

## לט אבות מלאכות - The 39 Melachos of Shabbos

An **אב מלאכה** refers to one of the 39 categories of activity that are forbidden on **שבת**. The word **מלאכה** does not mean "Work." At least not the English definition of the word "Work." For example, we may not carry a needle out into the street on **שבת** (if there is no Eruv,) yet you may drag a heavy sofa across the room. So what **מלאכות** are forbidden on **שבת**?

The 39 categories of activity that are forbidden on **שבת**, are all labors that have something in common - they are creative activities that show control over one's environment.

Specifically, the **גמרא** learns these 39 categories from the fact that the **תורה** put together the commandment to stop work on **שבת** in **פרשת ויקהל**, with its detailed instructions on how to build the **משכן**, and the preparation of its components.

This is to teach us, explains the **גמרא** (**שבת מט:**), which activities constitute **מלאכה**; any creative act that was part of the construction of the **משכן**, represents a category of work forbidden on **שבת**. These categories are forbidden by the **תורה**.

A **תולדה** of these **מלאכות** is work which is different from that done in the **משכן**, but which achieves the same result. These types of **מלאכות** are also prohibited by the *Torah*. There are also a number of additional activities that are forbidden by the **רבנן**. There are several categories of decrees that prohibit...

- 1) Activities that might lead directly to the violation of a **תורה** prohibition.
- 2) Use of items not designated for **שבת** use (**מוקצה**).
- 3) Activities that might lead one to think that a prohibited activity is permissible (**מראית עין**).
- 4) Activities that are not appropriate for **שבת**, even though they are technically permissible. The **נביא ישעיהו** recorded an **אסור** against speaking of business and against weekday-oriented activities.

On the other side of this page is the list of the 39 **מלאכות** prohibited on the **שבת** as listed in the **גמרא** (**שבת עג**). They are all in the song...count them to be sure!

<p>יֹרֵעַ's planting - like helping something grow you see          חוֹרֵשׁ plowing חוֹצֵר's reaping - therefore you can't climb a tree.          מְעַמֵּר's gathering fruits, or veggies where they grow,          הַדָּשׁ is threshing - squeezing fruits is a big NO!          זוֹרֵה is winnowing, shells you can't blow away,          בּוֹרֵר is separating - the bad stuff must stay,</p>	<p>טוֹחֵן is grinding, a potato you can't grate.          מְרַקֵּד's sifting לֶשׁ is kneading - אוֹפֶה means that you can't bake.          11 we just said, are all from making bread,          they're known in Hebrew as דְּפִתָּה.          There are 40 minus 1, sing along it's so much fun,          "Cuz we're learning the Melochos of Shabbos!"</p>
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CHORUS: Shabbos Kodesh Holy Shabbos you're our special day of rest  
 we spend time with family, and we praise you it's the best  
 Oh Shabbos it's so true, Oh Shabbos we love you  
 All the melochos we'll be careful not to do!  
 Shabbos is our treat you see, let's keep it you and me  
 And then Moshiach will come and set us free

שַׁבַּת קוֹדֵשׁ טַיִיעֶרֶע שַׁבַּת "מַיִט מִיּוֹן גְּאֻנְצֶע הָאָרֶץ" הָאֵב אֵיךְ דִּיר לִיעֵב,  
 אֵיךְ טוִיָּה אָהוּ מִיּוֹן שַׁבַּת קְלִינדֶער, און מִיר גְּרִיטֶון צו דָּעם שְׁטוֹב,  
 דָּיעַר שַׁבַּת טִישׁ אִיז זַייעַר פֿיין, און פֿאַר קִידוּשׁ טְרִינקט מַעַן ווִין  
 דִּי קִינדֶער זַינגִין אַלע זְמִירוֹת זַייעַר שִׁין!  
 שַׁבַּת יוֹם מְנוּחָה לִי, אומֶרים לָכֵה דוֹדִי,  
 כָּלֶם שְׂרִים כָּל מְקוֹדֵשׁ שְׁבִיעִי.

<p>גוֹזֵז is shearing, biting nails is not O.K.          מְלַבֵּן's whitening, don't clean your clothes in many ways.          מְנַפֵּץ combing, into separate fibers,          all raw materials, you can't comb or beat.          צוֹבֵעַ's dyeing, don't change the color,          unless you're changing something you will eat.</p>	<p>טוֹנֶה spinning מַיסֵךְ mounting - vertical threads of a loom          עוֹשֶׂה שְׁתֵּי בִתֵּי נִירִין - is making 2 rings for a loom          אוֹרֵג is weaving, "פּוֹלֶצֶע's removing at least 2 threads",          קוֹשֵׁר וְהַמְתִּיר is tying or untying a knot.          תּוֹפֵר is sewing, oh please don't pull that thread!          קוֹרֵעַ's tearing, don't rip on the Shabbat!</p>
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<p>הַצֵּד is trapping, שוֹחֵט Shechting, מְפָשֵׁט skinning,          מְעַבֵּד's tanning, and then goes מְמַחֵק smoothing,          מְשַׁרְטֵט's marking, מְחַתֵּךְ's cutting to shape or size,          "כּוֹתֵב means not to write", it's really no surprise          מוֹחֵק's erasing, בּוֹנֶה is building,          Leave the umbrellas if you're really wise.</p>	<p>סוֹתֵר's demolishing, "מְעַבֵּיר's lighting a spark or flame"          מְכַבֵּה's extinguishing - turning it off is just the same.          מְכֵה בְּפִטִּישׁ, a vessel don't complete,          that's why we don't play, instruments you know.          מְרִשֵׁת - לְרִשׁוֹת is carrying,          עִירוֹב outside you can't go!</p>
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