



OVERVIEW BAVA KAMA DAF 2

Section 1: The Four Main Types of Damage

The Mishnah lists four main categories of damage:

1. **Shor (Ox)** - when an animal hurts someone or damages property
2. **Bor (Pit)** - when someone digs a hole and something falls in
3. **Mav'eh** - we'll explain this later
4. **Hev'er (Fire)** - when fire spreads and burns things

What makes them different from each other:

The Mishnah explains that each type has unique features (called "Re'i"):

- An ox and Mav'eh are ALIVE, but fire is not
- An ox, Mav'eh, and fire MOVE AROUND, but a pit just sits there
- Despite these differences, they all have the same punishment

What they all have in common:

- It's in their nature to cause damage
- You're responsible for guarding them
- If they cause damage, you must pay with your best quality land

Section 2: Main Categories vs. Sub-Categories

The Gemara notices: If these are "main categories," there must also be "sub-categories" (Toldos).

Big question: Do sub-categories follow the same rules as main categories, or different rules?

Example #1: Shabbos Work

For Shabbos, there are 39 main types of forbidden work. The sub-categories have the SAME punishment:

- If done on purpose: death penalty
- If done by accident: must bring a sin offering

But why distinguish between main and sub-categories?

Most rabbis say: If you accidentally do a main type AND its sub-category on the same Shabbos (forgetting both are forbidden), you only bring ONE sin offering (because they're related).

Rabbi Eliezer says: You bring TWO sin offerings. He explains the 39 are called "main" because they were the important work done when building the Tabernacle (the portable Temple).

Example #2: Ritual Impurity

For ritual impurity, main categories are DIFFERENT from sub-categories:

- **Main categories:** Make both people AND objects impure
- **Sub-categories:** Only make food and drink impure, NOT people or vessels

What About Damage?

Rav Papa's answer: For damage laws, SOME sub-categories are like the main categories, and SOME are different.

Section 3: Breaking Down Ox Damage

An ox can damage in three main ways:

1. **Keren (Goring)** - hitting with its horn
2. **Shen (Eating)** - eating someone's crops or food

- Regel (Trampling) - stepping on and breaking things

Where Does the Torah Teach About Goring?

The verse says "If an ox will gore..." The rabbis prove "goring" means with the HORN from other biblical verses:

- "With these (horns) you will gore Aram"
- "His horns, with them he will gore nations"

Question: Why do we need TWO verses?

Answer: We might have thought the Torah only distinguishes between "warned" (Mu'ad) and "not warned" (Tam) for DETACHED horns. The second verse teaches us: No, even with ATTACHED horns, the same rules apply.

What Are the Sub-Categories of Goring?

Answer:

- Pushing
- Biting
- Crouching on things
- Kicking

Why isn't pushing also a main category? The Torah uses the word "push," too!

Answer: When the Torah says "push," it's just another word for "gore."

Proof: The Torah uses "Yigach" (gore) for when an ox attacks a PERSON, and "Yigof" (push) for when it attacks an ANIMAL. Why the different words?

Answer: People have better awareness to protect themselves (or guardian angels). So it takes more force to gore a person - we use the stronger word "Yigach."

Animals don't have this protection, so even a lighter hit counts - we use "Yigof."

Practical result:

- If an ox is "warned" for goring people → it's automatically "warned" for goring animals
- But if it's only "warned" for goring animals → it's NOT automatically "warned" for people

Why Is Biting Under "Goring" Instead of "Eating"?

Answer: "Eating" (Shen) is when the animal gets pleasure or benefit from it. When biting to hurt, it gets NO benefit - it's just causing damage. So it's under "Goring."

Why Are Kicking and Crouching Under "Goring" Instead of "Trampling"?

Answer: "Trampling" (Regel) is COMMON damage that happens all the time. Kicking and crouching are UNUSUAL ways animals cause damage. So they're under "Goring."

Section 4: Which Sub-Categories Are Different?

Remember, Rav Papa said some sub-categories are like the main categories and some are different. Which ones are different?

It can't be the sub-categories of Goring because they're exactly the same:

- The animal intends to damage (just like goring)
- It's your property (just like goring)
- You're responsible for guarding it (just like goring)

The rabbis try different options - maybe it's the sub-categories of Eating? Of Trampling? Of Pit? Of Fire?

But for each one, they find the sub-categories are basically the same as the main category!

The final answer: The real example is **PEBBLES** (a sub-category of Trampling).

When an animal walks and kicks up pebbles that damage something, there's a tradition from Moses that you only pay HALF the damage (unlike regular Trampling where you pay full damage).

Even though pebbles pay less, it's still called a sub-category of Trampling because:

- The payment is unlimited (not capped at the animal's value)
- It's exempt in public areas (like Trampling)

Section 5: What Is Mav'eh?

Two opinions:

Rav: Mav'eh means a PERSON who damages

- Proof: Biblical word connection to "if you request"

Shmuel: Mav'eh means SHEN (eating)

- Proof: A verse about "treasures being revealed" - this refers to teeth, which are sometimes hidden (mouth closed) and sometimes revealed (mouth open)

Why don't they agree?

- Rav says the Mishnah says "Mav'eh" not "Niv'eh" (so Shmuel's proof doesn't fit)
- Shmuel says the Mishnah says "Mav'eh" not "Bo'eh" (so Rav's proof doesn't fit)

Why does Rav think we need a separate category for people?

The Mishnah already said "ox" - that covers all the damage an ox can do. So Mav'eh must be something ELSE → a person.