III - Miss Communication

1. Kiddushin 80a-81b

(modified Koren/Sefaria transl.)

Rabbi Akiva would likewise ridicule transgressors.	ר' עקיבא הוה מתלוצץ בעוברי עבירה,
Peleimu had the habit to say every day: An arrow in the eye of Satan Let the Master, i.e., Peleimu, say: Let the Merciful One rebuke the Satan.	פלימו הוה רגיל למימר כל יומא: גירא בעיניה דשטן . לימא מר: רחמנא נגער ביה בשטן.
Rabbi Ḥiyya bar Ashi was accustomed to say, whenever he would fall on his face in prayer: May the Merciful One save us from the evil inclination. One day his wife heard him saying this prayer. She said: After all, it has been several years since he has withdrawn from engaging in intercourse with me. What is the reason that he says this?	רבי חייא בר אשי הוה רגיל כל עידן דהוה נפל לאפיה, הוה אמר: הרחמן יצילנו מיצר הרע. יומא חד שמעתינהו דביתהו, אמרה: מכדי הא כמה שני דפריש ליה מינאי, מאי טעמא קאמר הכי?
One day, while he was studying in his garden, she adorned herself and repeatedly walked past him. He said: Who are you? She said: I am Ḥaruta, a well-known prostitute, returning from my day at work. He propositioned her. She said to him: Give me that pomegranate from the top of the tree as payment. He leapt up, went, and brought it to her, and they engaged in intercourse.	יומא חדא הוה קא גריס בגינתיה, קשטה נפשה חלפה ותנייה קמיה. אמר לה: מאן את? אמרה: אנא חרותא דהדרי מיומא, תבעה, אמרה ליה: אייתי ניהליה
When he came home, his wife was lighting a fire in the oven. He went and sat inside it. She said to him: What is this? He said to her: Such and such an incident occurred; he told her that he engaged in intercourse with a prostitute. She said to him: It was I. He paid no attention to her, thinking she was merely trying to comfort him, until she gave him signs that it was indeed she. He said to her: I, in any event, intended to transgress. The Gemara	להך רומנא דריש צוציתא, שוור אזל אתייה ניהלה. כי אתא לביתיה, הוה קא שגרא דביתהו תנורא, סליק וקא יתיב בגויה. אמרה ליה: מאי האי? אמר לה: הכי והכי הוה מעשה,

relates: All the days of that righteous man he would fast for the transgression he intended to commit, until he died by that death.

אמרה ליה: אנא הואי. לא אשגח בה, עד דיהבה ליה סימני, אמר לה: אנא מיהא לאיסורא איכווני.

כל ימיו של אותו צדיק היה מתענה, עד שמת באותה מיתה.

As it is taught in a baraita concerning a husband who nullified the vow of his wife: "Her husband has made them null; and the Lord will forgive her" (Numbers 30:13). With regard to what case is the verse speaking? Why would the woman require forgiveness if her husband has nullified her vow? It is referring to a woman who vowed to be a nazirite, and her husband heard and nullified her yow. And she did not know that her husband had nullified her vow, and she drank wine and contracted **impurity from a corpse**, violating her presumed vow. When Rabbi Akiva came to this verse he would crv. He said: And if with regard to one who intended to eat pork, and kosher lamb came up in his hand, like this woman who intended to violate her vow but in fact did not, the Torah nevertheless says: She requires atonement and forgiveness, all the more so does one who intended to eat pork and pork came up in his hand require atonement and forgiveness.

In a similar manner, you can say that the same lesson can be derived from the verse: "Though he know it not, yet is he guilty, and shall bear his iniquity" (Leviticus 5:17). When Rabbi Akiva came to this verse he would cry. He said: And if with regard to one who intended to eat permitted fat, and forbidden fat mistakenly came up in his hand, the Torah states: "Though he know it not, yet is he guilty, and shall bear his iniquity," all the more so is this true for one who intended to eat forbidden fat and forbidden fat came up in his hand. Isi ben Yehuda says with regard to the verse "Though he

דתניא: אישה הפרם וה'
יסלח לה - מה הכתוב מדבר? באשה שנדרה בנזיר ושמע בעלה והפר לה, והיא לא ידעה שהפר לה בעלה, והיתה שותה יין ומטמאה למתים.

רבי עקיבא כי הוה מטי להאי פסוקא הוה בכי, אמר: ומה מי שנתכוין לאכול בשר חזיר ועלה בידו בשר טלה, אמרה תורה: צריכה כפרה וסליחה, מי שנתכוין לאכול בשר חזיר ועלה בידו בשר חזיר - על אחת כמה וכמה!

