Two Classical Methods of Structuring the 39 Prohibited Labors

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<td>• Making the Tabernacle itself.</td>
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11 Steps of Baking Bread

1. **Plowing**  
   **Choreish**  
   Definition: Preparation of the soil for the purpose of making it suitable for planting.  
   Examples: Plowing, digging, raking, fertilizing, pouring water (to loosen earth).  
   Applications: Dragging chair legs on earthen floor, high-heels on lawn, sharp cane.

2. **Sowing**  
   **Zoraya**  
   Definition: Promotion of plant growth.  
   Examples: Planting, fertilizing, watering plants, pruning.  
   Applications: Hand washing on the lawn, spraying insecticide. Putting detached flowers in water is prohibited under Rabbinic Law.

3. **Reaping**  
   **Kotzair**  
   Definition: Severing all or part of a plant from its source of growth.  
   Examples: Picking an apple, a flower, or a weed.  
   Applications: Walking on delicate plants, extracting sap from a tree. Climbing a tree is prohibited under Rabbinic Law.

4. **Gathering**  
   **M’amer**  
   Definition: Collecting or combining of scattered produce that grows from the ground.  
   Examples: Gathering already picked apples near a tree, stringing figs.  
   Applications: Raking leaves to be discarded (i.e., destructive gathering) or gathering of
ground items such as stones or salt is prohibited under Rabbinic Law.

5. Threshing

Dash

Désh

Definition: Removal of an undesirable outer from a desirable inner.

Examples: Breaking apart kernels of grain, picking cotton, husking corn.

Applications: Mefareik meaning unloading, e.g., removal of peas from a pod, squeezing fruit for their juice (also called sechita). Also applied to squeezing of wet fabrics/sponges to extract water.

6. Winnowing

Zoreh

וזרה

Definition: According to the Babylonian Talmud: Sorting undesirable from desirable via the force of air. According to the Jerusalem Talmud: dispersal via the force of air.

Examples: Using the wind to separate chaff.

Applications: Aerosol can (?)

7. Sorting

Borer

בורר

Definition: Removal of undesirable from desirable from a mixture of types.

Examples: Removal of spoiled grapes from a bowl, straining impurities from liquid, trimming away undesirables, sorting silverware, sorting laundry, removal of bones from fish.

Applications: Peeling fruit to be eaten later, Cards (?)

8. Grinding

Tochain

שטרח

Definition: Reducing an object to small particles.

Examples: Grinding flour, pepper, etc.

Applications: Fine chopping. (There’s no real measurement for what that means). Taking medicine under Rabbinic Law.

9. Sifting

Tochain

מרקד

Definition: Separating by means of a sifting device.

Examples: Sifting pebbles, straining food, etc.

Applications: Tea-bags (?)

10. Amalgamation

Lash

ליש

Definition: Combining particles into a semi-solid/solid mass via liquid.

Examples: Combining of solid and liquid together to make a paste or dough-like substance. Kneading.

Applications: Dough, pastes. Egg-salad? Instant oatmeal?
11. **Baking/Cooking**  
*Bishul/Ofeh*  
**בישול/אופה**  
Definition: Changing the properties of a substance thru heat, the heat threshold known as Yad Soledet (lit. Hand [by reflex] recoils [due to heat]) approx. 110° F.  
Examples: Baking, cooking, frying.  

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### 13 Steps of Making Clothes

12. **Shearing**  
*Gozez*  
**גוזז**  
Definition: Severing/uprooting a body-part of a creature.  
Examples: Removing wool, cutting one’s hair.  
Applications: Combing/brushing hair in a way that will remove hair. Nail cutting. Skin trimming.

13. **Scouring**  
*Melabein*  
**מלבן**  
Definition: Cleaning absorbent materials.  
Examples: Washing raw wool, bleaching, laundering, scrubbing.  
Applications: Wiping a stain, pouring water on a carpet to loosen dirt.

14. **Combing**  
*Menapeitz*  
**מנפץ**  
Definition: Separating/disentangling fibers.  
Examples: Beating wool with rods, combing wool.  
Applications: Combing a wig.

15. **Dyeing**  
*Tzovea*  
**צובע**  
Definition: Coloring/enriching the color of any material or substance.  
Examples: Painting, coloring.  
Applications: Adding food coloring. Nail polish. Make-up?

16. **Spinning**  
*Toveh*  
**توزה**  
Definition: Twisting fibers into a thread or twining strands into a yarn.  
Examples: Making yarn.  
Applications: Re-twining tzitzit, making a wick.

