Bechoros 8 – Good Morning Raboisai

1️⃣ Honey from Other Insects

👉 The Gemara continues the discussion of honey.

We learned that:

- Bee honey is permitted.
- Honey produced by other insects, such as certain grasshoppers, is different.

A Beraisa describes this other honey as Tahor regarding Tumah, because normally:

- It is not considered food unless a person specifically intends to use it as food.

Regular bee honey, however, is naturally regarded as:

- Food. 8_transcript

2️⃣ Something That Leaves an Animal – Food or Waste?

👉 The Gemara discusses substances that leave an animal's body.

The question is whether they are considered:

- A product of the animal itself

or merely:

- Pirsha B'Alma – waste or something separate from the animal.

This distinction determines whether the rule of:

- Hayotzei Min Hatamei Tamei

applies.

3️⃣ The Shilya

👉 Rav Huna discusses the Shilya – the placenta or afterbirth.

Is it considered:

- Part of the animal

or:

- Pirsha B'Alma?

The Gemara treats it as:

- Pirsha B'Alma.

The discussion continues regarding a human Shilya and whether it is considered:

- Part of the person for Tumah.

A Fish Inside Another Fish

4️⃣ Kosher Fish Swallowed by a Non-Kosher Fish

👉 The Mishnah teaches:

If a non-kosher fish swallowed:

- A kosher fish

the swallowed fish remains:

- Permitted.

If a kosher fish swallowed:

- A non-kosher fish

the swallowed fish remains:

- Forbidden.

The swallowed fish does not acquire the Kashrus status of:

- The fish that swallowed it.

5️⃣ How Do We Know It Was Swallowed?

👉 The Gemara asks:

What if we did not actually see:

- One fish swallow the other?

Perhaps the kosher-looking fish found inside a non-kosher fish was actually:

- Produced by that fish

and merely looks like:

- A kosher species.

This would be similar to the concept of:

- Nidmeh.

6️⃣ Kosher and Non-Kosher Fish Reproduce Differently

👉 The Gemara explains:

- Non-kosher fish can produce live young.
- Kosher fish lay eggs.

Several explanations are given for how we can know that the fish found inside was:

- Swallowed

rather than:

- Its offspring.

For example:

- It was found in the digestive area.
- It was found whole.
- Or other circumstances demonstrate that it had been swallowed.

Animals That Give Birth and Lay Eggs

7️⃣ Giving Birth vs Laying Eggs

👉 The Gemara gives several rules about animals.

Generally:

An animal that:

- Gives birth to live young

can:

- Nurse its offspring.

An animal that:

- Lays eggs

feeds its young in another way.

The Gemara discusses an exception involving:

- The Ataleif.

8️⃣ Bnei Yama

👉 The Gemara discusses:

- Bnei Yama.

Rashi describes a sea creature:

- Part resembling a human
- And part resembling a fish.

The transcript identifies this description with:

- A mermaid-like creature.

The Gemara includes it while discussing:

- Reproduction between different creatures.

9️⃣ An Animal's Reproductive Features

👉 Another general rule:

If the male reproductive organs are:

- External

the species generally:

- Gives birth to live young.

Where they are:

- Internal

the species generally:

- Lays eggs.

The Gemara discusses this in connection with:

- A goose
- And a wild goose.

Although both lay eggs:

- Their physical differences make them distinct enough to raise an issue of Kilayim.

When Animals Give Birth

🔟 Day and Night

👉 The Gemara gives another rule:

A species that mates:

- During the day

generally gives birth:

- During the day.

A species that mates:

- At night

gives birth:

- At night.

A species that mates:

- Both during the day and at night

can give birth:

- At either time.

1️⃣1️⃣ A Practical Halachah for an Egg on Yom Tov

👉 This has a practical application.

If someone carefully checked:

- A chicken coop before Yom Tov

and found:

- No egg,

but then found an egg:

- Early the next morning,

the timing of when chickens lay eggs can determine whether:

- The egg was laid before Yom Tov

and whether it is:

- Muktzah.

Pregnancy and Growth Periods

1️⃣2️⃣ Animals and Their Corresponding Plants

👉 The Gemara lists the lengths of pregnancy for different animals and compares them with:

- The growth periods of various trees and plants.

Examples discussed include:

- Chickens
- Dogs
- Cats
- Pigs
- Sheep and goats
- Cattle
- Donkeys
- Wild animals.

Each has:

- Its particular period.

1️⃣3️⃣ Longer Pregnancy Periods

👉 The Gemara continues with creatures that have unusually long periods.

It discusses:

- Lions
- Bears
- Leopards
- Elephants
- Monkeys

and gives:

- Longer periods associated with them.

