

HALAKHA

**Flowing water – מים זורמים:** Flowing water, even if it is privately owned, has the legal status of the person who draws it. The wording of the Gemara indicates that if the water is moving, as in the case of flowing spring water, it has the legal status of the person who draws it even if it does not leave its place (*Shulhan Arukh, Oraḥ Hayyim 397:15*).

The *halakha* is in accordance with the lenient opinion with regard to an *eiruv* – הלכה כדברי המיקל בעירוב: Even a sleeping person establishes residence for the purpose of walking two thousand cubits in each direction, since the *halakha* is in accordance with the opinion of Rabbi Yoḥanan ben Nuri. However, ownerless objects have the halakhic status of the person who finds them and do not establish residence on their own, because the *halakha* is in accordance with the leniency of both opinions (*Shulhan Arukh, Oraḥ Hayyim 401:1*).

NOTES

The *halakha* is in accordance with the opinion of Rabbi Yoḥanan ben Nuri – הלכה כרבי יוחנן בן נורי: If the *halakha* is in accordance with Rabbi Yoḥanan ben Nuri only when he is lenient, and the *halakha* is in accordance with the Rabbis only where a leniency is involved, such as with regard to ownerless utensils, the result is two contradictory leniencies. Some commentaries answer that perhaps we rule in accordance with the opinion of Rabbi Yoḥanan ben Nuri, but not for his reason. Rather, since a sleeping person can establish residence when awake, he can also do so when asleep; a sleeping person establishes residence where he is. Ownerless objects, however, never establish residence (Rashba; Ritva).

The *halakha* is in accordance with the lenient opinion with regard to an *eiruv* – הלכה כדברי המיקל בעירוב: The earlier and later commentaries discuss this principle, limiting it in several ways: They maintain that it applies only to an *eiruv*, but not to partitions, because the laws of partitions have a source in the Torah (Rivash). They further state that this principle does not apply to cases of unresolved dilemmas. Since the Sages did not resolve these dilemmas by applying this principle, leniency cannot be presumed (*Baḥ*, based on the Rif). The principle also cannot be applied if the doubt arises from two different explanations of the same statement (*Baḥ*). Some early commentaries claim that this principle refers only to disputes among the *tanna'im*, since their statements were known to Rabbi Yehoshua ben Levi and he could decide among them, but not to the words of *amora'im* (Ra'avad; see *Hagahot HaRosh; Me'iri*).

כל שכן דהוּוּ לְהוּוּ נִלְוָד דְאָסִירִי!

The Gemara raises a difficulty: If the water was previously not in its current state, **all the more so should it be considered as something that came into being [nolad] on the Festival**, and consequently it is **prohibited** to carry it. Something that came into being or assumed its present form on Shabbat or Festivals is considered set-aside [*muktze*] and may not be handled on Shabbat or Festivals.

אֵלָא מֵיָא בְעֵבִים מִינַד נִיידִי. הַשְׁתָּא דְאִתִּית לְהִבִּי – אוּקְיָנוּס נְמִי לָא לִיקְשׁוּ לָךְ, מֵיָא בְאוּקְיָנוּס נְמִי מִינַד נִיידִי וְתַנְיָא: נְהָרוֹת הַמּוֹשְׁכִין וּמַעְיָנוֹת הַנוֹבְעִין – הֵרִי הֵן כְּרַגְלֵי כָל אָדָם.

Rather, we should say: **The water in clouds is in constant motion** and therefore does not acquire residence there. The Gemara comments: **Now that you have arrived at this answer, the ocean should also not be difficult for you, as the water in the ocean is also in constant motion. And it was taught in a baraita: Flowing rivers and streaming springs are like the feet of all people, as their waters do not acquire residence in any particular place.**<sup>h</sup> The same law also applies to clouds and seas.

אָמַר רַבִּי יַעֲקֹב בַּר אִידִי, אָמַר רַבִּי יְהוֹשֻׁעַ בֶּן לֵוִי: הֲלֵכָה כְּרַבִּי יוֹחָנָן בֶּן נֹרִי. אָמַר לֵיהּ רַבִּי יוֹרְאָ לְרַבִּי יַעֲקֹב בַּר אִידִי: בְּפִירוֹשׁ שְׁמִיעַ לָךְ, אוּ מִכְּלָלָא שְׁמִיעַ לָךְ? אָמַר לֵיהּ: בְּפִירוֹשׁ שְׁמִיעַ לִי.

