Bechoros 55 – Good Morning Raboisai

1️⃣ How Far Apart Can Animals Be?

The Daf continues the laws of Ma'aser Behemah.

We learned that if a person owns animals in different locations:

👉 They can combine for Ma'aser Behemah when they are within sixteen Mil of each other.

But the Mishnah discussed:

👉 Thirty-two Mil.

The obvious question is:

If sixteen Mil is the limit, why mention thirty-two?

👉 Even seventeen Mil should already be too far apart!

2️⃣ Animals in the Middle Can Connect Them

The answer is that the Mishnah is teaching a special case.

Suppose there are animals:

👉 On the right.

👉 On the left.

👉 And another group exactly in the middle.

The animals in the middle can potentially:

👉 Connect the two outer groups.

Each outside group is within sixteen Mil of the middle.

Therefore:

👉 Animals spread across a total distance of thirty-two Mil can sometimes combine.

Rav and Shmuel – How Many in the Middle?

3️⃣ Rav – Five in Each Group

Rav says the case is:

👉 Five animals on the right.
👉 Five animals in the middle.
👉 Five animals on the left.

Why does this work?

The five in the middle can combine with:

👉 The five on the right to make ten.

And they can also combine with:

👉 The five on the left to make ten.

The middle group therefore connects:

👉 Both sides.

4️⃣ Shmuel – Even One in the Middle

Shmuel is more lenient.

He says:

👉 Five can be on the right.

👉 Five on the left.

👉 And only one animal needs to be in the middle.

The middle animal creates a connection between the two sides.

The Gemara relates this to the concept of:

👉 A shepherd positioned in the middle who can connect the animals under his supervision.

5️⃣ A Challenge to Rav

The Gemara brings a source describing:

👉 One animal in the middle.

This appears to support Shmuel and challenge Rav, who required:

👉 Five in the middle.

However, Shmuel himself explains how the source can be understood even according to Rav.

6️⃣ Nine, One and Nine

Suppose there are:

👉 Nine animals on the right.

👉 One animal in the middle.

👉 Nine animals on the left.

Now the middle animal can join:

👉 Nine on either side to create a complete group of ten.

In this situation:

👉 Even Rav can agree that one animal in the middle is sufficient.

The difference is that the middle animal does not need to connect five to five.

👉 It completes an independent group of ten on either side.

The Shepherd Can Create the Connection

7️⃣ A Ro'eh in the Middle

The Gemara discusses the role of:

👉 The Ro'eh – the shepherd.

If the shepherd is located between the two groups:

👉 His presence can connect the animals.

The idea is that the animals are all:

👉 Under one shepherd's supervision.

They can therefore be regarded as:

👉 One flock for Ma'aser Behemah.

8️⃣ Even the Shepherd's Kli Can Help

What if the shepherd himself is not currently standing there?

The Daf discusses a case where:

👉 His Kli – a shepherd's utensil – is left in the middle.

This can create a connection because:

👉 The shepherd will eventually return to retrieve it.

His property effectively establishes:

👉 His presence and connection to that location.

9️⃣ What About the Shepherd's Dog?

Rav Ashi asks:

👉 What if the shepherd's dog is in the middle?

Is the dog like the shepherd's Kli?

Perhaps yes:

👉 The shepherd may need to come and retrieve his dog.

But perhaps not:

👉 He can simply call or whistle and the dog will come to him.

The Gemara leaves the question unresolved:

👉 Teiku.

The Yarden Separates

🔟 Five Animals on Each Side

The Mishnah taught:

👉 Five animals on one side of the Yarden and five on the other do not combine for Ma'aser Behemah.

The Gemara now investigates why.

Is it because:

👉 The river physically prevents easy movement between the two groups?

Or:

👉 The Yarden itself creates a Halachic boundary?

1️⃣1️⃣ What if There Is a Bridge?

One opinion explains:

👉 The problem is that there is no bridge.

If there is a bridge:

👉 The animals can cross easily.

According to this understanding:

👉 The two groups can combine.

The separation is therefore:

👉 Practical rather than inherently Halachic.

Is the Yarden a Halachic Boundary?

1️⃣2️⃣ A Challenge From Different Territories

The Gemara challenges this explanation.

Animals in two different territories:

👉 Do not necessarily combine even if they are physically close.

Likewise, animals in:

👉 Eretz Yisrael and Chutz La'Aretz

can be separated even where the border itself is easy to cross.

This suggests:

👉 A boundary can have Halachic significance even without a physical obstacle.

So perhaps a bridge over the Yarden:

👉 Does not solve the problem.

1️⃣3️⃣ What About Borders Between Shevatim?

The Gemara considers another question.

Eretz Yisrael itself was divided:

👉 Among the Shevatim.

If five animals are in the territory of Yehudah and five in Binyamin:

👉 Should the tribal border separate them?

The answer is that the Torah treats:

👉 The land of Eretz Yisrael as one unit.

Therefore, ordinary borders between Shevatim do not create the same separation.

Is the Yarden Part of Eretz Yisrael?

