Chullin 137 – Good Morning Raboisai

Reishis HaGez and a Treifah

1️⃣ A Treifah Is Exempt

👉 We continue with Reishis HaGez.

Rebbe Shimon learns Reishis HaGez from:

- Maaser Behemah.

Just as a:

- Treifah is excluded from Maaser Behemah

so too:

- A Treifah is exempt from Reishis HaGez.

2️⃣ Why Is a Treifah Excluded From Maaser?

👉 By Maaser Behemah, the animals pass:

- Under the staff – Tachas HaShevet.

A Treifah is excluded because:

- The Torah requires an animal capable of passing through in the normal way.

Although some Treifos:

- Can physically walk

once the Torah excludes the category of Treifah:

- All Treifos are excluded.

Why Learn From Maaser and Not Bechor?

3️⃣ Bechor Would Give the Opposite Result

👉 The Gemara asks:

Why compare Reishis HaGez to:

- Maaser Behemah?

Perhaps we should compare it to:

- Bechor.

A Bechor can still have its Kedushah even if:

- It is a Treifah.

If Reishis HaGez follows Bechor:

- A Treifah should be Chayav.

4️⃣ Seven Similarities to Maaser

👉 The Gemara lists reasons why Reishis HaGez is similar to:

- Maaser Behemah.

Among them:

- Both can involve males and females.
- Both apply to kosher animals.
- Both require multiple animals rather than a single special firstborn.
- Both deal with ordinary animals rather than only the firstborn.
- Neither applies to humans.
- Both belong to a system that began after the earlier Bechor concept.

The Gemara summarizes:

- There are seven similarities.

5️⃣ But Eight Similarities to Bechor!

👉 The Gemara then points out that Reishis HaGez actually has:

- Eight similarities to Bechor.

These include cases involving:

- A Yasom – orphaned animal
- Purchased animals
- Partnership
- Gifts
- Whether it applies Bizman Hazeh

- Giving something to the Kohen
- Kedushah
- Sale.

So numerically:

- Bechor appears to be the stronger comparison.

6️⃣ "Pashut" Is the Stronger Factor

👉 Nevertheless, the Gemara prefers:

- Maaser Behemah.

Why?

Because one similarity is especially important:

- Pashut.

Reishis HaGez applies to:

- Ordinary sheep.

Maaser Behemah also deals with:

- Ordinary animals.

Bechor is fundamentally different because it applies specifically to:

- The special firstborn.

Therefore this qualitative similarity outweighs:

- The numerical advantage of Bechor.

Reishis HaGez Applies Only to Sheep

7️⃣ Not Goats

👉 The Gemara states:

- Reishis HaGez applies only to Rechelim – sheep.

It does not apply to:

- Goats.

The source is a Gezeirah Shavah:

- Gez – Gez.

The Torah uses Gez regarding Reishis HaGez and elsewhere speaks about:

- The wool of sheep.

Therefore:

- Reishis HaGez is limited to sheep.

Why Not Cattle?

8️⃣ Bechor Uses "Gez" With Cattle

👉 The Gemara challenges this.

Regarding Bechor the Torah says:

- Do not work with the firstborn ox
- And do not shear the firstborn sheep.

The prohibition of:

- Avodah and Gizah

extends across:

- Cattle and sheep.

So perhaps the "shearing" of cattle should also qualify for:

- Reishis HaGez.

9️⃣ Wool Suitable for Clothing

👉 The Gemara explains that Reishis HaGez concerns material suitable for:

- A Beged – clothing.

The normal wool used for clothing is:

- Sheep's wool.

The coarse material from cattle:

- Is not the type of wool intended by the Mitzvah.

What About Goat Hair?

🔟 Goat Hair Can Make Clothing

👉 Goat hair can also be valuable.

The transcript gives the familiar example of:

- Cashmere

which comes from:

- Goats.

So why is goat hair excluded?

The Gemara explains that Reishis HaGez requires material:

- Ra'ui L'Sheirus – suitable for the Avodah in the Beis Hamikdash.

The wool used for the relevant Bigdei Kehunah is:

- Sheep's wool.

Therefore:

- Goat hair is excluded.

1️⃣1️⃣ What Does "Gez – Gez" Now Teach?

👉 If goats are already excluded because the wool must be:

- Ra'ui L'Sheirus

what is the Gezeirah Shavah of:

- Gez – Gez

needed for?

It teaches that the wool must be:

- The type used for warmth.

Therefore:

- Hard, coarse wool that is not normally used to warm a person is excluded.

Shearing by Hand

1️⃣2️⃣ Does It Need Scissors?

👉 The Gemara now discusses what counts as:

- Gizah – shearing.

What if instead of using:

- A shearing tool

the owner removes the wool:

- By hand?

Is he still Chayav in:

- Reishis HaGez?

1️⃣3️⃣ Rebbe Yosi

👉 One Beraisa says:

If wool comes off while washing or plucking the sheep:

- Patur.

Another source indicates:

- Chayav.