Rabbi Ya'akov bar Idi said that Rabbi Yehoshua ben Levi said: **The halakha is in accordance with the opinion of Rabbi Yoḥanan ben Nuri**,<sup>n</sup> that one who was asleep at the beginning of Shabbat may travel two thousand cubits in every direction. **Rabbi Zeira said to Rabbi Ya'akov bar Idi: Did you hear this halakha explicitly from Rabbi Yehoshua ben Levi, or did you understand it by inference from some other ruling that he issued?** Rabbi Ya'akov bar Idi said to him: **I heard it explicitly from him.**

מֵאִי כְּלָלָא? דְאָמַר רַבִּי יְהוֹשֻׁעַ בֶּן לֵוִי: הֲלֵכָה כְּדַבְרֵי הַמִּיקַל בְּעִירוּב.

The Gemara asks: **From what other teaching could this ruling be inferred?** The Gemara explains: **From that which Rabbi Yehoshua ben Levi said: The halakha is in accordance with the lenient opinion with regard to an eiruv.**<sup>hn</sup>

וְתַרְתֵּי לָמָּה לִּי?

The Gemara asks: **Why do I need both?** Why was it necessary for Rabbi Yehoshua ben Levi to state both the general ruling that the *halakha* is in accordance with the lenient opinion with regard to an *eiruv*, and also the specific ruling that the *halakha* is in accordance with the opinion of Rabbi Yoḥanan ben Nuri on this issue?

אָמַר רַבִּי יוֹרְאָ: צְרִיכִי, דְאִי אֲשַׁמְעִינָן הֲלֵכָה כְּרַבִּי יוֹחָנָן בֶּן נֹרִי – הִוָּה אֲמִינָא בִּין לְקוּלָא וּבִין לְחֻמְרָא. קָא מְשַׁמְעַ לָן: הֲלֵכָה כְּדַבְרֵי הַמִּיקַל בְּעִירוּב.

Rabbi Zeira said: Both rulings were necessary, as had he informed us only that **the halakha is in accordance with the opinion of Rabbi Yoḥanan ben Nuri, I would have said that the halakha is in accordance with him whether this is a leniency, i.e., that a sleeping person acquires residence and may walk two thousand cubits in every direction, or whether it is a stringency, i.e., that ownerless utensils acquire residence and can be carried only two thousand cubits from that place. Consequently, he teaches us that the halakha is in accordance with the lenient opinion with regard to an eiruv**, so that we rule in accordance with Rabbi Yoḥanan ben Nuri only when it entails a leniency.

וְלִימָא: "הֲלֵכָה כְּדַבְרֵי הַמִּיקַל בְּעִירוּב", "הֲלֵכָה כְּרַבִּי יוֹחָנָן בֶּן נֹרִי" לָמָּה לִּי?

The Gemara asks: **Let him state only that the halakha is in accordance with the lenient opinion with regard to an eiruv. Why do I need the statement that the halakha is in accordance with the opinion of Rabbi Yoḥanan ben Nuri?**

אִיצְטְרִיךְ, סְלֵקָא דְעֵתְךָ אֲמִינָא: הִי מִיָּלִי – יַחֲיד בְּמִקּוֹם יַחֲיד, וְרַבִּים בְּמִקּוֹם רַבִּים. אֲבָל יַחֲיד בְּמִקּוֹם רַבִּים – אִימָא לָא.

The Gemara answers: This ruling was necessary as well, for had he informed us only that the *halakha* is in accordance with the lenient opinion with regard to an *eiruv*, **it might have entered your mind to say that this statement applies only to disputes in which a single authority disagrees with another single authority, or several authorities disagree with several other authorities. But when a single authority maintains a lenient opinion against several authorities who maintain a more stringent position, you might have said that we do not rule in his favor.** Hence, it was necessary to state that the *halakha* is in accordance with the opinion of Rabbi Yoḥanan ben Nuri although he disputes the Rabbis.

אָמַר לֵיהּ רַבָּא לְאַבְי: מְדַי, עִירוּבִין דְרַבְּנָן, מַה לִּי יַחֲיד בְּמִקּוֹם יַחֲיד וּמַה לִּי יַחֲיד בְּמִקּוֹם רַבִּים?

Rava said to Abaye: **Now, since the laws of eiruvim are rabbinic in origin, what reason is there for me to differentiate between a disagreement of a single authority with a single authority and a disagreement of a single authority with several authorities?**

A woman for whom it is enough that she be impure from the time she saw – **אִשָּׁה שְׂדֵיָהּ שָׁעָתָה** – A woman approaching menopause who passes three expected menstrual cycles without experiencing bleeding and then sees blood is regarded as ritually impure only from the time that she examines herself and experiences menstrual flow. However, the law concerning a young woman is different. She is retroactively ritually impure for up to twenty-four hours, in accordance with the opinion of the Rabbis (Rambam *Sefer Tahara, Hilkhot Metamei Mishkav UMoshav* 4:1).