כיוצא בדבר אתה אומר: בולא ידע ואשם ונשא עונו, כשהיה רבי עקיבא מגיע לפסוק זה היה בוכה, ומה מי שנתכוין לאכול שומן ועלה בידו חלב, אמרה עונו, מי שנתכוין לאכול חלב ועלה בידו חלב - על אחת כמה וכמה! איסי בן יהודה אומר: ולא ידע ואשם ונשא עונו - על דבר זה ידוו כל know it not, yet is he guilty, and shall bear his iniquity": With regard to this matter all sufferers shall grieve, since the verse teaches that one is punished even for sinning unawares.

2. Yevamot 65b

Mishnah: A man is commanded regarding procreation, but not a woman. Rabbi Yohanan ben Brokah says, regarding both of them he says "and God blessed them and God said unto them, be fruitful and multiply."

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Yehudah and Hizkiyah were twins. One was fully formed after nine months, and one at the beginning of seven. Yehudit, the wife of Rabbi Hiyya, had distress in birth. She changed her clothes and came before R Hiyya. She said: Is a woman commanded regarding procreation? He said to her: No/ She went and drank a sterilizing potion. Eventually the matter became known. He said to her, I wish you bore for me one more wombful. As the master said, Yehudah and Hiskiyah were twins. Pazi and Tavi their sisters.

מתני'. האיש מצווה על פריה ורביה, אבל לא האשה; רבי יוחנן בן ברוקה אומר, על שניהם הוא אומר: ויברך אותם אלהים ויאמר להם [אלהים] פרו ורבו.

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יהודה וחזקיה תאומים היו, אחד נגמרה צורתו לסוף תשעה, ואחד נגמרה צורתו לתחלת שבעה; יהודית דביתהו דר' חייא הוה לה צער לידה, שנאי מנא ואתיא לקמיה דר' חייא, אמרה: אתתא מפקדא אפריה ורביה? אמר לה: לא. אזלא אשתיא סמא דעקרתא, לסוף איגלאי מילתא, אמר לה: איכו ילדת לי חדא כרסא אחריתא; דאמר מר: יהודה וחזקיה אחי, פזי וטוי אחוותא.

3. Ketubot 62b-63a

This source and its parallel in Nedarim, next, are laid out per Shama Friedman in "A Good Story Deserves Retelling: The Unfolding of the Akiva Legend"

Modified Sefaria Translation

0	Mishnah Ketubot 61b: Students may leave their homes and travel in order to learn Torah without their wives' permission for up to thirty days	התלמידים יוצאין לתלמוד תורה שלא ברשות שלשים יום
1	Rabbi Akiva was the shepherd of ben Kalba Savua, one of the wealthy residents of Jerusalem. The daughter of Ben Kalba Savua saw that he was humble and refined. She said to him: If I betroth myself to you, will you go to the study hall to learn Torah? He said to her: Yes. She became betrothed to him privately and sent him off to study. Her father heard this and became angry. He	ר"ע רעיא דבן כלבא שבוע הוה חזיתיה ברתיה דהוה צניע ומעלי אמרה ליה אי מקדשנא לך אזלת לבי רב אמר לה אין איקדשא ליה בצינעה ושדרתיה שמע אבוה אפקה מביתיה אדרה הנאה מנכסיה

