

# Beyond the Text #5:

## What's for Dinner?

### Weights

“You shall not have in your pouch alternate weights, larger and smaller. You shall not have in your house alternate measures, a larger and a smaller.” (Devarim 25:13-14)

“You shall have an honest balance, honest weights, an honest ephah, and an honest hin. I the LORD am your God who freed you from the land of Egypt.” (VaYikra 19:36)

“The charge for sharpening was a pim. for plowshares, mattocks, three-pronged forks, and axes, and for setting the goads.” (Samuel I 13:21)

### Measures

“Rav was appointed market overseer by the Head of the Diaspora; he intervened about measuring vessels but not prices. The Head of the Diaspora jailed him.” (Jerusalem Talmud Bava Batra 5:5)

“The Sages taught : “You shall not have,” teaches that the court appoints market inspectors to supervise the accuracy of measures. But the court does not appoint market inspectors for prices.” (Bava Batra 89a)

Judah the agronomos (Greek inscription found in Jaffa)

“There was an incident involving Abba Shaul ben Botnit, who would fill his measures on the eve of a Festival and give them to his customers on the Festival. Abba Shaul says: He would do this even on the intermediate days of a Festival because of the clarity of the measures. And the Rabbis say: Even on a weekday it is proper to do so, because of the draining of the measures.” (Betzah 29)

### Work

“Shemaiah used to say: love labor,” (Pirkei Avot 1:10)

“Beloved is work because of all His creations, God only gave man work”(Midrash Tannaim Devarim 5:14)

“Rabbi Shimon ben Elazar says: Have you ever seen a beast or a bird that has a trade? And yet they earn their livelihood without anguish. But all these were created only to serve me, and I, a human being, was created to serve the One Who formed me. Is it not right that I should earn my livelihood without anguish?

But I, i.e., humanity, have committed evil actions and have lost my livelihood.”  
(Kiddushin 82a)

“When Rabbi Yehuda would go to the study hall he would carry a pitcher [*gulefa*] on his shoulder, saying: Labor is great, as it brings honor to the laborer.”  
(Nedarim 49b)

“As Rav said to Rav Kahana, his student: Skin a carcass in the market and take payment, but do not say: I am a great man and this matter is beneath me.” (Bava Batra 110a)

“Rabbi Meir says: A person should always teach his son a clean and easy trade and pray to the One to Whom wealth and property belong, as there is no trade that does not include both poverty and wealth, . . . Abba Guryan of Tzadyan says in the name of Abba Gurya: A person may not teach his son the trades of a donkey driver, a camel driver, a pot maker, a sailor, a shepherd, or a storekeeper. The reason for all these is the same, as their trades are the trades of robbers;”(Kiddushin 82a)

## **A Woman’s Work Is Never Done**

“And these are tasks that a wife must perform for her husband: She grinds wheat into flour, bakes, and washes clothes, cooks, and nurses her child, makes her husband’s bed, and spins wool”

“If she brought him one maidservant the wife does not grind, and does not bake, and does not wash clothes. If she brought him two maidservants, she does not cook and does not nurse her child. If she brought him three maidservants, she does not make his bed and does not spin wool. If she brought him four maidservants, she may sit in a chair [*katedra*] (Ketubot 59b)

“Rav Yitzhak bar Hananya said that Rav Huna said: Although they said that she may sit in a chair she should still pour his cup; and make his bed; and wash his face, hands, and feet,” (Ketubot 61a)

## **Spinning**

“Rabbi Eliezer says: Even if she brought him a hundred maidservants, he can compel her to spin wool, since idleness leads to licentiousness” (Ketubot 59b)

“And all the skilled women spun with their own hands, and brought what they had spun, in blue, purple, and crimson yarns, and in fine linen.” (Shmot 35:25)

“He [Rabbi Eliezer] said to her: There is no wisdom in a woman except weaving with a spindle,” (Yoma 66b).

“While a woman is engaged in conversation she also holds the spindle,”  
(Megillah 14b)

## Scribe

“But when I came to study with [Rabbi Yishmael](#), he said to me: My son, what is your vocation? I replied: I am a scribe [*lavlar*]. He said to me: My son, be careful in your vocation, as your vocation is heavenly service, and care must be taken lest you omit a single letter or add a single letter out of place, and you will end up destroying the whole world in its entirety.” (Eruvin 13)

“Rav Yehuda says that Shmuel says in the name of Rabbi Meir: When I was studying Torah before Rabbi Akiva, I used to put iron sulfate into the ink and he did not say anything to me. Afterward, when I came to learn Torah before Rabbi Yishmael, he said to me: My son, what is your vocation? I said to him: I am a scribe [*lavlar*]. . .” (Sotah 20a)

## Farmland

“Ten matters were stated with regard to Jerusalem: . . . and one may not establish garbage dumps in Jerusalem; and one may not build kilns in it; and one may not plant gardens and orchards [*pardesof*] in it, except for the rose gardens that were already there from the times of the early prophets; and one may not raise chickens in it; . . .” (Bava Kamma 82b)

