

KILEI HAKEREM - part one

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בְּןֵי תִקְדָּשׁ הַמְלֵאָה הַזֶּה אֲשֶׁר תִּזְרַע וּתְבוֹאֵת הַכֶּרֶם, לֹא תִזְרַע כְּרִמְךָ כְּלֵאִים

"Do not sow your vineyard with another crop, else the crop - from the seed you have sown - and the yield of the vineyard may not be used" (D'varim 22:9).

Chazal explain "pen tikdash" as "pen tukad eish"; when interplanting in the vineyard, the grapes are forbidden to eat and must be burned!

It is forbidden to plant a grape pip with two other types of seeds from grains, legumes, or vegetables; it is also forbidden to plant a seed of the above categories in close proximity to a grapevine. It is forbidden to actively cultivate kilayim, which includes watering, fertilizing, and weeding. This prohibition applies to every annual plant (defined as a vegetable, not a tree) cultivated for human or animal consumption. If the vegetables sprouted on their own, and the vinegrower did not notice them there, the vegetable and grapevine are not prohibited, but either the grapevine or vegetable need to be uprooted immediately to avoid cultivating kilayim. However, after the vinegrower becomes aware of these vegetables and does not uproot them, this is called "kiyum", that is, it is that he is actively cultivating kilayim and this can prohibit both the grapevine and vegetable. In the case that vegetable growth comes to the vinegrower's attention but he does not realize that it is forbidden, a competent rabbi should be consulted.

If weeds sprouted in a vineyard or garden, they are only forbidden when they are regularly grown for human or animal consumption. It is noteworthy that many common weeds in Israel are grown for these purposes (mustard, vetch, wild wheat, wild barley, oats), so it is important that one's garden is weed-free next to the grapevine, especially when grapes blossom.

To be continued