Bechoros 5 – Good Morning Raboisai

1️⃣ Were Bechorim Kadosh in the Midbar?

👉 The Gemara continues the Machlokes from yesterday:

Did Bechorim born during the years in the Midbar have:

- Kedushas Bechor?

A Beraisa says that on the day the Mishkan was erected, Klal Yisrael brought:

- Nedarim and Nedavos
- Chataos and Ashamos
- Bechoros
- Ma'asros

This seems to prove:

- There were Bechoros in the Midbar. 5_transcript

2️⃣ Perhaps They Were Older Bechorim

👉 The proof is rejected.

Perhaps the Bechoros brought that day were:

- Bechorim whose Kedushah had already taken effect earlier.

Therefore, this does not necessarily prove that:

- New Bechorim continued becoming Kadosh throughout the Midbar.

The Gemara also discusses whether the words "that day" mean:

- Only that day

or:

- Beginning that day and continuing afterwards.

3️⃣ Three Stages of Bechorah

👉 Another source describes Bechorah in connection with:

- Mitzrayim
- The Midbar
- Eretz Yisrael.

The opinion that Bechorah did not continue throughout the Midbar explains:

There was indeed:

- An initial Kedushah and counting of the Bechorim in the Midbar.

But afterwards:

- Newly born Bechorim did not receive Kedushah

until:

- Klal Yisrael entered Eretz Yisrael.

4️⃣ Rebbe Yochanan and Reish Lakish

👉 The Gemara discusses the Machlokes between:

- Rebbe Yochanan
- Reish Lakish.

One holds:

- Kedushas Bechor continued throughout the Midbar.

The other holds:

- There was a break during the Midbar before it resumed in Eretz Yisrael.

The Pesukim are analysed to determine whether Bechorah:

- Continued without interruption

or:

- Restarted upon entering Eretz Yisrael.

5️⃣ והיו לי הלוים – Continuing Kedushah

👉 The word והיו indicates:

- A continuing status.

According to the opinion that Bechorah continued:

- Once the Kedushah began, it did not stop during the Midbar.

The Pasuk connecting the Mitzvah with entering Eretz Yisrael can instead mean:

- Keeping the Mitzvah properly would be a Zechus to enter the Land.

6️⃣ "Lo Kachu" – A Very Different Meaning

👉 The Gemara preserves the exact wording:

- לא קדשו בכורות במדבר

At first glance this sounds like:

- Bechorim were not Kadosh in the Midbar.

But another explanation is:

- They did not need to be actively made Kadosh.

Why?

Because:

- A Bechor becomes Kadosh automatically at birth.

So the same words can convey:

- Not a lack of Kedushah
- But that no separate act of Hekdesh was required.

7️⃣ Say Your Rebbe's Exact Words

👉 Why preserve wording that could easily be misunderstood?

Because:

- חייב אדם לומר בלשון רבו

A person should repeat a teaching:

- In the language used by his Rebbe.

Changing the wording because we think we can say it more clearly can:

- Eventually change the meaning.

The exact wording of the Rebbe should therefore be:

- Preserved carefully.

The Roman's Challenge

8️⃣ 22,300 Leviim vs 22,273 Bechorim

👉 A Roman official challenged Rebbe Yehoshua ben Chananya.

There were:

- 22,300 Leviim

but only:

- 22,273 Bechorei Yisrael.

If every Levi could redeem a Bechor:

Why did the extra 273 Bechorei Yisrael need:

- A separate monetary redemption?

There should have been:

- More than enough Leviim.

9️⃣ The Missing 300

👉 The answer:

Among the Leviim themselves were:

- 300 Bechorim.

Those 300 firstborn Leviim first had to:

- Exempt themselves.

Their power of redemption was therefore already:

- Used for themselves.

This left:

- 22,000 Leviim

available to correspond to:

- 22,000 Bechorei Yisrael.

The remaining:

- 273 Bechorim

had to be redeemed:

- With money.

The Shekalim Calculation

🔟 Another Challenge to Moshe Rabbeinu

👉 The Gemara records another challenge based on the money collected from Klal Yisrael.

The calculation appeared to show:

- More silver had been collected

than the amount described as being used for:

- The Mishkan.

The challenger therefore tried to claim either:

- Moshe Rabbeinu had taken the money

or:

- The calculation did not add up.

1️⃣1️⃣ Moshe Rabbeinu Knew His Cheshbon

👉 The answer is:

- Moshe Rabbeinu was a trustworthy Gizbar
- And knew the calculations perfectly.

The mistake was in assuming the size of:

- A Kikar of Kodesh.

The Kikar used for Kodesh was:

- Double the ordinary amount.

Therefore:

- The Torah's figures fit correctly.

There was:

- No missing money.

1️⃣2️⃣ How Do We Know the Kodesh Amount Was Double?

👉 The Gemara examines several calculations from the Pesukim.

The amounts of:

- Shekalim
- Maneh
- Kikar

show that the measurements used for Kodesh were:

- Larger than the ordinary measurements.

