

## Presents Given to the Poor

Ref: *Sefer Zeraim, Hilchot Matanot Anim, Chapters 1, 4, 5, 6*

- 📖 | To leave the *peah* (corner) of field when harvesting for the poor<sup>1</sup>, Not to gather the *peah*.<sup>2</sup>  
Punishment, if liable, is lashes.  
*Deoraita* – even one grain suffices
- 📖 | **Derabanan** – minimum  $\frac{1}{60}$  of the crop, and no maximum  
Applies to fruit on trees as well as crops.  
Even if one ground the flour, kneaded and baked, he could still give *peah* from the bread.
- 📖 | To leave *leket* (gleanings) for the poor<sup>3</sup>, Not to gather *leket*,<sup>4</sup>  
**Stalks that fall during harvest.**  
If baked can still give to poor.  
Punishment for transgression is *malkot*.
- 📖 | To leave *olelot* (defective clusters of grapes) for the poor<sup>5</sup>, Not to gather the *olelot* of the vineyard.<sup>6</sup>  
**Undeveloped grape clusters.**  
Punishment for transgression is *malkot*.
- 📖 | To leave *peret* (the individual fallen grapes)<sup>7</sup>, Not to gather the *peret* of vineyard.<sup>8</sup>  
**Individual grapes that fall.**  
Punishment for transgression is *malkot*.
- 📖 | To leave the *shichechah* (forgotten sheaf)<sup>9</sup>, Not to go back and fetch the forgotten sheaf.<sup>10</sup>  
**Forgets 1 bundle of sheaves after binding.**  
*Shichechah* applies also to standing grain and trees.  
Punishment for transgression is *malkot*.  
There are 4 presents given to poor in vineyard (*peret, olelot, peah, shichechah*).  
There are 3 presents from a grain crop (*leket, shichechah, peah*).  
There are 2 presents from trees (*shichechah, peah*).  
According to Scriptural Law all these presents only apply in *Eretz Yisrael*.
- 📖 | *Derabanan* these also apply in Diaspora (in places which are near *Eretz Yisrael*).

### LEKET

*Leket* is the produce (stalks of grain) which fall to ground while being gathered with hand or while being harvested with sickle.

Measure – 1 or 2 stalks. – if 3 fall, it belongs to owner.

When wind mixes *leket* with that belonging to owner, we estimate *leket* as 4 *kav* per area of *bet kor* (approx. 274 x 274 *amah*).

If however someone purposely covered *leket* with grain heap, then owner is penalised and all the stalks touching ground become *leket*. (Benefit of doubt given to poor).

### PERET

Grapes which separate from cluster.

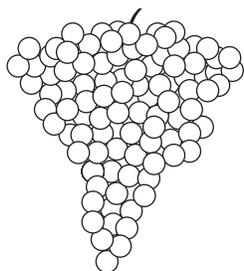
Measure – 1 or 2 grapes detach at once while harvesting. – If 3 fall together, they belong to owner. If a cluster is thrown to ground by reaper and broke into individual grapes, they are considered *peret* because it is possible that only 2 grapes at a time detached from cluster. (Benefit of doubt given to poor)..

#### OLELOT

Translates as infant. i.e. small undeveloped clusters. It contains only a few grapes.

There are 2 types:

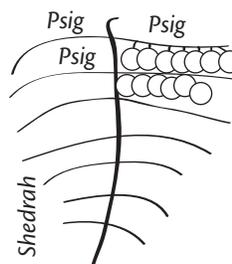
- Lacks a *kataf* (*kataf* = small branches (*psig*) growing out of a central stem.)
- Lacks a *nataf* (*nataf* = grapes that cover the spine and are not dispersed.)



Regular Cluster



Nataf



Kataf

Owner has to leave the clusters on vine for poor to collect only if it lacks both nataf and kataf.

Poor can collect only after owner begins harvesting vineyard, and has taken 3 clusters which, after squeezing, will produce a *reviit* of wine.

#### SHICHECHAH (FORGOTTEN SHEAF)

- To be *shichechah*, it must be forgotten by all people.
- If owner in city, and at the outset he knew that his workers forgot a sheaf and then he forgot about it, this is *shichechah*.
- If owner in field, and at the outset he knew that his workers forgot and then he forgot, this is not *shichechah*, because when in the field it is not considered *shichechah* if he remembered at the outset.
- Even if owner harvests at night, what is forgotten becomes *shichechah*.
- Similarly regarding a blind person.
- If one forgets a sheaf that contains 2 *seah*, this is not *shichechah*. (Too big to be forgotten)
- If there are at least 2 *seah* of standing grain unharvested, *shichechah* does not apply.
- Measure of *sheaves* is 1 or 2. If 3 then not *shichechah*.
- For trees, measure is 1 or 2 trees. If 3 then not *shichechah* i.e. if tree not distinguishable. A tree may become distinguished by
  - special position in field
  - yield (i.e. a special yield of fruit)

– name (if it had been given a name)

Therefore in these cases, *shichechah* would not apply.

- For vines

 | To separate *maaser ani* (poor man's tithe)<sup>11</sup>.

Applies only in third and sixth years and is in the place of *maaser sheni*.

Owner of field should give each poor person enough to satisfy his hunger.