Waste Not, Want Not

Source Sheet by Jonathan Crane

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Shulchan Shel Arba 2:7

And know indeed that what kind of person one is, is determined at the table, for there his qualities are revealed and made known.

שלחן של ארבע בי:זי

ותדע באמת כי האדם על שלחנו יבחן מי הוא ושם יתגלו ויתפרסמו מדותיו.

PLOT

Leviticus 19:9-10

When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap all the way to the edges of your field, or gather the gleanings of your harvest. You shall not pick your vineyard bare, or gather the fallen fruit of your vineyard; you shall leave them for the poor and the stranger: I the LORD am your God.

ויקרא ייש:טי-יי

וְּבָקֵצְרְכֶםׂ אֶת־קְצִיר אַרְצְבֶּם לָא תְכַלֶּה פְּאַת שָּדְדָּ לִקְצָר וְלֶקֶט קְצִירְדָּ לָא תְלַקֵּט: וְכַרְמְדְּ לָא תְעוֹלֵל וּפֶרֶט כַּרְמְדָּ לָא תְלַקֵּט לֶעָנִי וְלַגֵּר תַּצְוָב אֹתָם אֲנָי יְהָנָה אֱלֹהֵיכֶם:

Leviticus 23:22

And when you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap all the way to the edges of your field, or gather the gleanings of your harvest; you shall leave them for the poor and the stranger: I the LORD am your God.

ויקרא כ"ג:כ"ב

וְּבְקֵצְרְכֶּם אֶת־קְצִיר אַרְצָכֶּם לְא־תְכַּקֶּה פְּאַת שֶׂדְדּ בְּקצְלֶדְ וְלֶקֶט קִצִירְדָּ לְאׁ תְלַקֵט לֶעָנִי וְלַגֵּר תַּעֲלָב אֹתָם אֲנִי יְהָנָה אֱלֹהֵיכֶם: (ס)

Deuteronomy 24:19-20

When you reap the harvest in your field and overlook a sheaf in the field, do not turn back to get it; it shall go to the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow—in order that the LORD your God may bless you in all your undertakings. When you beat down the fruit of your olive trees, do not go over them again; that shall go to the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow.

ים-כי כ"ד:רים בדרים

בִּי תִקְצֹר ็קצִירְהָּ בְשָּׂנֶהְ וְשֶׁכַחְתָּ עְּמֶׁר בַּשֶּׁנֶה לְא תָשׁוּב ׁ לְקַחְתֹּוֹ לַגֵּרְ לַיָּתִוֹם וְלָאַלְמָנָה יִהְיֶה לְמַעַוֹ יְבָרֶכְהְ יִהְוָה אֱלֹהֶיהְ בְּכֻּל מַעֲשֵׂה יָדִיהְ: כִּי תַחְבּטֹ זִיתְהְ לָא תְפָאֵר אַחֲבֶיהְ לַגַּרְ לַיָּתְוֹם וְלָאַלְמָנָה יִהְיֶה: (ס)

Mishneh Torah, Gifts to the Poor 2:14

It is forbidden for workers to harvest all of a field unless they leave at the end of the field the appropriate area for giving *péah*, and nothing is given to the poor at all until the landowner separates it for that purpose in full knowledge. Therefore, for a poor person who sees *péah* at the end of the field, it is forbidden for him to labor in it because it would be considered as theft until he knows for certain that this is the intention of the owner.