**A proximate and a distant report – קְרוֹבָה וְרְחוֹקָה**: One who receives a proximate report of the death of a close relative practices both the mourning customs observed for seven days and those observed for thirty days. One who receives a distant report practices mourning customs for only one day, with part of a day considered to be an entire day. Some authorities rule that although the laws governing the seven-day mourning period are not practiced in the case of a distant report concerning a father or mother, the other laws of mourning are observed (Ramban; *Shulhan Arukh, Yoreh De'a* 402:1).

NOTES

In exigent circumstances – **בְּשַׁעַת הַדְּחָק**: The nature of the exigent circumstance referred to here is discussed by the commentaries (see Rashi and *Tosafot*). *Tosafot* explain that it refers to a case where the questioner departed, and it would be nearly impossible to find him and inform him that there had been a mistaken ruling.

אָמַר לִיהוּ רַב פָּפָא לְרַבָּא: וּבְדַרְבַּנְךָ לֹא שָׁנִי לָן בֵּין יָחִיד בְּמִקּוּם יָחִיד לְיָחִיד בְּמִקּוּם רַבִּים?

Rav Pappa said to Rava: Is there no difference with regard to rabbinic laws between a disagreement of a single authority with a single authority, and a disagreement of a single authority with several authorities?

וְהִתְנַן, רַבִּי אֶלְעָזָר אָמַר: כָּל אִשָּׁה שָׁעָבְרוּ עָלֶיהָ שְׁלֹשׁ עֹנוֹת – דִּינָהּ שָׁעָתָה.

Didn't we learn in a mishna that Rabbi Elazar says: Any woman who passed three expected menstrual cycles without experiencing bleeding is presumed not to be menstruating. If afterward she sees blood, it is enough that she be regarded as ritually impure due to menstruation from the time that she examined herself<sup>H</sup> and saw that she had a discharge, rather than retroactively for up to twenty-four hours. The Rabbis, however, maintain that this *halakha* applies only to an older woman or to a woman after childbirth, for whom it is natural to stop menstruating, but not to a normal young woman for whom three periods have passed without bleeding.

וְתַנְיָא: מַעֲשֵׂה וְעֵשֶׂה רַבִּי כְּרַבִּי אֶלְעָזָר. לְאַחַר שָׁנוּבָר אָמַר: כְּדִי הוּא רַבִּי אֶלְעָזָר לְסִמוּךְ עָלָיו בְּשַׁעַת הַדְּחָק.

And it was taught in a *baraita*: It once happened that Rabbi Yehuda HaNasi ruled that the *halakha* is in accordance with the opinion of Rabbi Elazar. After he remembered that Rabbi Elazar's colleagues disagree with him on this matter and that he had apparently ruled incorrectly, he nonetheless said: Rabbi Elazar is worthy to rely upon in exigent circumstances.<sup>N</sup>

מֵאִי "לְאַחַר שָׁנוּבָר"? אִילִימָא לְאַחַר שָׁנוּבָר דְּאִין הִלְכָה כְּרַבִּי אֶלְעָזָר, אֲלֵא כְּרַבָּנִי – בְּשַׁעַת הַדְּחָק הֵיכִי עָבִיד כְּוִוִּיתִיהּ?

The Gemara comments: What is the meaning of: After he remembered? If you say that it means after he remembered that the *halakha* is not in accordance with the opinion of Rabbi Elazar but rather in accordance with the opinion of the Rabbis, then how could he rule in accordance with him even in exigent circumstances, given that the *halakha* had been decided against him?

אֲלֵא: דְּלֵא אִיתְמַר הִלְכָתָא לֹא כְּרַבִּי אֶלְעָזָר וְלֹא כְּרַבָּנִי, לְאַחַר שָׁנוּבָר דְּלֵא וְיָחִיד פְּלִיג עֲלֵיהּ אֲלֵא רַבִּים פְּלִיגִי עֲלֵיהּ, אָמַר: כְּדִי הוּא רַבִּי אֶלְעָזָר לְסִמוּךְ עָלָיו בְּשַׁעַת הַדְּחָק.