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	removed her from his house and took a vow prohibiting her from benefiting from his property.	
2	Rabbi Akiva went and sat for twelve years in the study hall. When he came back to his house he brought twelve thousand students with him, and as he approached he heard an old man saying to his wife: For how long will you lead the life of a widow of a living man, living alone while your husband is in another place? She said to him: If he would listen to me, he would sit and study for another twelve years. When Rabbi Akiva heard this he said: I have permission to do this. He went back and sat for another twelve years in the study hall.	אזיל יתיב תרי סרי שנין בבי רב כי אתא אייתי בהדיה תרי סרי אלפי תלמידי שמעיה לההוא סבא דקאמר לה עד כמה קא מדברת אלמנות חיים אמרה ליה אי לדידי ציית יתיב תרי סרי שני אחריני אמר ברשות קא עבידנא הדר אזיל ויתיב תרי סרי שני אחריני בבי
3	When he came back he brought twenty-four thousand students with him. His wife heard and went out toward him to greet him. Her neighbors said: Borrow some clothes and wear them, as your current apparel is not appropriate to meet an important person. She said to them: "A righteous man understands the life of his beast" (Proverbs 12:10).	כי אתא אייתי בהדיה עשרין וארבעה אלפי תלמידי שמעה דביתהו הות קא נפקא לאפיה אמרו לה שיבבתא שאילי מאני לבוש ואיכסאי אמרה להו (משלי יב, י) יודע צדיק נפש בהמתו
4	When she came to him she fell on her face and kissed his feet. His attendants pushed her away as they did not know who she was, and he said to them: Leave her alone, as mine and yours is actually hers.	כי מטיא לגביה נפלה על אפה קא מנשקא ליה לכרעיה הוו קא מדחפי לה שמעיה אמר להו שבקוה שלי ושלכם שלה הוא
5	In the meantime her father heard that a great man came to the town. He said: I will go to him. Maybe he will nullify my vow and I will be able to support my daughter. He came to him to ask about nullifying his vow, and Rabbi Akiva said to him: Did you vow thinking that this Akiva would become a great man? He said to him: If I had believed he would know even one chapter or even one halakha I would not have been so harsh. He said to him: I am he. Ben Kalba Savua fell on his face and kissed his feet and gave him half of his money.	שמע אבוה דאתא גברא רבה למתא אמר איזיל לגביה אפשר דמפר נדראי אתא לגביה א"ל אדעתא דגברא רבה מי נדרת א"ל אפילו פרק אחד ואפי' הלכה אחת אמר ליה אנא הוא נפל על אפיה ונשקיה על כרעיה ויהיב ליה פלגא ממוניה
6	Rabbi Akiva's daughter did the same thing for ben Azzai, who was also a simple person, and she caused him to learn Torah in a similar way, by betrothing herself to him and sending him off to study. This explains the folk saying that people say: The ewe follows the ewe; the daughter's actions are the same as her mother's.	ברתיה דר"ע עבדא ליה לבן עזאי הכי והיינו דאמרי אינשי רחילא בתר רחילא אזלא כעובדי אמה כך עובדי ברתא

4. Nedarim 50a

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1	Rabbi Akiva became betrothed to the daughter of bar Kalba Savua. When bar Kalba Savua heard about their betrothal, he took a vow prohibiting her from eating all of his property.	ר' עקיבא איתקדשת ליה ברתיה (דבר) דכלבא שבוע שמע (בר) כלבא שבוע אדרה הנאה מכל נכסיה
X	She went ahead and married Rabbi Akiva. In the winter they would sleep in a storehouse of straw, and Rabbi Akiva would gather strands of straw from her hair. He said to her: If I had the means I would place on your head a Jerusalem of Gold, a type of crown. Elijah the prophet came and appeared to them as a regular person and started calling and knocking on the door. He said to them: Give me a bit of straw, as my wife gave birth and I do not have anything on which to lay her. Rabbi Akiva said to his wife: See this man, who does not even have straw. We should be happy with our lot, as we at least have straw to sleep on. She said to him: Go and be a student of Torah.	אזלא ואיתנסיבה ליה בסיתוא הוה גנו בי תיבנא הוה קא מנקיט ליה תיבנא מן מזייה אמר לה אי הואי לי רמינא ליך ירושלים דדהבא אתא אליהו אידמי להון כאנשא וקא קרי אבבא אמר להו הבו לי פורתא דתיבנא דילדת אתתי ולית לי מידעם לאגונה אמר לה ר' עקיבא לאנתתיה חזי גברא דאפילו תיבנא לא אית ליה אמרה ליה זיל הוי בי רב
2	He went and studied Torah for twelve years before Rabbi Eliezer and Rabbi Yehoshua. At the completion of the twelve years, he was coming home when he heard from behind his house that one wicked person was saying to his wife: Your father behaved well toward you. He was right to disinherit you. One reason is that your husband is not similar to you, i.e., he is not suitable for you. And furthermore, he has left you in widowhood in his lifetime all these years. She said to him: If he listens to me, he should be there for another twelve years. Rabbi Akiva said: Since she has given me permission through this statement, I will go back and study more. He turned back and went to the study hall, and he was there for another twelve years.	אזל תרתי סרי שנין קמי דר' אליעזר ור' יהושע למישלם תרתי סרי שנין קא אתא לביתיה שמע מן אחורי ביתיה דקאמר לה חד רשע לדביתהו שפיר עביד ליך אבוך חדא דלא דמי ליך ועוד [שבקך] ארמלות חיות כולהון שנין אמרה ליה אי צאית לדילי ליהוי תרתי סרי שנין אחרנייתא אמר הואיל ויהבת לי רשותא איהדר לאחורי הדר אזל הוה תרתי סרי
3	He came back accompanied by 24,000 pairs of students. Everyone went out to greet him, as he was by then a renowned teacher, and she too arose to go out to greet him. That wicked person said to her: And to where are you going? As she was excessively poor, she was not dressed in a grand manner, as fit for the wife of one so esteemed. She said to him: "A righteous man regards the life of his beast" (Proverbs 12:10)1;	אתא בעשרין וארבעה אלפין זוגי תלמידי נפוק כולי עלמא לאפיה ואף היא קמת למיפק לאפיה אמר לה ההוא רשיעא ואת להיכא אמרה ליה (משלי יב, י) יודע צדיק נפש בהמתו