משנה תורה, הלכות מתנות עניים בי:י״ד אָסוּר לַפּוֹעֲלִים לִקְצֹר אֶת כָּל הַשָּׁדָה אֶלָּא מַנִּיחִין בְּסוֹף הַשָּׂדָה כְּשִׁעוּר הַפֵּאָה. וְאֵין לְעֲנִיִּים בָּה כְּלוּם עַד שֶׁיַּפְרִישֶׁנָּה בַּעַל הַבִּיִת מִדַּעְתוֹ. לְפִיכָךְ עָנִי שֶׁרָאָה פֵּאָה בְּסוֹף שָׂדָה אָסוּר לְגַע בָּה מִשׁוּם גַּזֶל עַד שֶׁיִּנְדַע לוֹ שׁהיא מדעת בעל הבּית:

Mishneh Torah, Gifts to the Poor 4:13

It is forbidden for a man to let loose a lion or something similar within his field so that the poor see it and flee...for the sake of peace. משנה תורה, הלכות מתנות עניים די:י״ג וְאָסוּר לְאָדָם לְהַרְבִּיץ אֲרִי וְכַיּוֹצֵא בּוֹ בְּתוֹךְ שָׁדֵהוּ כְּדֵי שֶׁיִּרְאוּ הָעֲנִיִּים וְיִבְרְחוּ... מִפְּנֵי דַּרְכֵי שָׁלוֹם:

Mishneh Torah, Gifts to the Poor 2:20

When a landowner leaves *péah* for those poor people who stand [in a line] before him, and another poor person comes up behind him and takes from it [the pile of produce to be given out], he [the poor person] may keep it [even though he acquired it unfairly], for no one possesses *leket* or *shikhecha* or *péah* or even a coin that was found until it is in his hand [and without possession those standing in line have no legal claim to it as their property].

משנה תורה, הלכות מתנות עניים ב׳:כ׳

בַּעַל הַבַּיִת שֶׁהִנִּיחַ פַּאָה לַעֲנִיִּים אֵלוּ הָעוֹמְדִים לְפָנָיו וּבָא עָנִי אַחֵר מֵאֲחוֹרָיו וּנְטָלָה זָכָה בָּה שֶׁאֵין אָדָם זוֹכֶה בְּלֶקֶט שִׁכְחָה וּפֵאָה וְסָלַע שֶׁל מְצִיאָה עַד שֶׁיַּגִּיעַ לְיָדוֹ:

PLATE

Gittin 70a

§ Elijah the prophet said to Rabbi Natan: Eat a third of your fill, and drink a third of your fill, and leave a third of your fill, so that when you become angry you will become full. If you do this, there will be room, as it were, for the anger. If you become angry when your stomach is full

גיטין עי א

אמר ליה אליהו לר' נתן אכול שליש ושתה שליש והנח שליש לכשתכעוס תעמוד על מילואך you will be harmed.

Rashi on Gittin 70a

Eat a third: fill [your belly] a third with food, a third with drink, and let a third of your belly remain empty.

Rashi on Gittin 70a

For when you become angry: anger fills your belly to your capacity. So if you fill your innards with food and drink, when you become angry you will split asunder.

Mishneh Torah, Human Dispositions 4:2

Man shall not eat his stomach-full, but should reduce about one fourth of the quantity which would sate him; nor shall he drink water during the meal, save a little mixed with wine; but when the food will commence to be digested in his bowels, he may drink whatever quantity he needs, nevertheless, he should not drink over-much water even after the food was digested. He shall not eat before a thorough examination of self whether there is a need for elimination. Man shall not eat without warming his body either by walking before mealtime, by some manual labor, or by some other form of exercise which will tire him. As a general rule, he shall exercise his body and tire it every day during the morning so that it will commence to perspire, when he shall rest a little until his spirit will be calm then eat. If he take a warm bath after hard exercise it is still better, after which he should rest a little then eat.

רש"י על גיטין עי א

אכול שליש - מלא מעיך שליש ושתה שליש והנח שליש בטנך ריקם:

רש"י על גיטין עי א

ולכשתכעוס - וימלא בטנך כעס תעמוד על מילואך אבל אם תמלא מעיך אכילה ושתיה לכשתכעוס תבקע:

משנה תורה, הלכות דעות די:בי

לא יאכַל אָדָם עַד שֶׁתִּתְמֵלֵּא כְּרֵסוֹ אֶלָּא יִפְּחֹת כְּמוֹ רְבִיעַ מִשְּׂבְעָתוֹ. וְלֹא יִשְׁתָּה מֵיִם בְּתוֹךְ הַמָּזוֹן אֶלָּא מְעַט וּמְזוֹג בְּיַיִן. וּכְשֶׁיַּתְחִיל הַמְּזוֹן לְהִתְעַכֵּל בְּמֵעָיו שׁוֹתָה מַה שְׁהוּא צָּרִיךְ לִשְׁתּוֹת. וְלֹא יַרְכֶּה לִשְׁתּוֹת מֵיִם וַאֲפִלוּ כְּשָׁיִּתְעַכֵּל הַמְּזוֹן. וְלֹא יֹאכַל עַד עַיִּבְדֹּק עַצְמוֹ יָפָה יָפָה שֶׁמָּא יִהְיֶה צָרִיךְ לְנְקָבָיו. לֹא יֹאכַל אָדָם עַד שֶׁיֵּלֵדְ קְדֶם מְלַאכְתוֹ אוֹ יִתְיַגִּעַ בְּיָגַע אַחֵר. כְּלָלוֹ שֶׁל דָּבָר מְלַאכְתוֹ אוֹ יִתְיַגִּע כָּל יוֹם בַּבּקָר עַד שֶׁיַּתְחִיל יְעַנֶּה גּוֹפוֹ וְיִיגַע כָּל יוֹם בַּבּקָר עַד שֶׁיַּתְחִיל גוֹפוֹ לָחֹם וְיִשְׁקֹט מְעַט עַד שֶׁתִּרְיַשֵּׁב נַפְשׁוֹ וְאוֹכֵל. וְאִם רָחַץ בְּחַמִּין אַחַר שֶׁיָּגַע הָבִי זָה טוֹב וְאחר כַּךְ שׁוֹהָה מִעט וְאוֹכל:

Al-Ghazali, On Disciplining the Soul, 108

Said Abu Sa'id al-Khudri, "The Emissary of God (PBUH) once said, 'Wear your clothes, and eat and drink up to the middle of your stomachs, for to do this is part of Prophethood."

PRINCIPLE

Deuteronomy 22:4

If you see your fellow's ass or ox fallen on the road, do not ignore it; you must help him raise it.

Deuteronomy 22:10

You shall not plow with an ox and an ass together.

Deuteronomy 20:19-20

When you lay siege to a city for a long time, fighting against it to capture it, do not destroy its trees by putting an ax to them, because you can eat their fruit. Do not cut them down. Are the trees people, that you should besiege them? However, you may cut down trees that you know are not fruit trees and use them to build siege works until the city at war with you falls.

Shabbat 67b

The Sages taught in the *Tosefta*: One may place a lump of salt into a candle so it will burn brightly; that is effective and not merely for good fortune, so there is no element of the ways of the Amorites involved. And similarly, one may put mud or clay under a candle so it will burn longer. Rav Zutra said: He who covers an oil lamp or who uncovers a kerosene lamp for no purpose violates the prohibition: Do

דברים כ"ב:די

לא־תִרְאֶה אֶת־חֲמוֹר אָחִידְ אָוֹ שׁוֹרוֹ נֹפְלִים בַּדֵּרַדְ וִהָתִעַלַמְתָּ מֶהֶם הָקֶם תַּקִים עִמְוֹ: (ס)

דברים כ"ב:יי

לָא־תַחַרָשׁ בְּשׁוֹר־וּבַחַמְר יַחְדָּו: (ס)

דברים כי:ייט-כי

(יט) פִּי־תָצִוּר אֶל־עִיר °ָנִמִּים רַבִּים לְהַלָּחַם עָלֶיהָ לְתִפְשָׁהּ לְא־תַשְׁחָית אֶת־עֵצָהּ לִנְדְּחַ עָלָיוֹ גַּרְזֶּן כִּי מָמֶנוּ תֹאבֵל וְאֹתָוֹ לְא תִכְּרָת כִּי הָאָדָם עֵץ הַשָּׁדָּה לָכָא מִפָּנָיךְ בַּמְּצְוֹר: (כ) רֵّק עֵץ אֲשֶׁר־תֵּדַע כִּי־לֹא־עֵץ מַאֲכָל הוֹא אֹתוֹ תַשְׁחָית וְכֵּרֶתָּ וּבָנִיתָ מָצֹוֹר עַל־הָעִיר אַשֶּׁר־הָּוֹא עֹשֻׂה עִמְּדְּ מִלְחַמָה עַד רִדְתַּהּ: (פ)