Rather, it must be that the *halakha* had not been stated on this matter, neither in accordance with the opinion of Rabbi Elazar, nor in accordance with the opinion of the Rabbis. And after he remembered that it was not a single authority who disagreed with Rabbi Elazar, but rather several authorities who disagreed with him, he nonetheless said: Rabbi Elazar is worthy to rely upon in exigent circumstances. This demonstrates that even with a dispute that involves a rabbinic decree, such as whether a woman is declared ritually impure retroactively, there is room to distinguish between a disagreement of a single authority and a single authority, and a disagreement of a single authority and several authorities.

אָמַר רַב מִשְׁרֵשִׁיא לְרַבָּא, וְאָמַרִי לֵה רַב נַחֲמָן בְּרִי יִצְחָק לְרַבָּא: וּבְדַרְבַּנְךָ לֹא שָׁנִי בֵּין יָחִיד בְּמִקּוּם יָחִיד, בֵּין יָחִיד בְּמִקּוּם רַבִּים?

Rav Mesharshiya said to Rava, and some say it was Rav Nahman bar Yitzhak who said to Rava: Is there no difference with regard to rabbinic laws between a disagreement of a single authority with a single authority, and a disagreement of a single authority with several authorities?

וְהִתְנַיָּא: שְׂמוּעָה קְרוֹבָה נוֹהֶגֶת שְׁבַעַת יוֹם וְשְׂלוֹשִׁים, רְחוֹקָה – אֵינָה נוֹהֶגֶת אֲלֵא יוֹם אֶחָד.

Wasn't it taught in a *baraita*: If a person receives a proximate report that one of his close relatives has died, he practices all the customs of the intense seven day mourning period as well as the customs of the thirty day mourning period. But if he receives a distant report, he practices only one day of mourning.

וְאִי זוּ הִיא קְרוֹבָה וְאִיזוּ הִיא רְחוֹקָה? בְּתוֹךְ שְׁלֹשִׁים – קְרוֹבָה, לְאַחַר שְׁלֹשִׁים – רְחוֹקָה, דְּבְרֵי רַבִּי עֲקִיבָא. וְחֻכְמִים אֹמְרִים: אַחַת שְׂמוּעָה קְרוֹבָה וְאַחַת שְׂמוּעָה רְחוֹקָה נוֹהֶגֶת שְׁבַעַת יוֹם וְשְׁלֹשִׁים.

What is considered a proximate report, and what is considered a distant report? If the report arrives within thirty days of the close relative's passing, it is regarded as proximate, and if it arrives after thirty days it is considered distant; this is the statement of Rabbi Akiva. But the Rabbis say: Both in the case of a proximate report and in the case of a distant report,<sup>H</sup> the grieving relative practices the seven-day mourning period and the thirty-day mourning period.

וְאָמַר רַבָּה בְּרַי רַב חֲנָה, אָמַר רַבִּי יוֹחָנָן: כָּל מְקוּם שְׂאֵתָה מוֹצֵא יָחִיד מִיְקָל וְרַבִּים מַחְמִירִין – הִלְכָה כְּדְבָרֵי הַמַּחְמִירִין, הַמְרַבִּים. חוּץ מִזוּ, שְׂאֵף עַל פִּי שְׂרָבִי עֲקִיבָא מִיְקָל וְחֻכְמִים מַחְמִירִין – הִלְכָה כְּדְבָרֵי רַבִּי עֲקִיבָא.

And Rabba bar bar Hana said that Rabbi Yohanan said: Wherever you find that a single authority is lenient with regard to a certain *halakha* and several other authorities are stringent, the *halakha* is in accordance with the words of the stringent authorities, who constitute the majority, except for here, where despite the fact that the opinion of Rabbi Akiva is lenient and the opinion of the Rabbis is more stringent, the *halakha* is in accordance with the opinion of Rabbi Akiva.

NOTES

The *halakha* is in accordance with the lenient opinion with regard to mourning – הלכה כדברי המיקל באבל – The rationale for this principle is that according to most commentaries and halakhic authorities, the mandate for mourning practices is not from Torah law. In addition, all the particulars of the laws of mourning are certainly instituted by rabbinic law, and consequently, the *halakha* is lenient about them. Nevertheless, certain limitations apply. For example, the principle applies to the laws of mourning but not to the laws of rending one's garments over the death of a relative (Ramban; *Bah*). In addition, this principle applies to only certain laws of mourning (Ramban; Rashba), and it is not operative with respect to an opinion that has been rejected by all authorities (*Bah*).

וסבר לה כשמואל, דאמר שמואל: הלכה כדברי המיקל באבל.