¹ See also Proverbs 29:7, יֹדַעַ צַדִּיק דִין דַּלִּים רָשָׁע לֹא־יָבִין דְעַת.

4	She came to present herself before Rabbi Akiva, but the Sages tried to fend her off, as they were unaware of her identity. He said to them: Leave her. Mine and yours is actually hers	אתת לאיתחזויי ליה קא מדחן לה רבנן אמר להון הניחו לה שלי ושלכם שלה הוא
5	When bar Kalba Savua heard that the famous man was his son-in-law, he came before halakhic authorities and requested the dissolution of his vow, and it was dissolved.	שמע (בר) כלבא שבוע אתא ואיתשיל על נידריה ואשתריי ואשתרי
6	Rabbi Akiva became wealthy from six things. First, from Kalba Savua	מן שית מילי איעתר רבי עקיבא מן כלבא שבוע

5. Mishnah Ketubot 5:6

ָהַמַּדִּיר אֶת אָשָׁתּוֹ מְתַּשָּׁמִישׁ הַמְּטָּה,

בֵּית שַׁמַּאי אוֹמְרִים, שְׁתֵּי שַׁבָּתוֹת. בֵּית הִלֵּל אוֹמְרִים, שַׁבָּת אֶחָת. הַתַּלְמִידִים יוֹצָאִין לְתַלְמוּד תּוֹרָה שֵׁלֹא בְרָשׁוּת, שָׁלֹשִׁים יוֹם.

הַפּוֹעֲלְים, שַׁבָּת אֱחָת.

הַעוֹנָה הַאֲמוּרָה בַתּוֹרָה,

הַטַּיָּלִין, בְּכֶל יוֹם.

הַפּועַלִים, שָׁתַּיִם בַּשָּׁבָּת.

הַחַמָּרִים, אַחַת בַּשַּׁבַּת.

הַגַּמַּלִים, אֲחַת לְשָׁלשִׁים יוֹם.

ָהַסַּפָּנִים, אַחַת לִשְּׁשָּׁה חֲדָשִׁים, דְּבָרֵי רַבִּי אֵלִיעֵזֵר:

6. Ketubot 62b

§ The mishna stated: For sailors, the set interval for conjugal relations is once every six months. This is the statement of Rabbi Eliezer. Rav Berona said that Rav said: The halakha is in accordance with the opinion of Rabbi Eliezer. Rav Adda bar Ahava said that Rav said: This is the statement of Rabbi Eliezer, but the Rabbis say: Students may leave their homes to study Torah for as long as two or three years without permission from their wives. Rava said: The Sages relied on Rabbi Adda bar Ahava's opinion and performed an action like this themselves, but the results were sometimes fatal.

This is as it is related about Rav Reḥumi, who would commonly study before Rava in Meḥoza: He was accustomed to come back to his home every year on the eve of Yom Kippur. One day he was particularly

הספנים אחת לששה חדשים דברי ר'
אליעזר: אמר רב ברונא אמר רב הלכה
כר"א אמר רב אדא בר אהבה אמר רב זו
דברי ר' אליעזר אבל חכמים אומרים
התלמידים יוצאין לת"ת ב' וג' שנים שלא
ברשות אמר רבא סמכו רבנן אדרב אדא
בר אהבה ועבדי עובדא בנפשייהו
כי הא דרב רחומי הוה שכיח קמיה דרבא
במחוזא הוה רגיל דהוה אתי לביתיה כל

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engrossed in the *halakha* he was studying, and so he remained in the study hall and did not go home. His wife was expecting him that day and continually said to herself: Now he is coming, now he is coming. But in the end, he did not come. She was distressed by this and a tear fell from her eye. At that exact moment, Rav Reḥumi was sitting on the roof. The roof collapsed under him and he died.

מעלי יומא דכיפורי יומא חד משכתיה שמעתא הוה מסכיא דביתהו השתא אתי השתא אתי לא אתא חלש דעתה אחית דמעתא מעינה הוה יתיב באיגרא אפחית איגרא מתותיה ונח נפשיה

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