שבת ס"ז ב

תָּנוּ רַבָּנַן: נוֹתְנִין בּוּל שֶׁל מֶלַח לְתוֹךְ הַנֵּר בִּשְׁבִיל שֶׁתָּאִיר וְתַדְלִיק. וְנוֹתְנִין טִיט וְחַרְסִית תַּחַת הַנֵּר בִּשְׁבִיל שֶׁתַּמְתִּין וְתַדְלִיק. אָמֵר רַב זוּטְרָא: הַאי מֵאן דִּמְכַמֵּי שְׁרָגָא דְּמִשְׁחָא וּמְגַלֵּי נַפְּטָא קָעָבַר מִשׁוּם ״בֵּל תַּשְׁחִית״. **not destroy,** since by doing so the fuel burns more quickly.

Mishneh Torah, Kings and Wars 6:10

(10) And not only regarding trees, but even one who destructively breaks vessels or rips up clothing or tears down a building or seals up a spring or wastes food violates the Negative Commandment of "Do not destroy". However, he only receives stripes for disobedience, in accordance with the Rabbis.

Sefer HaChinukh 529:2

The root reason for this Mitzvah [bal tashchit] is known: for it is in order to train our souls to love what is good and beneficial and to cling to it; and as a result, good fortune will cling to us, and we will move away every evil thing and from every matter of destructiveness. This is the way of kindly men of piety and the observant; they love peace and are happy at the good fortune of people, and bring them near the Torah. They will not destroy even a mustard seed in the world and they are distressed at every ruination and spoilage they see; and if they are able to do any rescuing, they will save anything from destruction, with all their power.

Taanit 20b

Rafram bar Pappa further relates: And every Shabbat eve, in the afternoon, Rav Huna would send a messenger to the marketplace, and he would purchase all the vegetables that were left with the gardeners who sold their crops, and throw them into the river. The Gemara asks: But why did he throw out the vegetables? Let him give them to the poor. The Gemara answers: If he did this, the poor would sometimes rely on the fact that Rav Huna would hand out vegetables, and they would

משנה תורה, הלכות מלכים ומלחמות ו':י'י

(י) וְלֹא הָאִילָנוֹת בִּלְבַד. אֶלָּא כָּל הַמְשַׁבֵּר
בֵּלִים. וְקוֹרֵעַ בְּגָדִים. וְהוֹרֵס בִּנְיָן. וְסוֹתֵם מַעְיָן. וּמְאַבֵּד מַאֲכָלוֹת דֶּרֶדְ הַשְּׁחָתָה. עוֹבֵר בְּלֹא תַשְׁחִית. וְאֵינוֹ לוֹקֶה אֶלָּא מַכַּת מַרְדּוֹת מָדְדּוֹת מִדְבַּרִיהֶם:

ספר החינוך תקכ"ט:בי

(ב) שרש המצוה ידוע, שהוא כדי ללמד נפשנו לאהב הטוב והתועלת ולהדבק בו, ומתוך כך תדבק בנו הטובה, ונרחיק מכל דבר רע ומכל דבר השחתה, וזהו דרך החסידים ואנשי מעשה אוהבים שלום ושמחים בטוב הבריות ומקרבים אותן לתורה, ולא יאבדו אפילו גרגיר של חרדל בעולם, ויצר עליהם בכל אבדון והשחתה שיראו, ואם יוכלו להציל יצילו כל דבר מהשחית בכל כחם