And Rabbi Yoḥanan holds like Shmuel, as Shmuel said: **The *halakha* is in accordance with the lenient opinion with regard to mourning practices,**<sup>n</sup> i.e., wherever there is a dispute with regard to mourning customs, the *halakha* is in accordance with the lenient opinion.

באבילות הוא דאקילו בה רבנן, אבל בעלמא – אפילו בדרבנן שני בין יחיד במקום יחיד, בין יחיד במקום רבים.

From here the Gemara infers: **It is only with regard to mourning practices that the Sages were lenient, but in general, with regard to other areas of *halakha*, even in the case of rabbinic laws there is a difference between a disagreement of a single authority with a single authority and a disagreement of a single authority with several authorities.** This being the case, Rabbi Yehoshua ben Levi did well to rule explicitly that the *halakha* is in accordance with the opinion of Rabbi Yoḥanan ben Nuri, even though he is a single authority who ruled leniently in dispute with the Rabbis.

Perek IV  
Daf 46 Amud b

ורב פפא אמר: איצטריך, סלקא דעתך אמינא: הני מילי – בעירווי חצירות, אבל בעירווי תחומין – אימא לא, צריכא.

Rav Pappa said a different explanation for the fact that Rabbi Yehoshua ben Levi made both statements: **It was necessary** for Rabbi Yehoshua ben Levi to inform us that the *halakha* is in accordance with the opinion of Rabbi Yoḥanan ben Nuri, because had he said only that the *halakha* follows the lenient opinion with regard to an *eiruv*, **it could have entered your mind to say that this statement applies only with regard to the laws governing the *eiruv* of courtyards**, which are entirely rabbinic in origin. **But with regard to the more stringent laws governing the *eiruv* of Shabbat limits**, you would have said that we should not rule leniently, and therefore **it was necessary** to make both statements.

ומנא תימרא דשני לן בין עירווי חצירות לעירווי תחומין – דתנן, אמר רבי יהודה: במה דברים אמורים – בעירווי תחומין, אבל בעירווי חצירות – מערבין בין לדעת ובין שלא לדעת, שזכין לאדם שלא בפניו, ואין חבין לאדם אלא בפניו.

The Gemara asks: **And from where do you say that we distinguish between an *eiruv* of courtyards and an *eiruv* of Shabbat limits? As we learned in a mishna that Rabbi Yehuda said: In what case is this statement said, that an *eiruv* may be established for another person only with his knowledge? It was said with regard to an *eiruv* of Shabbat limits, but with regard to an *eiruv* of courtyards, an *eiruv* may be established for another person whether with his knowledge or without his knowledge, as one may act in a person's interest in his absence; however, one may not act to a person's disadvantage in his absence.** One may act unilaterally on someone else's behalf when the action is to that other person's benefit; however, when it is to the other person's detriment, or when there are both advantages and disadvantages to him, one may act on the other person's behalf only if one has been explicitly appointed as an agent. Since an *eiruv* of courtyards is always to a person's benefit, it can be established even without his knowledge. However, with regard to an *eiruv* of Shabbat limits, while it enables one to walk in one direction, it disallows him from walking in the opposite direction. Therefore, it can be established only with his knowledge.

רב אשי אמר: איצטריך, סלקא דעתך אמינא: הני מילי – בשיווי עירוב, אבל בתחילת עירוב – אימא לא.

Rav Ashi said that Rabbi Yehoshua ben Levi's need to issue two rulings can be explained in another manner: **It is necessary** for Rabbi Yehoshua ben Levi to inform us that the *halakha* is in accordance with the opinion of Rabbi Yoḥanan ben Nuri, as if he had said only that the *halakha* is in accordance with the lenient opinion with regard to an *eiruv*, **it could have entered your mind to say that this statement applies only with regard to the remnants of an *eiruv***, i.e., an *eiruv* that had been properly established, where the concern is that it might subsequently have become invalid. **But with regard to an initial *eiruv***, i.e., an *eiruv* that is just being established and has not yet taken effect, you might have said that we should not rule leniently, and therefore it was necessary to issue both rulings.



The remnants of an *eiruv* and an initial *eiruv* – **שיורי עירוב ותחילת עירוב**: The distinction between an initial *eiruv* and the remnants of an *eiruv* refers to two clearly distinct stages. Namely, that there are different standards for the initial phase of acquiring residence in a given location, or establishing an *eiruv* in a given alleyway, than for the remainder of an *eiruv*, where the question is whether an *eiruv* that has been established remains valid. As stated here, it is more reasonable to be lenient with regard to the remainder of an *eiruv*.