The Gemara concludes:

- The Maneh of Kodesh was doubled.

An additional amount was later added, explaining how:

- The familiar calculation reaches the larger total.

Why Petor Chamor?

1️⃣3️⃣ Why Donkeys and Not Horses or Camels?

👉 Rebbe Eliezer was asked:

Why does the Torah give a special Mitzvah of:

- petor Chamor

but not:

- Firstborn horses
- Firstborn camels?

One answer is simply:

- Gezeiras HaKasuv – this is what the Torah commanded.

But there is also a reason given for the special status of:

- Donkeys.

1️⃣4️⃣ The Donkeys Helped at Yetzias Mitzrayim

👉 The donkeys assisted Klal Yisrael when leaving:

- Mitzrayim.

They carried the enormous amount of:

- Gold
- Silver
- Possessions

that Klal Yisrael took out of Egypt.

The Gemara describes each donkey as being loaded with:

- The wealth of Mitzrayim.

Therefore, the donkey received the special Mitzvah of:

- petor Chamor.

Names That Teach a Lesson

1️⃣5️⃣ Why Was It Called Refidim?

👉 The Gemara discusses the name:

- Refidim.

One opinion says:

- It was simply the name of the place.

Another explains it as:

- רפו ידיהם מן התורה

Their hands became weakened from:

- Torah.

The name therefore reflects:

- A weakening in their commitment to Torah.

1️⃣6️⃣ The Meaning of Shittim

👉 The Gemara similarly discusses:

- Shittim.

One opinion says:

- It was simply the place's name.

Another connects it with what happened there:

- Klal Yisrael were drawn into serious Aveiros.

The name is therefore understood as reflecting:

- The spiritual failure that occurred there.

A New Mishnah

1️⃣7️⃣ A Cow Gives Birth to Something Looking Like a Donkey

👉 The Mishnah discusses unusual births.

If:

- A kosher cow gives birth to something that looks like a donkey

or:

- A donkey gives birth to something that looks like a horse

the Halachah depends on:

- The species of the mother
- And, for Bechorah, whether the offspring has the required characteristics.

For petor Chamor, the Torah repeats:

- פטר חמור

teaching that both the mother and offspring must meet:

- The requirements of Chamor.

1️⃣8️⃣ What Determines Whether It May Be Eaten?

👉 Regarding Kashrus, the rule is:

- היוצא מן הטהור טהור
- היוצא מן הטמא טמא

Whatever comes from:

- A kosher animal is kosher.

Whatever comes from:

- A non-kosher animal is non-kosher.

Therefore, even if the offspring looks like:

- A different species

its Kashrus follows:

- The animal from which it was born.

1️⃣9️⃣ A Sheep That Looks Like a Goat

👉 The Mishnah continues:

If:

- A sheep gives birth to something resembling a goat

or:

- A goat gives birth to something resembling a sheep

it can be:

- Patur from Bechorah.

However, if the offspring retains:

- Some identifying features of its mother's species

it can be:

- Chayav in Bechorah.

2️⃣0️⃣ The Pasuk of Bechor

👉 The Gemara derives this from the wording referring to:

- Bechor Shor
- Bechor Kesev
- Bechor Eiz.

The animal must be:

- Of that species
- And recognizable as the Bechor of that species.

The Gemara begins asking:

What if the offspring has:

- Only some of the identifying features?

This discussion continues into:

- The next Daf.

📌 Key Chazarah

- Rebbe Yochanan and Reish Lakish disagree whether Kedushas Bechor continued throughout the Midbar.
- A source mentioning Bechoros at the Mishkan does not conclusively prove that new Bechorim became Kadosh throughout the Midbar.

- “Lo Kachu” can mean that Bechorim did not require a separate act of Hekdesh because their Kedushah came automatically.
- חייב אדם לומר בלשון רבו – a teaching should be repeated using the Rebbe’s wording.
- Of the 22,300 Leviim, 300 were themselves Bechorim, leaving 22,000 to redeem 22,000 Bechorei Yisrael.
- The remaining 273 Bechorim were redeemed with money.
- The apparent problem in Moshe Rabbeinu’s silver calculation is resolved because the Kodesh measurements were larger.
- Petor Chamor applies specifically to donkeys; one reason is their role in carrying Klal Yisrael’s wealth from Mitzrayim.
- Refidim is connected by one opinion to weakening in Torah.
- Kashrus follows the mother: what comes from a kosher animal is kosher, and what comes from a non-kosher animal is not.
- For Bechorah, an offspring resembling another species may be Patur unless it retains identifying features of its mother’s species.

📘 Catch up, review, download previous Dafim & more:
https://www.dafchazarah.co.uk
📲 Now available as an app (Apple, Google & Amazon):
https://dafchazarah.co.uk/download
🤝 Sponsor a day: https://dafchazarah.co.uk/sponsor
לעילוי נשמת אמי מורתי רות בת הרב מנחם מנדל