The Definition of Plowing

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שבת ע"ג ב

הזורע והחורש: מכדי מכרב כרבי ברישא ליתני חורש והדר ליתני זורע תנא בארץ ישראל קאי דזרעי ברישא והדר כרבי

Shabbat 73b

1.

We learned in the mishna, among those liable for performing primary categories of labor: One who sows, and one who plows. The Gemara asks: Since, after all, in terms of plowing, one plows first and only then sows, let the tanna teach first one who plows, and afterward let him teach one who sows. The Gemara answers: The tanna ordered the mishna based on the practice in Eretz Yisrael, where they sow first and then plow. In Eretz Yisrael, the practice was to plow a second time after sowing to cover the seeds.

טבת ע"ג ב.

והחורש: תנא החורש והחופר והחורץ כולן מלאכה אחת הן אמר רב ששת היתה לו גבשושית ונטלה בבית חייב משום בונה בשדה חייב משום חורש אמר רבא היתה לו גומא וטממה בבית חייב משום בונה בשדה משום חורש

Shabbat 73b

We learned in the mishna among those liable for performing primary categories of labor: One who plows. A tanna taught in a baraita with regard to the labor of plowing: One who plows, and one who digs, and one who makes a furrow in the ground have all performed one type of labor. Rav Sheshet said: One who had a mound of earth and removed it in the house, thereby evening the surface, is liable due to the labor of building, as he thereby engages in construction of the house. In the field, he is liable due to the labor of plowing. Similarly, Rava said: One who had a hole and filled it, in the house he is liable due to the labor of building. In the field, he is liable due to the labor of plowing.

שבת ק"ג א מבר ק"ג א מתניי החורש כל שהוא המנכש והמקרסם והמזרד כל שהוא חייב המלקט עצים אם מתניי החורש כל

לתקן כל שהן אם להיסק כדי לבשל ביצה קלה המלקט עשבים אם לתקן כל שהוא אם לבהמה כמלא פי הגדי: גמי למאי חזי חזי לביזרא דקרא דכוותה גבי משכן שכן ראוי לקלח אחד של סמנין:

Shabbat 103a

4.

MISHNA: One who plows is liable for plowing any amount of land on Shabbat. One who weeds and removes grass on Shabbat, and one who removes dry branches and who prunes any amount is liable. With regard to one who gathers wood, if he did so to enhance the tree or the land, he is liable for any amount; if he did so for fuel, he is liable for collecting a measure equivalent to that which is used to cook an easily cooked egg. With regard to one who gathers grass, if he did so to enhance the plants or the land, he is liable for any amount; if he did so to feed an animal, he is liable for collecting a measure equivalent to a goat's mouthful.

GEMARA: The Gemara asks: For **what** use **is** plowing any amount of land **suited?** The Gemara answers: It is **suited** for **a** single **pumpkin seed.** The **corresponding** situation **in the Tabernacle** was **as it is suitable** for planting **a single stalk of herbs** to make dyes.

רש"י על שבת ע"ג ב

בא"י - קשה היא ואין יכול לכסות בלא חרישה ואשמעינן דהא נמי חרישה היא:

:מלאכה אחת הן - אינו חייב אלא אחת דכולהו <u>לרפויי ארעא עבידי</u>

בבית - שייך בנין שמתכוין להשוות קרקעיתו:

משום חורש - דמרפי ארעא:

גומא וטממה - בעפר היינו חורש שהעפר <u>שמילאה בו הוי רפוי</u> וטוב לזריעה והשוה לקרקע להיות נזרע עם השדה:

Rashi on Shabbat 73b

In Israel- The soil is hard and one cannot cover the seed without plowing, and the Mishnah teaches us that this is always a Halachik problem of plowing.

One Category of Forbidden Activity- One is only obligated in one sacrifice as all of these activities soften the ground.

In the house- it is a problem of building as one is leveling the ground.

Because of plowing- as it softens the ground.

Filled in a home- with dirt. This is a Forbidden activity of plowing as when one fills it then it is soft and good to plant. When it is leveled with the ground then one can plant together with the rest of the field.

הלמוד ירושלמי שבת מ״ז ב

לכל דבר שהוא להניית קרקע חייב משום חורש... הבונה מדריגות. הממלא את הנקעים שתחת הזיתים. וכל דבר שהוא להניית קרקע חייב משום חורש.

Jerusalem Talmud Shabbat 47b

6.

7.

Anything that is done to improve the land is obligated because of plowing...One who builds different levels, fills holes under the olives..Anything that improves the land is obligated because of plowing.

משנה תורה, הלכות שבת חי:אי

(א) הַחוֹרֵשׁ כָּל שֶׁהוּא חַיָּב. הַמְנַכֵּשׁ בְּעִקְרֵי הָאִילָנוֹת וְהַמְקְרְסֵם עֲשָׂבִים אוֹ הַמְזָרֵד אֶת הַשֶּׂרִיגִים כְּדֵי לְיַפּוֹת אֶת הַקַּרְקַע הָרֵי זֶה תּוֹלֶדֶת חוֹרֵשׁ וּמִשֶּׁינְעֲשֶׁה כָּל שֶׁהוּא חַיָּב. וְכֵן הַמַּשְׁנָה פְּנֵי הַשָּׁדֶה כְּגוֹן שֶׁהִשְׁפִּיל הַתֵּל וְרִדְּדוֹ אוֹ מִלֵּא הַגַּיְא חַיָּב מְשׁוּם חוֹרֵשׁ. וְשִׁעוּרוֹ כָּל שֶׁהוּא. וְכֵן כָּל הַמַּשְׁנָה גַּמּוֹת שָׁעוּרוֹ כָּל שֶׁהוּא:

Mishneh Torah, Sabbath 8:1

A person who plows even the slightest amount [of earth] is liable. One who weeds around the roots of trees, cuts off grasses, or prunes shoots to beautify the land - these are derivatives of plowing. One is liable for performing even the slightest amount of these activities. Similarly, one who levels the surface of a field - e.g., one who lowers a mound and flattens it or fills a vale - is liable for [performing a derivative of] plowing. [One is liable for performing] the slightest amount of these activities. Similarly, one who levels cavities [in the ground] to even the slightest degree is liable.

משנה תורה, הלכות שבת זי:אי

(א) מְלָאכוֹת שֶׁחַיָּבִין עֲלֵיהֶן סְקִילָה וְכָרֵת בְּמֵזִיד אוֹ קַרְבַּן חַטְּאת בִּשְׁגָגָה. מֵהֶן אָבוֹת וּמֵהֶן תּוֹלָדוֹת. וּמִנְיַן כָּל אֲבוֹת מְלָאכוֹת אַרְבָּעִים חָסֵר אַחַת. וְאֵלוּ הֵן. הַחֲרִישָׁה. וְהַוְּרִיעָה. וְהַקְּצִירָה...

Mishneh Torah, Sabbath 7:1

With regard to the [forbidden] labors for which one is liable to be executed by stoning or to receive *karet* if one transgresses willingly, or for which one is obligated to bring a sin offering if one commits the transgression unknowingly, there are primary categories and [their] derivatives. The sum of all the primary categories of [forbidden] labor are forty minus one. These include: plowing, planting, cutting...