The *halakha* is in accordance with the opinion of Rabbi Yosei even in disputes with other Sages – **הַלְכָה... בְּרַבֵּי יוֹסֵי מַחְבְּרֵי**: The different versions of this statement raise the question of whether the *halakha* accords with the opinion of Rabbi Yosei only in disputes with an individual Sage, or even in a dispute with two or more Sages. Many authorities (*Halakhot Gedolot*, Rav Sherira Gaon, Rif, Ri Migash, Rabbeinu Manoah, and apparently the Rambam and Rabbi Yosef Caro as well) maintain that the *halakha* is in accordance with his opinion only in disputes with an individual Sage, but not in disputes with other Sages (see *Yad Malakhi*).

**הַלְכָה... one is inclined... it appears** – **מֵשִׁי... נִרְאִין**: These expressions have been explained in several ways (see Rashi and *Tosafot*). The *ge'onim* explain that the word *halakha* means that this matter has been established as law and must be accepted. The phrase it appears indicates that the Sages discussed this issue and the words of one Sage appear more acceptable than the statements of his colleague. The phrase one is inclined means that without examining in detail all sides of the argument, the judgment tends towards a particular opinion.

**Halakhic decision-making – קביעת הלכות**: These rules of halakhic decision-making, namely, that the *halakha* is in accordance with the opinion of a particular Sage in disputes with a given colleague, whether with regard to one issue or all issues, were established by the Sages, who examined these disputes and usually found a principle in the statements of each Sage that led them to accept or reject his approach. Nevertheless, these fixed rules are limited in several ways. The Gemara itself explicitly states that where a contradictory *halakha* is stated by *amora'im* the principle does not apply, and it was only stated with regard to cases where no explicit ruling exists. Most authorities agree that even when there is no halakhic ruling in accordance with one opinion, but the Gemara's discussion favors a particular approach and accepts it as the basis of its discussion, the *halakha* follows suit. Some commentaries state that these principles do not apply to any issue that is not practical *halakha* nowadays, such as the laws related to the Temple. In addition, other principles occasionally override these fixed rules of halakhic decision-making. Examples include the principle of accepting the lenient opinion with regard to an *eiruv*, the rules listed in tractate *Eduyot*, and the acceptance of Rabbi Meir's decrees.

**רבי מאיר ורבי שמעון** – **רבי מאיר ורבי שמעון**: This dilemma is left unresolved in the Babylonian Talmud. Several authorities write that in these disputes, the stringent opinion is accepted with regard to Torah law, and the lenient opinion is accepted with regard to rabbinic law. However, in the Jerusalem Talmud it is stated that the *halakha* is in accordance with the opinion of Rabbi Shimon in disputes with Rabbi Meir. Apparently, Rav Sherira Gaon and the Ra'avad rule in accordance with the Jerusalem Talmud, as does Rambam, according to the *Lehem Mishne* (see *Yad Malakhi*).

The Gemara asks: **And from where do you say that we distinguish between the remnants of an *eiruv* and an initial *eiruv*? As we learned in a mishna: Rabbi Yosei said: In what case is this statement said, that the Sages stipulated that a fixed quantity of food is necessary for establishing an *eiruv*? It is said with regard to an initial *eiruv*, i.e., when setting up an *eiruv* for the first time; however, with regard to the remnants of an *eiruv*, i.e., on a subsequent Shabbat when the measure may have become diminished, even a minimal amount suffices.<sup>N</sup>**

**And they said to establish an *eiruv* for courtyards only after all the inhabitants of the city merge their alleyways and become like the inhabitants of a single courtyard, so that the law of *eiruv* should not be forgotten by the children, who may not be aware of the arrangement that has been made with regard to the alleyways.**

Since the Gemara discussed the principles cited with regard to halakhic decision-making, it cites additional principles. **Rabbi Ya'akov and Rabbi Zerika said: The *halakha* is in accordance with the opinion of Rabbi Akiva in disputes with any individual Sage, and the *halakha* is in accordance with the opinion of Rabbi Yosei even in disputes with other Sages,<sup>N</sup> and the *halakha* is in accordance with the opinion of Rabbi Yehuda HaNasi in disputes with any individual Sage.**

The Gemara asks: **With regard to what *halakha* do these principles apply, meaning, to what degree are they binding? Rabbi Asi said: This is considered binding *halakha*. And Rabbi Hiyya bar Abba said: One is inclined toward such a ruling in cases where an individual asks, but does not issue it as a public ruling in all cases. And Rabbi Yosei, son of Rabbi Hanina, said: It appears that one should rule this way, but it is not an established *halakha* that is considered binding with regard to issuing rulings.<sup>N</sup>**

