

Mishnah with a Twist [22]

And the Study of the Torah Is Equal to Them All. Insights into Mishna Peah 1:1



Background to Our Story

Peah

◆ AI Overview

Peah (Hebrew: פֶּאֵה, lit. "Corner") primarily refers to a commandment in the Torah requiring landowners to leave a corner of their fields unharvested for the poor and the stranger.

First Fruits (Bikkurim)

◆ AI Overview

Bikkurim (Hebrew: בכורים, "first-fruits") are the first-ripened agricultural produce of the Seven Species—wheat, barley, grapes, figs, pomegranates, olives, and dates—brought by ancient Israelites to the Temple in Jerusalem as an offering of gratitude. This biblical commandment (Deuteronomy 26:1–11) involved a festive procession, focused on acknowledging God as the source of the harvest and the land.

Offering of Appearance" (*Olat Re'iyah*)

◆ AI Overview

The "offering of appearance" (*Olat Re'iyah*) was a mandatory burnt offering brought by male Jewish pilgrims to the Temple in Jerusalem during the three major festivals (Passover, Shavuot, Sukkot). It symbolized a completely dedicated, voluntary gift to God, differing from peace offerings, which were partially eaten.

The Text: Mishna Peah 1:1

אלו דברים שאין להם שעור. הפאה, והבכורים, והראיון, וגמילות חסדים, ותלמוד תורה. אלו דברים שאדם אוכל פרותיהן בעולם הזה והקרן קיימת לו לעולם הבא. כבוד אב ואם, וגמילות חסדים, והבאת שלום בין אדם לחברו, ותלמוד תורה כנגד כלם:

These are the things that have no definite quantity: ¹The corners [of the field]. ²First-fruits; ³[The offerings brought] on appearing [at the Temple on the three pilgrimage festivals]. ⁴The performance of righteous deeds; ⁵And the study of the Torah.

The following are the things for which a man enjoys the fruits in this world while the principal remains for him in the world to come: Honoring one's father and mother; The performance of righteous deeds; And the making of peace between a person and his friend; And the study of the Torah is equal to them all.



Explaining the Text

What's going on here? (The sequence of events)

Comprehension and Analysis Questions

? Why do the "the things" listed in the Mishna have not definite quantity?

Answer 1 _____

Answer 2 _____

? Can you think of other things that could have made the list?

Bonus ? How does a person enjoy in this world, the fruits of:

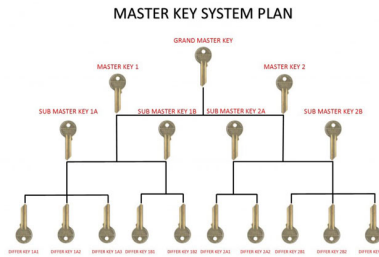
- Honoring one's father and mother.
- The performance of righteous deeds.
- The making of peace between a person and his friend.
- And the study of the Torah.

Bonus ? What is the meaning of "the principal remains for him in the world to come"?

Bonus ? Why are the corners of the field, the First-fruits; and the offerings brought on appearing at the Temple on the three pilgrimage festivals, not included with "the things for which a man enjoys the fruits in this world"?

Bonus ? Why -and how- is the study of the Torah "equal to them all"?

The Master Key System (a useful metaphor)



A master key system is a hierarchical security structure that allows a single key to open multiple locks, while individual “change keys” only open their specific assigned locks. It is primarily used in commercial buildings, apartment complexes, and schools to balance convenience with strict access control.

The Key Hierarchy

Most systems are organized into four main levels of access:

1. Great Grand Master Key (GGMK): The highest level, granting access to every door in multiple buildings or a very large facility.
2. Grand Master Key (GMK): Accesses multiple "master" groups (e.g., an entire floor or a specific building within a complex).
3. Master Key (MK): Opens a specific group of locks, such as all classrooms in a school wing or all offices in one department.
4. Change/User Key: The lowest level, opening only one specific lock or a very small set of identical locks (e.g., a tenant's apartment).

“The Twist” – Or the Lessons We Can Learn from This Text

- ! Torah Study: The Great Grand Master Key of Jewish life.



Our text presents us with the Great Grand Master Key of Jewish life: Torah study has the power to unlock an endless world of meaningful commandments, Jewish connections, and rich experiences.

Our story also invites us to approach complex situations in life by trying to identify the specific Great Grand Master Key, which can begin opening the doors that will lead to a better, and more meaningful life.