



Drying on Shabbat

The *Mishnah* in *Masechet Shabbos* (22:5) states

One who washes in the water of a cave or in the waters of Tiveria, and dried himself even with ten towels may not bring them (home) in his hand. However, ten people may dry themselves with one towel when they dry their faces, hands and feet and bring may bring it (the towel) home with them.

Interestingly, the *Ran* mentions that the topic of the above *Mishnah* is not the bathing or drying – both of which according to the above *Mishnah* would be permitted *lechatchila*. The *Ran* proves this from the fact that the second part of the *Mishnah* permits ten people to bathe and dry themselves with one towel. Rather, the *Mishnah* does not allow carrying in the first case, as the *Chachamim* were concerned that during this act, one may come to squeeze out the towel. This squeezing constitutes an act of *kibus* (laundering) which is a *toladah* of the *melacha* of *melaben* (whitening).

Rashi explains the *Mishnah* as referring to extreme cases where bathers require drying off after washing. *Rashi* states that even where the drying was done with ten towels - not leaving significant amounts of water in the towels – one still may not carry them home for fear of squeezing them out. Similarly, in the second case of ten people are using one towel – where it can be presumed that the towel would be filled with water there is no issue of carrying it because each of the bathers are able to remind one another against squeezing out the towels.

The *Ran* poses an interesting question based on another *Mishnah* learned this week. In *Shabbos* (21:2) we learn that if there was dirt on a pillow on Shabbos, one is able to wipe it off with a rag. *Rashi* explains that one is not permitted to put water on this pillow because it is a garment and placing water on a

garment is tantamount to washing it. This leads the *Ran* to ask why the *Mishnah* forbids placing water on a garment in the case of the pillow, yet seemingly contradicts itself by allowing a person to dry themselves with a towel.

The *Ran* resolves the contradiction by stating that the only time where placing water on a garment is considered washing it is in the case of a dirty garment. The case of the pillow was where it was previously soiled and the water would be a cleaning agent. The towel case refers to clean towels, which would be permitted to get wet.

The *Ran* brings another reason why the *Chachamim* did not make a decree forbidding using a towel on *Shabbos* for fear of squeezing. The *Chachamim* knew that every person that bathes would use a towel upon completion. If they were to forbid using towels then essentially the *Chachamim* would also be forbidding bathing! The *Ran* states that this type of decree would not be accepted. Therefore, the *Chachamim* formulated their decree in the optimal way possible to ensure it would endure.

Following on from this idea, the *Magen Avraham* (301:58) ponders the state of people in his time. Are we still so *makpid* on washing that we would not accept a decree from *Chachamim* to forbid washing, or is it possible for us not to wash on *Shabbos* and therefore we should not do so, having in mind the intentions of the *Chachamim*? The *Magen Avraham* writes that since *Chazal* never enacted the decree (as it would not endure) it is still permitted today. However, he notes that it is recommended to dry oneself with something that has no purpose or use for the water that is transferred to it.

Yehuda Gottlieb

Revision Questions

שבת כ': א' – כ"ב: ו'

- *R' Eliezer* and the *Chachamim* debate setting up and using a *mashmeret* on *Shabbat* and on *Yom Tov* – explain the debate and state both opinions. (כ': א')
- Can one strain wine on *Shabbat*? (כ': ב')
- Can one strain an egg through mustard on *Shabbat*? (כ': ב')
- In what manner can one separate the *psolet* from *carshinim* on *Shabbat*? (כ': ג')
- Is one allowed to give food separately to each of his animals? (כ': ד')
- How can one move about straw placed on their bed (to make it more comfortable)? (List two possibilities) (כ': ה')
- Can one carry a child that is holding something *muktza*? (כ"א: א')
- According to which *Tana* can one separate (replacement) *trumah* from *meduma* produce? (כ"א: א')
- How does one retrieve wine from a barrel that has a stone resting on its lid? (כ"א: ב')
- What can one do if there is something dirty on their pillow? (כ"א: ב')
- Explain the debate between *Beit Shammai* and *Beit Hillel* regarding removing bones and shells from the *Shabbat* table. (כ"א: ג')
- Is one allowed to use a sponge on *Shabbat* to clean a spill? (כ"א: ג')
- Can sponges become *tameh*? (כ"א: ג')
- Earlier we learnt about the restriction placed on one saving food from a house on fire – which law learnt in the beginning of the twenty-second *perek* is similar to that law? (כ"ב: א')
- One is not allowed to squeeze fruit for their juice on *Shabbat* – explain the debate regarding whether one can drink the juice that oozed out of fruit on its own. (כ"ב: א')
- Describe the law regarding washing or soaking cooked foods in hot water on *Shabbat*. (כ"ב: ב')
- When is one allowed to break a container in order to eat from its content – what provisor is placed on this *heter*? (כ"ב: ג')
- Is one allowed to place cold water in the sun for it to heat up on *Shabbat*? (כ"ב: ד')
- If someone's clothes got soak on *Shabbat* is there any restriction place on: (כ"ב: ד')
 - Him walking wearing the clothes?
 - Placing them out to dry?
- Which of the following two groups are allowed to bring their towel(s) home with them: (כ"ב: ה')
 - A single person who dried himself with multiple towel.
 - A group of people who dried themselves sharing one towel.
- What restriction is placed on one rubbing oil on themselves on *Shabbat* and why? (כ"ב: ו')

Local Shiurim

Melbourne, Australia

Sunday -Thursday

After *Ma'ariv*

Mizrachi Shul

Melbourne, Australia

Friday & Shabbat

10 minutes before *Mincha*

Beit Ha'Roeh

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Shiur in English

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Rabbi Mordechai Scharf

9:00am

Kollel Magen Avraham

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www.shemayisrael.com/mishna/

Rav Meir Pogrow

613.org/mishnah.html

Rabbi E. Kornfeld

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<http://www.dafyomi.co.il/calendars/myomi/myomi-thisweek.htm>

SHIUR

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Then select: 1 – 2 – 4

Next Week's Mishnayot...

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	שבת קודש
31 st July כ"ט תמוז	1 st August א' אב	2 nd August ב' אב	3 rd August ג' אב	4 th August ד' אב	5 th August ה' אב	6 th August ו' אב
Shabbat 23:1-2	Shabbat 23:3-4	Shabbat 23:5-24:1	Shabbat 24:2-3	Shabbat 24:4-5	Eruvin 1:1-2	Eruvin 1:3-4

