

Because a מֶפֶר תּוֹרָה (Torah scroll) is so holy, one may not touch its parchment barehanded. Not only is this true for a Torah scroll, but also for scrolls of the נְבִיאִים (Prophets) and כְּתוּבִים (Writings, such as מְגַלַת אֶסְתֵר scroll of Esther).

The Sages wanted to make sure this rule was taken seriously and that proper respect was shown to these holy texts. They made a rule that if anyone would grasp with bare hands one of these holy scrolls, his hands would become אָמָא (impure). This would mean that if he were to touch הְרוּמָה (food that may be eaten only by בֹהֶוים) it would be unfit for a בֹהֶו

But not all scrolls of holy text make one's hands impure. The scrolls must have the following characteristics:



DAF YOMI 4 KIDS

Vows to Not Benefit

If someone wants, one may take a vow that he will not benefit at all from a certain person. One may also take a vow not to have any benefit from another person's food.

If someone vows not to benefit at all from another person, he may not even cross through his property even though people usually don't care

and use that any utensil *not* used to prepare food. Since the utensils have nothing to do with food, he may borrow them. Someone who has vowed not to benefit whatsoever from another may not even borrow his utensils.

When it comes to utensils used to prepare food, such as pots and pans, both one who vows against any benefit as well as one who vows only

against food benefit may not use the utensils. Since the utensils help make food they are considered a "food benefit."

A DITP Moment

"Ethan, when do you plan to finish your school project, clean your room and mow the lawn?"

"Later," Ethan said. "Honestly. Just not right now."

"A גָּדְבָה, vow, is to bring something in the future. A גְּדְבָה, donation, is something you bring right now. Hashem prefers a גָּדְבָה because, when someone makes a vow he gets all excited since he is only promising to do something *later*. It's easy to make promises about something you don't have to do now. It takes real commitment to do something right away."

Review Questions – 'מְגִילָה דַּף ח

1. What may one not touch with his bare hands?

2. Who not pass through another's property?

3. If someone vows to sacrifice a certain animal and it dies, what must he do?

if someone passes through his property.

Someone who vows not to benefit from another person's food may still borrow



BE AN ARCHAEOLOGIST!

Torah scrolls must be written in Hebrew letters called, כְּתָב אַשׁוּרִית (Assyrian script). These are the letters we use nowadays in all Hebrew texts. In the time of the Second Temple, people wrote Hebrew in כְּתָב עֵבְרִי (Hebrew script).

Below is a picture of a real coin from the Second Temple era with כְּתָב עֵבְרִי engraved on its face. Can you discover what it says using the chart below?