**Rabbi Ya'akov bar Idi said that Rabbi Yoḥanan said: In the case of a dispute between Rabbi Meir and Rabbi Yehuda, the *halakha* is in accordance with the opinion of Rabbi Yehuda; in the case of a dispute between Rabbi Yehuda and Rabbi Yosei, the *halakha* is in accordance with the opinion of Rabbi Yosei; and, needless to say, in the case of a dispute between Rabbi Meir and Rabbi Yosei, the *halakha* is in accordance with the opinion of Rabbi Yosei. As now, if in disputes with Rabbi Yehuda, the opinion of Rabbi Meir is not accepted as law, need it be stated that in disputes with Rabbi Yosei, Rabbi Meir's opinion is rejected? Rabbi Yehuda's opinion is not accepted in disputes with Rabbi Yosei.<sup>N</sup>**

**Rav Asi said: I also learn based on the same principle that in a dispute between Rabbi Yosei and Rabbi Shimon, the *halakha* is in accordance with the opinion of Rabbi Yosei. As Rabbi Abba said that Rabbi Yoḥanan said: In cases of dispute between Rabbi Yehuda and Rabbi Shimon, the *halakha* is in accordance with the opinion of Rabbi Yehuda. Now, if where it is opposed by Rabbi Yehuda the opinion of Rabbi Shimon is not accepted as law, where it is opposed by the opinion of Rabbi Yosei, with whom the *halakha* is in accordance against Rabbi Yehuda, is it necessary to say that the *halakha* is in accordance with the opinion of Rabbi Yosei?**

The Gemara raises a dilemma: **In a dispute between Rabbi Meir and Rabbi Shimon,<sup>N</sup> what is the *halakha*? No sources were found to resolve this dilemma, and it stands unresolved.**

**Rav Mesharshiya said: These principles of halakhic decision-making are not to be relied upon. The Gemara asks: From where does Rav Mesharshiya derive this statement?**

**If you say that he derived it from that which we learned in the mishna that Rabbi Shimon said: To what is this comparable? It is like three courtyards that open into one another, and also open into a public domain. If the two outer courtyards established an *eiruv* with the middle one, the residents of the middle one are permitted to carry to the two outer ones, and they are permitted to carry to it, but the residents of the two outer courtyards are prohibited to carry from one to the other, as they did not establish an *eiruv* with one another.**

ומנא תימרא דשני לן בין שיורי עירוב לתחילת עירוב – דתנן: אמר רבי יוסי: במה דברים אמורים – בתחילת עירוב, אבל בשיורי עירוב – אפילו כל שהוא.

ולא אמרו לערב חצירות אלא כדי שלא לשפח תורת עירוב מן התנוקות.

רבי יעקב ורבי זריקא אמרו: הלכה כרבי יוסי ורבי יוסי מחברי, ורבי יוסי מחברי, ורבי יוסי מחברי.

למאי הלכתא? רבי אסי אמר: הלכה, ורבי חייא בר אבא אמר: משני, ורבי יוסי ברבי חנינא אמר: נראין.

בלשון הזה אמר רבי יעקב בר אידי, אמר רבי יוחנן: רבי מאיר ורבי יהודה – הלכה כרבי יהודה, רבי יהודה ורבי יוסי – הלכה כרבי יוסי, ואין צריך לומר רבי מאיר ורבי יוסי – הלכה כרבי יוסי. השתא במקום רבי יהודה – ליתא, במקום רבי יוסי מבעיא?!

אמר רב אסי: אף אני לומר רבי יוסי ורבי שמעון – הלכה כרבי יוסי. דאמר רבי אבא, אמר רבי יוחנן: רבי יהודה ורבי שמעון – הלכה כרבי יהודה. השתא במקום רבי יהודה ליתא, במקום רבי יוסי מבעיא?!

איבעיא להו: רבי מאיר ורבי שמעון מאי תיקו.

אמר רב משרשיא: ליתנהו להני כלי. מנא ליה לרב משרשיא הא?

אילימא מהא דתנן, רבי שמעון אומר: למה הדבר דומה – לשלש חצירות הפתוחות זו לזו ופתוחות לרשות הרבים, עירבו שתים החיצונות עם האמצעית – היא מותרת עמהן, והן מותרות עמה, ושתיים החיצונות אסורות זו עם זו.

ואמר רב חמא בר גוריא, אמר רב: הלכה כרבי שמעון. ומאן פליג עליה - רבי יהודה. והא אמרת: רבי יהודה ורבי שמעון הלכה כרבי יהודה, אלא לאו שמע מינה: ליתנהו.

