

## Rocks

## סלעים –

### Overview

The משנה rules that one must distance סלעים from a neighbor's wall three טפחים. Our תוספות clarifies what is the meaning of סלעים.

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אבנים שאש יוצא מהן<sup>1</sup> ולא סלעי נחושת<sup>2</sup> דאין דרך להניחן אצל הכתלים -  
סלעים (coins) means stones from which fire is extracted, but not copper  
for it is not usual to place coins neat the walls –

תוספות comments on a related issue:

והא דאמר בירושלמי<sup>3</sup> אית תנא תני טומנין<sup>4</sup> בסלעים ואית<sup>5</sup> תני דאין טומנין -  
And this which is stated in ירושלמי; 'there is a תנא who teaches, one may  
be טומן in סלעים, and there is another [תנא] who teaches, it is forbidden to be  
טומן in סלעים'. The ירושלמי reconciles these two rulings

כאן בסלעים של כסף כאן בסלעים של נחושת<sup>6</sup> -

Here where הטמנה is permitted, it is silver coins, and here where it is prohibited  
it is by copper coins. This concludes the citing of the ירושלמי there; תוספות continues -

הוה מצי לשנויי כאן בסלעים של אבנים כאן בשל כסף אלא ניחא ליה לשנויי כולהו במתכת:  
The ירושלמי<sup>7</sup> could have answered here it is by stone סלעים (where it is אסור),  
here it is by silver סלעים (where it is מותר); however it was preferable to answer  
the contradiction where by all of them we are discussing metal coins.<sup>8</sup>

### Summary

סלעים in the משנה refers to rocks, not copper coins since they are not found near  
walls. When differentiating between different rulings we prefer to make the  
difference as narrow as possible.

<sup>1</sup> Presumably flintstones. See רש"י ד"ה הסלעים who also interprets it in this manner. All the items in this category (including זבל, גפת, etc.), are all מוציא הבל they produce heat, which causes damage to the wall.

<sup>2</sup> סלע may mean a rock or a coin. Copper (coins) also exudes heat; see later in this תוספות (footnote # 6). See 'Thinking it over' # 1.

<sup>3</sup> (דף כט,א, שבת פ"ד ה"א).

<sup>4</sup> It is forbidden to wrap food and enclose it in something which is מוסיף הבל (adds heat). This איסור is called הטמנה (meaning 'hiding').

<sup>5</sup> The הגהות הב"ה amends this to read ואית תנא תני (instead of תני תנא).

<sup>6</sup> Silver coins do not emit heat, while copper coins do,

<sup>7</sup> We see from our משנה that אבנים are מוסיף הבל (see footnote # 1).

<sup>8</sup> Presumably the two תנאים were discussing similar cases (both coins; not one coins and one stones).

### **Thinking it over**

1. תוספות (in the beginning) excludes copper coins (because they are not placed near a wall).<sup>9</sup> Why did not תוספות also exclude silver coins<sup>10</sup> as well (for the same reason)?

2. Is it permitted to place copper coins near a neighbor's wall? Is it permitted to be מטמין in stones?<sup>11</sup>

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<sup>9</sup> See footnote # 2.

<sup>10</sup> Generally a סלע is a silver coin (not copper) so if anything תוספות should have excluded silver coins.

<sup>11</sup> See נהלת משה.