תענית כ' ב

וכל פניא דמעלי שבתא הוה משדר שלוחא לשוקא וכל ירקא דהוה פייש להו לגינאי זבין ליה ושדי ליה לנהרא וליתביה לעניים זמנין דסמכא דעתייהו ולא אתו למיזבן ולשדייה לבהמה קסבר מאכל אדם אין מאכילין לבהמה ולא ליזבניה כלל נמצאת מכשילן לעתיד לבא **not come to purchase** any. This would ruin the gardeners' livelihood. The Gemara further asks: And let him throw them to the animals. The Gemara answers: He holds that human food may not be fed to animals, as this is a display of contempt for the food. The Gemara objects: **But** if Rav Huna could not use them in any way, he should not purchase the vegetables at all. The Gemara answers: If nothing is done, vou would have been found to have caused a stumbling block for them in the future. If the vegetable sellers see that some of their produce is left unsold, the next week they will not bring enough for Shabbat. Therefore, Rav Huna made sure that the vegetables were all bought, so that the sellers would continue to bring them.

Bava Kamma 91b

Rabbi Ḥanina said: My son Shivhat did not die for any reason other than that he cut down a fig tree before its time. Ravina says: But if the lumber was greater in monetary value than its fruits, it is **permitted** to chop it down, and this does not violate the prohibition against destroying a tree. This halakha is also taught in a baraita. The verse states: "Only the trees of which you know that they are not trees for food, them you may destroy and cut down" (Deuteronomy 20:20). "Only the trees of which you know"; this is referring to a tree that bears fruit used for food, and it is permitted to cut down this type of tree under certain circumstances. "That they are not trees for food"; this is referring to a barren tree. The Gemara asks: And since the baraita will ultimately include all types of trees, so that even a tree that produces fruit may be cut down, what, then, is the meaning when the verse states: "That they are **not trees for food,**" which indicates that it is permitted to cut down only a barren tree? The Gemara answers: It is to give precedence to cutting down a barren tree **over** a tree whose fruit is used for **food**. One

בבא קמא צ"א ב

א"ר חנינא לא שכיב שיבחת ברי אלא דקץ תאינתא בלא זמנה אמר רבינא ואם היה מעולה בדמים מותר תניא נמי הכי (דברים כ, כ) רק עץ אשר תדע זה אילן מאכל כי לא עץ מאכל הוא זה אילן סרק וכי מאחר שסופו לרבות כל דבר מה ת"ל כי לא עץ מאכל להקדים סרק למאכל יכול אפילו מעולה בדמים ת"ל רק might have thought that he must give precedence to the cutting down of a barren tree even if the barren tree is greater in monetary value than the fruit-bearing tree. The verse states: "Only," which teaches that there is an exception to the rule. Similarly, if the fruit-bearing tree itself would be worth more as lumber than for its fruits, it would be permitted for one to cut it down.

Shabbat 140b

And Rav Ḥisda also said: One who is able to eat barley bread and nevertheless eats wheat bread violates the prohibition against wanton destruction. One who wastes resources is comparable to one who destroys items of value. And Rav Pappa said: One who is able to drink beer and nevertheless drinks wine violates the prohibition against wanton destruction. The Gemara comments: And this is not a correct matter, as the prohibition against destruction of one's body takes precedence. It is preferable for one to care for his body by eating higher quality food than to conserve his money.

שבת ק״מ ב

וְאָמַר רַב חָסְדָּא: הַאי מַאן דְּאֶפְשָׁר לֵיהּ לְמִיכַל נַהְמָא דִשְּׁעֲרֵי וְאָכַל דְּחִיטֵּי קָעָבַר מִשׁוּם ״בַּל תַּשְׁחִית״. וְאָמַר רַב פָּפָּא: הַאי מַאן דְּאֶפְשָׁר לְמִישְׁמֵּי שִׁיכְרָא וְשָׁתֵי חַמְרָא עוֹבֵר מִשׁוּם ״בַּל תַּשְׁחִית״. וְלָאו מִילְתָא הִיא — ״בַּל תַּשְׁחִית״ דְגוּפָא עֲדִיף.

