and not be concerned for suspicion. This is only if, unlike in the first case, the city is not the only possible destination otherwise there would be some grounds for suspicion.

The *Ritva* cites another explanation for the prohibition of entering the city, which is not based on *chashda*. He explain that the case is where there is a large gathering which itself provides honour to that which is being worshiped. His travelling to the city is adding numbers to the pilgrimage, itself being a violation.

The *Rambam* however has a different understanding. The *Lechem Mishnah* explains that the previous understandings are difficult since the beginning of the *Mishnah* had already ruled that one is not allowed to enter a city of idol worship. How then can the *Mishnah's* question “What [is the law] regarding going there?” be asking whether one can meet with someone in the city?

Consequently the *Rambam* understand that *Mishnah* is only asking if one can pass through the city. Using the *Lechem Mishneh's* example, one needs to travel from *Yerushalaim* to *Tzfat* and *Lod*, a city of idol worship, is on the way. The *Mishnah* is teaching that if the only way to get to *Tzfat* is via *Lod* then it is prohibited since he is deriving benefit from the road that was paved for the idol worship. If however there are multiple routes and he happens to travel via *Lod* then it is not an issue since he has other options.²

Yisrael Yitzchak Bankier

¹ He understands that it is an *avizrei avodah zara*.

² The *Lechem Mishnah* offers another explanation that if travelling via *L'od* is the only way then when he leaves *Yerushalaim* there will be an

issue of *chashad* since he must travel via *Lod*. If there are other routes, then people in *Yerushalaim* will think he took a different track.

Revision Questions

עבודה זרה א' בי: בי'ר'

- On what point does *R' Yishmael* argue? (א: בי)
- Which "festival" is debated between *R' Meir* and the *Chachamim*? (ג: א)
- When is one allowed to enter a city of idol worship during their festival? (ד: א)
- List some items that may not be sold to an *akum* at any time during the year? (ה: א)
- Regarding the previous question, what is the general rule regarding all other items? (ה: א)
- What are the three opinions regarding which (farm) animals can be sold to an *akum*? (ו: א)
- What other animals may not be sold? (ז: א)
- Which joint-construction venture may one not partake in with an *akum*? (ז: א)
- What specific types of jewellery are mentioned by the *Mishnah* as those forbidden to make for *avodah zara*? (ח: א)
- Explain the debate regarding renting and selling fields and houses to *goyim* in: (א: ח)
 - *Chutz La'aretz*.
 - *Eretz Yisrael*.
- Why is one unable to rent out a *merchatz* to a *goi*? (א: ט)
- What two things may one not do for a *nochri* baby? (א: ב)
- What type of *refuah* may one receive from a *goi*? (ב: ב)
- List four items belonging to *goyim* that are *issurei hana'ah*? (ג: ב)
- Explain the opinion of *R' Akiva* regarding meat used for *avodah zarah*. (ג: ב)
- List three differences between *R' Meir* and the *Chachamim* regarding items that belonging to *goyim* that are *issurei hana'ah*? (ד: ב)
- According to *R' Yehoshua* what is the reason that cheese belonging to *goyim* is not permitted? (ה: ב)
- List four items belonging to *goyim* that are *assur* but they are not *issurei hana'ah*? (ו: ב)

Local Shiurim

Melbourne, Australia

Sunday -Thursday

10 minutes before *Mincha*
Mizrachi Shul
 Melbourne, Australia

Friday & Shabbat

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

Efrat, Israel

Shiur in English

Sunday -Thursday

Rabbi Mordechai Scharf
 9:00am
Kollel Magen Avraham
 Reemon Neighbourhood

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 November ל' חשוון	4 th November א' כסלו	5 th November ב' כסלו	6 th November ג' כסלו	7 th November ד' כסלו	8 th November ה' כסלו	9 th November ו' כסלו
Avodah Zara 2:7-3:1	Avodah Zara 3:2-3	Avodah Zara 3:4-5	Avodah Zara 3:6-7	Avodah Zara 3:8-9	Avodah Zara 3:10-4:1	Avodah Zara 4:2-3