## Steak or Dove?

“On four occasions during the year . . . [meat eating is common]: The eve of the last day of the festival of *Sukkot*, the eve of the first day of the festival of Passover, and the eve of *Shavuot*, and the eve of Rosh HaShana. And according to the statement of [Rabbi Yosei HaGelili](#), the eve of Yom Kippur in the Galilee is included as well.” (Mishnah Hullin 5:3)

“You shall celebrate a sacred occasion on the first day, and a sacred occasion on the seventh day; no work at all shall be done on them; only what every person is to eat, that alone may be prepared for you.” (Shemot 12:16)

“One may not register to have a portion of an animal on a Festival *ab initio*. But one may register for the animal on the eve of the Festival, and then slaughter and divide it between them on the Festival itself. Rabbi Yehuda says: A person may weigh the meat against a vessel or against a cleaver [*kofitz*] [and then calculate the weight of the meat by weighing the vessel or cleaver later]. And the Rabbis say: One may not look at the pans of a balance scale at all,” (Mishnah Betzah 3:6)

“[Rav Hanan bar Rava](#) said to [Rav Ashi](#): The Sages said: As much as it is possible to modify the weekday manner, one should modify on a Festival.” (Betzah 30a)

## Why Did the Chicken Leave Jerusalem?

“One may not raise chickens in Jerusalem, due to the sacrificial meat” (Bava Kamma 79b)

“Rabbi Shimon ben Lakish said: There are three impudent ones: The Jewish people among the nations; the dog among animals; and the rooster among birds.” (Betzah 25b)

"ליאזניהו עבד המלך"

## Pressing Matters

“MISHNA:One who sells an olive press has sold with it the yam and the memel and the betulot,. But he has not sold with it the avirim and the galgal and the kora,” (Bava Batra 67b)

“There are three harvests of olives each year, and in each of them, three different grades of oils are produced. How is the first olive harvest processed? One picks the ripe olives at the top of the olive tree, and crushes them in a mortar and places them inside a wicker basket . . . This is the first grade of oil, one then presses down with a beam . . . This is the second grade of oil. One then ground and pressed down; this is the third grade of oil. The first grade is fit for the Menora,) and the rest are fit for use in meal offerings.” (Menachot 8:4)

“Olives may not be prepared in an olive-press or in a small olive-press, but he may crush them and bring them into a small olive-press in the field.” (Sheviit 8:6)

“Rather, just as the olive, while it is on the tree one picks it, then one takes it down from the tree and it is beaten, and after it is beaten, it is taken up to the olive press and placed into the mill where one grinds it, then one surrounds it with ropes, brings stones, and then they produce their oil. So too, Israel: idolaters come and beat them from place to place, incarcerate them, bind them in chains, and surround them with fences. Then they repent and the Holy One blessed be He answers them.” (Shemot Rabba 36:1)

## Wine

“One does not recite a blessing over wine until he adds water to it, that is the statement of Rabbi Eliezer. And the Rabbis say: One recites a blessing over it. Regarding this, the Sages taught in the *Tosefta*: Over wine, until he added water to it, one does not recite: Who creates fruit of the vine; rather, he recites: Who creates fruit of the tree,” (Berachot 50b)

Because their wine was very strong and could not be drunk without water (Rashi)

“Rava said: if one poured three [jugs of water over grape pomace and then, after removing the pomace, the volume of the resulting beverage] came to four jugs, then that beverage is regarded as wine.” (Bava Batra 96b)

“Shmuel said that if one drank them undiluted he has fulfilled his obligation. Rava said: He has fulfilled the obligation to drink the four cups of wine, but he has not fulfilled the obligation to drink in a way that expresses freedom,”(Pesachim 108b)

## **Bees and Honey**

“One who sold a beehive has sold the bees in it, and one who sold a dovecote has sold the doves.” (Mishnah Bava Batra 5:3)

“And one may not place water before bees or before doves in a dove-cote,” (Mishnah Shabbat 24:3)

“And Rabbi Yosei says they distance the bees fifty amot from the city because they sting people. Rabbi Natan says, the one who raises up bees is like the one who raises up dogs.” (Tosefta Bava Batra 1:7)

“a land of wheat and barley, of vines, figs, and pomegranates, a land of olive trees and honey;”

“Returning the following year to marry her, he turned aside to look at the remains of the lion; and in the lion’s skeleton he found a swarm of bees, and honey.” (Judges 14:8)

“And he shall obtain so much milk that he shall eat curds. Thus everyone who is left in the land shall feed on curds and honey. For in that day, every spot where there could stand a thousand vines worth a thousand shekels of silver shall become a wilderness of thornbush and thistle.” (Isaiah 7:22-23)

## **Seven Species**

“Are measures a *halakha* transmitted to Moses from Sinai? They are written in the Torah, as it is written: “A land of wheat, and barley, and vines, and figs, and pomegranates, a land of olive oil and honey” (Deuteronomy 8:8), and Rav Ḥanin said: This entire verse is stated for the purpose of teaching measures” (Sukkah 5b)

## **Figs תאנה**

Then the eyes of both of them were opened and they perceived that they were naked; and they sewed together fig leaves and made themselves loincloths. (Bereshit 3:7)

## **Pomegranate רימון**

Rabbi Meir found a pomegranate and ate its contents while throwing away its peel. ( Hagigah 15b)