And Rav Hama bar Gurya said that Rav said: The *halakha* is in accordance with the opinion of Rabbi Shimon; and who disagrees with Rabbi Shimon on this matter? It is Rabbi Yehuda. Didn't you say: In disputes between Rabbi Yehuda and Rabbi Shimon, the *halakha* is in accordance with the opinion of Rabbi Yehuda? Rather, can we not conclude from this mishna that these principles should not be relied upon?

ומאי קושיא? דילמא: היכא דאיתמר - איתמר, היכא דלא איתמר - לא איתמר.

The Gemara rejects this argument: **What is the difficulty** posed by this ruling? **Perhaps where it is stated** explicitly to the contrary, **it is stated**, but where it is not stated explicitly to the contrary, **it is not stated**, and these principles apply.

אלא מהא, דתנן: עיר של יחיד ונעשית של רבים - מערבין את כולה. של רבים ונעשית של יחיד - אין מערבין את כולה, אלא אם כן עושה חוצה לה בעיר חדשה שביהודה, שיש בה חמשים דירין, דברי רבי יהודה.

Rather, the proof is from that which we learned elsewhere in a mishna: If a city that belongs to a single individual subsequently becomes one that belongs to many people, one may establish an *eiruv* of courtyards for all of it. But if the city belongs to many people, and it falls into the possession of a single individual, one may not establish an *eiruv* for all of it, unless he excludes from the *eiruv* an area the size of the town of Hadasha in Judea, which contains fifty residents; this is the statement of Rabbi Yehuda.

רבי שמעון אומר:

Rabbi Shimon says:

שלש חצירות של שני בתים. ואמר רב חמא בר גוריא, אמר רב: הלכה כרבי שמעון. ומאן פליג עליה - רבי יהודה. והא אמרת: רבי יהודה ורבי שמעון הלכה כרבי יהודה!

The excluded area need not be so large; rather, **three courtyards each containing two houses** are sufficient for this purpose. **And Rav Hama bar Gurya said that Rav said: The halakha is in accordance with the opinion of Rabbi Shimon; and who disagrees with Rabbi Shimon on this matter? It is Rabbi Yehuda. Didn't you say: In a case where Rabbi Yehuda and Rabbi Shimon disagree, the halakha is in accordance with the opinion of Rabbi Yehuda? This teaches that one should not rely on these principles.**

ומאי קושיא? דילמא הכא נמי, היכא דאיתמר - איתמר, היכא דלא איתמר - לא איתמר.

The Gemara rejects this argument as well: **What is the difficulty here? Perhaps here, too, where it is stated** explicitly that the *halakha* is in accordance with Rabbi Shimon, **it is stated**, but where it is not stated explicitly, **it is not stated**, and the principle that the *halakha* is in accordance with the opinion of Rabbi Yehuda applies.

אלא מהא, דתנן: המניח את ביתו והלך לשבות בעיר אחרת, אחד נכרי ואחד ישראלי - אוסר לבני חצירות, דברי רבי מאיר.

Rather, the proof is from that which we learned elsewhere in a mishna: With regard to **one who left his house without making an *eiruv* of courtyards, and established residence for Shabbat in a different town, whether he was a gentile or a Jew, his lack of participation prohibits the other residents of the courtyards in which he has a share to carry objects from their houses to the courtyard, because he did not establish an *eiruv* with them, and failure to include a house in the *eiruv* imposes restrictions upon all the residents of the courtyard. This is the statement of Rabbi Meir.**

רבי יהודה אומר: אינו אוסר. רבי יוסי אומר: נכרי - אוסר, ישראלי - אינו אוסר, מפני שאין דרך ישראל לבא בשבת. רבי שמעון אומר: אפילו הניח את ביתו והלך לשבות אצל בתו באותה העיר - אינו אוסר, שגבר הסיח דעתו.

Rabbi Yehuda says: **His lack of participation does not prohibit the others to carry, since he is not present there. Rabbi Yosei says: Lack of participation in an *eiruv* by a gentile who is away prohibits the others to carry, because he might return on Shabbat; but lack of participation by a Jew who is not present does not prohibit the others to carry, as it is not the way of a Jew to return on Shabbat once he has already established his residence elsewhere. Rabbi Shimon says: Even if he left his house and established residence for Shabbat with his daughter in the same town, his lack of participation does not prohibit the residents of his courtyard to carry, even though he is permitted to return home, because he has already removed it, i.e., returning, from his mind.**