17. **Warping**  
*Maisach*  
**מוסך**  
Definition: Creating the first form for the purpose of weaving.  
Examples: Creating the skeleton of the fabric.  
Applications: ???
18. Constructing 2 Loops  Oseh Shtei Batei Nirin
Definition: Forming loops for the purpose of weaving or the making of net like materials.
Examples:
Applications: Making netting.

19. Weaving  Oreig
Definition: Passing any weft through warp for the purpose of weaving.
Examples: Basket weaving, knitting, lattice work.
Applications:

20. Unravelling  Potzea
Definition: Removing/cutting fibres from their frame, loom or place.
Examples: Corrective processes during weaving.
Applications: Pulling a loose thread.

21. Tying  Koshair
Definition: Binding two pliant objects in a skilled or permanent manner via twisting.
Examples: Making craftman’s or permanent knots.
Applications: Tying/retying tzitzit, double-knots?

22. Untying  Matir
Definition: The undoing of any Koshair (see above).
Examples: Untying permanent knots.
Applications: Challah bag can be ripped but not untied if it’s permanent, children’s shoe issues.

23. Sewing  Tofair
Definition: Combining separate objects into a single entity.
Examples: Bringing together pieces of fabric.
Applications: Taping a torn page. Stapling?

24. Tearing  Koraya
Definition: Constructive tearing an object in two or undoing any Tofair (see above).
Examples: Tearing fabric to resew.
Applications: Destructive tearing is forbidden under Rabbinic Law.
9 Steps of Writing

25. Trapping  
**Tzad** 
 Definition: Forcible confinement of any living creature.  
 Examples: Trapping a deer, a stray dog, catching a fish, removing a goldfish.  
 Applications: Does not apply to domesticated animals.

26. Slaughtering  
**Shochait**  
 Definition: Ending the life of a creature.  
 Examples: Killing, flushing, spreading poison.  
 Applications: Causing bleeding.

27. Flaying  
**Mafshit**  
 Definition: Removing the hide from the body of an animal.  
 Examples: Removing skin of raw chicken.  
 Applications: Does not apply to cooked food.

28. Tanning  
**M’abaid**  
 Definition: Preserving any item to prevent spoiling.  
 Examples: Curing, tanning, finishing, polishing leather.  
 Applications: Does not apply to food.

29. Smoothing  
**Memachaik**  
 Definition: Scraping/sanding a surface to achieve smoothness.  
 Examples: Filing down wood, rubbing down leather.  
 Applications: Smoothing soft substances. Might apply to creams, ointments, pastes.

30. Scoring  
**Mesartait**  
 Definition: Scoring/drawing a cutting guideline.  
 Examples: Making horizontal lines for writing.  
 Applications: Folding a paper for the purpose of cutting. Does not apply to food.

31. Measured Cutting  
**Mechataich**  
 Definition: Cutting any object to a specific size.  
 Examples: Sharpening a pencil, tearing on perforated lines (?)  
 Applications: Does not apply to food.
32. Writing  Kotaiv
Definition: Writing/forming a meaningful character or design.
Examples: Writing, coloring, bending materials to form characters.
Applications: Applies only to permanent and recognizable writing. Applies to paper, fabric, skin.

33. Erasing  Mochaik
Definition: Cleaning/preparing a surface to render it suitable for writing.
Examples: Erasing a meaningful and permanent symbol.
Applications:

6 Steps of Building a House

34. Building  Boneh
Definition: Contributing to the forming of any permanent structure.
Examples: Bringing objects together to form something new. Putting together a bicycle.
Applications: Creating shelter. Even temporary shelter under Rabbinic Law, e.g., umbrella? Creating partitions?

35. Demolishing  Sotair
Definition: Demolishing for any constructive purpose.
Examples: Pulling up fencing, taking down a wall.
Applications: Detaching accessories from buildings. It does not apply to food.

36. Extinguishing  Mechabeh
Definition: Extinguishing/diminishing the intensity of a fire/flame.
Examples: Blowing out candles, putting out cigarette.
Applications: Shutting off oven (?).

37. Kindling  Mavir
Definition: Igniting, fueling or spreading a fire/flame.
Examples: Turning on the oven, striking a match.
Applications: Turning on most light bulbs. Smoking.

38. Final Hammer Blow  Makeh b’Fatish
Definition: Any act of completion.
Examples: Creating an item of use, minor modifications. (VERY AMBIGUOUS)
Applications: Winding a watch (?), Electricity (?), Removing a tag (?)

39. Transferring  Hotza’ah
Definition: Transferring something from one domain type to another domain type.
Examples: Carrying from the house to the street.
Applications: Pushing a baby carriage.