1️⃣4️⃣ Land vs Water

The Gemara explores whether:

👉 The Yarden itself is considered part of Eretz Yisrael.

One possibility is that when the Torah describes Eretz Yisrael:

👉 It refers specifically to the land.

The water of the Yarden may therefore have:

👉 A different status.

This could explain why the Yarden creates a division even though both banks are associated with Eretz Yisrael.

1️⃣5️⃣ A Machlokes Tannaim

The Gemara connects this question to a Machlokes.

A Pasuk refers to:

👉 “Me’Ever L’Yarden Yericho Kedmah Mizrachah.”

One view understands:

👉 Yericho is part of Eretz Canaan, but the Yarden itself is not necessarily included.

Another view compares the two:

👉 Just as Yericho is part of Eretz Canaan, the Yarden can also be considered part of Eretz Canaan.

This affects how we understand:

👉 The Yarden's Halachic status.

Which Part Is Called the Yarden?

1️⃣6️⃣ From Yericho

The Gemara discusses exactly which stretch of water has the Halachic designation:

👉 Yarden.

For the particular law being discussed:

👉 The relevant section is connected to the area from Yericho and south.

This cannot simply be a question of ordinary language because:

👉 In everyday speech, people refer to the entire river as the Jordan.

Therefore, the discussion must concern:

👉 A specific Halachic definition.

Where Does the Yarden Begin?

1️⃣7️⃣ Why Is It Called Yarden?

Rebbi Yochanan explains the name:

👉 Yarden = Yored MiDan.

It is the river:

👉 That descends from Dan.

The Gemara identifies:

👉 Leshem with Pamayas.

The source of the Yarden is therefore connected to:

👉 The spring at Pamayas.

1️⃣8️⃣ The Route of the Yarden

The Daf describes the Yarden as beginning from:

👉 The cave of Pamayas.

It then continues through:

👉 The Chula region.

👉 The Kinneret.

And onward toward:

👉 Yam HaMelach.

The discussion is important for determining:

👉 What water is Halachically considered connected to the Yarden.

Nedarim and the Source of Water

1️⃣9️⃣ A Neder From the Waters of Pamayas

Suppose someone makes a Neder:

👉 Not to drink water from the source of Pamayas.

Since the Yarden originates there:

👉 The Neder can affect water throughout the Yarden.

This introduces a broader principle:

👉 Water can retain a Halachic connection to its source even after travelling a great distance.

The Source of Blood

2️⃣0️⃣ Blood and the Liver

The Daf gives another example of identifying something by its source:

👉 The source of blood is associated with the liver.

The discussion relates this to Tumah.

A K'zayis of flesh from a Mes can create:

👉 Tumas Ohel.

Blood has a different Shiur:

👉 A Revi'is.

The Daf discusses how something's original source can affect:

👉 Its Halachic classification and Shiur.

The Waters of the Euphrates

2️⃣ 1️⃣ A Neder From the Waters of Pras

The Gemara then turns to:

👉 Nahar Pras – the Euphrates.

If a person makes a Neder not to drink:

👉 From the waters originating in the Pras,

the Neder can potentially have extremely broad consequences.

Why?

Because the Daf presents the Pras as:

👉 A fundamental source connected to other waters.

2️⃣ 2️⃣ Springs High Above the River

This raises an obvious difficulty.

We see springs:

👉 High in the mountains.

How can their water originate from a river:

👉 Far below them?

The Gemara describes these as:

👉 Sulamos Shel Pras – the "ladders" of the Pras.

Water can travel:

👉 Upward through hidden pathways before emerging as springs.

The visible location of water therefore does not necessarily tell us:

👉 Where its source lies.

📌 **Key Chazarah**

- Animals within sixteen Mil can combine for Ma’aser Behemah.
- Animals spread across thirty-two Mil can sometimes combine through animals located in the middle.
- Rav requires five animals in the middle in the basic case; Shmuel can allow even one.
- With nine animals on either side and one in the middle, even Rav can agree that the middle animal completes a group of ten.
- A shepherd in the middle can connect the different groups.
- Even the shepherd's Kli can create a connection because he will return to retrieve it.
- Whether the shepherd's dog can create the same connection remains a Teiku.
- Five animals on each side of the Yarden do not normally combine.
- The Gemara investigates whether this is because of physical difficulty crossing or because the Yarden creates a Halachic boundary.
- A bridge may help according to the view that the problem is practical separation.
- Borders within Eretz Yisrael do not necessarily divide the animals because Eretz Yisrael is treated as one land.
- The Gemara discusses whether the Yarden itself is considered part of Eretz Yisrael.
- Yarden is explained as Yored MiDan – descending from Dan.
- Its source is associated with Pamayas, and it continues through the Chula region and Kinneret toward Yam HaMelach.
- A Neder concerning water from Pamayas can extend to the waters of the Yarden because Pamayas is its source.
- The Daf similarly discusses the source of blood in the liver.
- The waters of Pras introduce the concept of water travelling through hidden channels and emerging elsewhere as springs – Sulamos Shel Pras.

📘 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