

Meilah with Articles

Ref: Sefer Avodah, Hilchot Meilah, Chapters 5–6

The Laws of *meilah* apply also to articles, besides Offerings, which were dedicated to the Temple.

- Articles fit to improve Temple
 - Stone
 - Beams
- Articles fit for *Mizbeach*
 - Sheep
 - Dove etc
- Non-fit articles for Temple or *Mizbeach*
 - Chickens
 - Vinegar etc

In all these cases, article is redeemed and sold and proceeds used towards Temple. However prior to this, these articles are subject to *meilah*.

Prohibition against *meilah* applies from time that the article was consecrated until it was redeemed.

Minimum measure required for *meilah* is **1 prutah**.

- This can be made up by combining.
- Combination can take place over an extended period, even after several years

Prohibition of *meilah* only applies to articles detached from earth. However, land can be consecrated to Temple.

Therefore, in relation to *meilah* one would be exempt if one ploughed the land, but liable if he separates the earth from the field.

Factors

- Intention
- Unintentional misuse causes article to lose holiness (holiness transferred to money of fine). Therefore only first person liable. Subsequent misusers are not liable.
- Intentional misuse results in article keeping its holiness and therefore subsequent misusers of that article are also liable. The reason is that the prohibition of *meilah* is too severe for a sacrifice to atone, and therefore the article retains its holiness. I.e. holiness cannot be transferred to a second item.
- Multiple mis-users of article also depends if article is damageable or not.
- Removal of a consecrated article without any benefit to person does not constitute *meilah*.
- There is a difference between a sacred animal (*Kodshei kodashim*) and one consecrated for its value.