

Text of Shabbat 63

Mishna, Shabbat 6:4

A man should not go out on Shabbat--
Not with a sword, or a bow, or a shield, or a mace or a spear.
And if he did, he is liable for a sin offering.

R. Eliezer says:
They are an adornment for him.

But the Sages say:
They are but a disgrace.
For the verse states (Isaiah 2:4)
*They will beat their swords into plowshares
and their spears into pruning hooks.
Nation will not take up sword against nation,
nor will they train for war anymore.*

Talmud, Shabbat 63a

It was taught:
They (the Sages) responded to R. Eliezer.
“But since they are only adornments
Why will they become obsolete in the days of the Messiah?”

He answered--
For they will not be needed.
As the verse states:
*Nation will not take up sword against nation,
nor will they train for war anymore.*

But are they not at least decorative?
Abayye said: It would be like carrying a lamp in broad daylight.

But this argues with Shmuel
For Shmuel stated:
There is no difference between this world and the days of the Messiah,
Except that the Jews will not be subjugated to the Nations.
As the verse states (Deut. 15:11)
For the poor will never cease from the land.

And this accords with the view of R. Hiyya b. Abba
For R. Hiyya b. Abba said:
All the prophecies recorded by the prophets speak of the days of the Messiah,
But regarding the World to Come

No eye has seen what God will do for those who await Him (Isaiah 64:4).

There are those who record an alternate version:

They said to R. Eliezer:

Now, since they are adornments for him

Why will they become obsolete in the days of the Messiah?

He answered them:

Even in the days of the Messiah

They will not be obsolete.

And this concords with Shmuel

But argues with R. Hiyya b. Abba.

Abbaye said to R. Dimi

And there are those who say to R. Avia

And some say R. Yosef said to R. Dimi

And there are those that say to R. Avia

And some day Abbaye said to R. Yosef:

What is the reason of R. Eliezer who said "it is an adornment for him?"

For it is written (Ps. 45:4)

Gird your sword on your side, you mighty one, clothe yourself with splendor and majesty.

R. Kehana said to Mar the son of R. Huna

But this verse speaks of the words [battles] of Torah!

He replied:

Nevertheless, the verse is never devoid of its plain meaning.

--Translated by Chaim Saiman