These are compared with:

- Different trees and their fruiting cycles.

1️⃣4️⃣ The Snake – Seven Years

👉 The Gemara says that the pregnancy of a snake lasts:

- Seven years.

This is connected to the curse given to:

- The Nachash.

The Gemara calculates how the snake's period represents a greater curse than:

- Other animals.

Rebbe Yehoshua ben Chananya and the Sages of Athens

1️⃣5️⃣ The Caesar Challenges Rebbe Yehoshua

👉 The Daf now begins the famous lengthy story involving:

- Rebbe Yehoshua ben Chananya
- The Caesar
- The Sages of Athens.

The Caesar tells Rebbe Yehoshua that the philosophers of Athens had supposedly demonstrated that:

- A snake can give birth after only three years.

Rebbe Yehoshua responds:

- Their snake must already have been pregnant for four years before their experiment began.

1️⃣6️⃣ “We Are Wiser Than Them”

👉 The Caesar says:

The Sages of Athens are:

- Extremely clever.

Rebbe Yehoshua responds:

- אנן חכימינן מינייהו

“We are wiser than them.”

The Caesar therefore challenges him:

- Go and bring the Sages of Athens to me.

There were:

- Sixty of them.

1️⃣7️⃣ The Ship with Sixty Rooms

👉 Rebbe Yehoshua asks the Caesar to prepare:

- A ship with sixty rooms

with:

- Sixty seats in each room.

He then travels to:

- Athens

to locate the hidden academy of:

- Its sages.

1️⃣8️⃣ Finding the Secret Entrance

👉 Rebbe Yehoshua meets a butcher and cleverly gets him to reveal:

- Where the entrance is located.

The butcher is frightened because:

- Anyone who reveals the entrance is in danger.

Rebbe Yehoshua tells him to carry:

- A bundle of reeds

and casually put them down:

- Near the entrance.

This allows Rebbe Yehoshua to identify it:

- Without the butcher openly pointing it out.

1️⃣9️⃣ The Guards and the Footprints

👉 The entrance was heavily guarded.

There were guards:

- Outside
- And inside.

The ground was smoothed so that:

- Footprints would reveal whether someone entered or left.

Rebbe Yehoshua cleverly manipulated:

- His footprints

so that suspicion fell on:

- The guards.

This allowed him to eventually:

- Enter the academy.

2️⃣0️⃣ Who Should He Greet First?

👉 Inside, he saw:

- Younger sages sitting in front
- Older sages sitting behind.

He had a problem.

If he greeted:

- The younger sages first

the elders might be insulted.

If he greeted:

- The elders first

the younger sages might object to being passed over.

So he greeted everyone together:

- “Shalom Aleichem.”

2️⃣1️⃣ The Contest Begins

👉 The Sages of Athens ask:

- Why have you come?

Rebbe Yehoshua explains:

- He is one of the Jewish sages
- And has come to discuss wisdom with them.

They agree to a contest.

If they defeat him:

- They can do as they wish with him.

If he defeats them:

- They must come and eat with him on his ship.

This begins the famous series of:

- Questions and answers.

2️⃣2️⃣ Someone Who Cannot Find a Shidduch

👉 Their first question:

If someone tries to marry into a certain family and:

- Is unsuccessful,

what should he do?

One might assume:

- Lower his expectations.

But Rebbe Yehoshua demonstrates with:

- A peg and a wall

that sometimes the answer is:

- Try somewhere even higher.

A peg may fail to enter:

- A lower, harder part of a wall

but succeed higher up where:

- There is a suitable opening.

The discussion with the Sages of Athens:

- Continues on the next Daf.

📌 Key Chazarah

- Regular bee honey is treated differently from honey produced by other insects.

- Whether something leaving an animal is forbidden can depend on whether it is part of the animal or merely Pirsha B'Alma.
- A kosher fish swallowed by a non-kosher fish remains kosher, and vice versa.
- The Gemara discusses how to determine whether a fish found inside another fish was swallowed or was its offspring.
- The Daf gives several rules about reproduction, laying eggs, nursing and the timing of birth.
- The timing of when chickens lay eggs has a practical application to an egg found on Yom Tov.
- The Gemara lists pregnancy periods of many animals and corresponding growth periods of plants.
- The snake's pregnancy is described as seven years, connected with its curse.
- The famous story of Rebbe Yehoshua ben Chananya and the Sages of Athens begins.
- Rebbe Yehoshua cleverly discovers their hidden academy and enters.
- He begins a contest of wisdom with the sixty Sages of Athens.
- Their first discussion concerns someone unsuccessful in finding a Shidduch, and Rebbe Yehoshua demonstrates that sometimes the answer is to aim differently rather than simply lower one's expectations.

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