The Gemara initially connects the exemption to:

- Rebbe Yosi.

Rebbe Yosi generally pays close attention to:

- The normal method by which an activity is performed.

The Comparison to Leket

1️⃣4️⃣ Harvesting by Hand

👉 We find a similar principle by:

- Leket.

The Torah speaks about:

- Ketzircha – your harvesting.

If a crop is normally harvested with:

- A sickle or harvesting tool

pulling it out by hand may not have:

- The same Halachic status.

1️⃣5️⃣ It Depends on the Normal Method

👉 However, Rebbe Yosi agrees:

If the normal way to harvest something is:

- By hand

then doing it by hand:

- Counts as harvesting.

So the key is not simply:

- Tool versus hand.

The key is:

- Derech – the normal way that particular item is harvested.

Onions and Peah

1️⃣6️⃣ A Vegetable That Keeps

👉 The Gemara uses:

- Onions

as an example.

Most vegetables do not have the same Peah obligation because:

- They do not keep for long.

Onions are different:

- They can be stored for a long period.

Therefore:

- They can be obligated in Peah.

1️⃣7️⃣ Onions Are Pulled by Hand

👉 Onions are normally harvested:

- By pulling them from the ground by hand.

Yet:

- Peah still applies.

This proves:

- Harvesting by hand counts when that is the normal method.

The same principle can therefore apply to:

- Removing hair or wool.

1️⃣8️⃣ Onions Between Vegetables

👉 The Gemara discusses:

- Rows of onions growing between other vegetables.

The surrounding vegetables:

- Are exempt from Peah.

The onions:

- Are obligated.

The question is whether the intervening vegetables divide the onions into:

- Separate fields for Peah.

Rebbe Yosi requires:

- Peah from each section.

The Chachamim hold:

- One Peah can cover them all.

The Halachah follows:

- The Chachamim.

How Many Sheep Are Required?

1️⃣ 9️⃣ Beis Shammai and Beis Hillel

👉 We return to the Mishnah's Machlokes:

- Beis Shammai – two sheep.
- Beis Hillel – five sheep.

Even if:

- One sheep produces a tremendous amount of wool

that does not create Reishis HaGez.

The Mitzvah requires:

- A minimum number of sheep.

Why Five?

2️⃣ 0️⃣ "Chameish Tzon Asuyos"

👉 Beis Hillel derives five from the Pasuk:

- Chameish Tzon Asuyos.

The Gemara connects this Pasuk to:

- The story of Naval HaCarmeli.

Naval was a wealthy man:

- Shearing his sheep.

Dovid HaMelech sent men asking him for:

- Food for his soldiers.

Naval responded:

- Harshly and disrespectfully.

2️⃣ 1️⃣ Avigayil Saves the Situation

👉 Naval's servant informed:

- Avigayil

that Naval had endangered everyone through:

- His behaviour toward Dovid.

Avigayil immediately prepared:

- Food and gifts

and went out to meet:

- Dovid HaMelech.

She persuaded him:

- Not to act against Naval.

Shortly afterward:

- Naval died

and Dovid eventually married:

- Avigayil.

2️⃣ 2️⃣ “Asuyos” – Two Mitzvos

👉 Rav Kahana explains:

- Chameish Tzon Asuyos

means that with five sheep:

- Two Mitzvos are “made.”

These are:

- Reishis HaGez
- Matanos.

The Gemara considers alternatives such as:

- Bechor

but rejects them because Bechor does not require:

- Five animals.

Rebbe Yosi – Four Sheep

2️⃣ 3️⃣ A Third Opinion

👉 Rebbe Yosi says:

- Four sheep are sufficient.

His source is the Torah's description:

- Arba Tzon – four sheep.

This shows that:

- Four can already be called “Tzon.”

So we now have:

- Beis Shammai – 2
- Rebbe Yosi – 4
- Beis Hillel – 5.

2️⃣ 4️⃣ Why Follow Rebbe Yosi?

👉 Rebbe says:

Even if Beis Shammai and Beis Hillel had brought:

- Torah sources

and Rebbe Yosi had only brought:

- Divrei Kabbalah

he would still follow:

- Rebbe Yosi.

But in fact:

- Rebbe Yosi's source is from the Torah.

2️⃣ 5️⃣ What Is “Kabbalah” Here?

👉 Kabbalah here does not mean:

- The mystical teachings commonly called Kabbalah.

Here it means:

- The words of the Nevi’im.

Rashi explains the distinction:

- Torah was given as enduring instruction.

- The words received by the Nevi'im are called Kabbalah because they were received through Nevuah/Ruach HaKodesh.

2️⃣6️⃣ Not Simply a Compromise

👉 We might think Rebbe Yosi is accepted because:

- Four is between two and five.

But the Gemara rejects that explanation.

A true compromise is where:

- A third opinion takes part of each of the first two views.

Here:

- Nobody else said four.

Rebbe Yosi is presenting:

- His own received tradition.

Therefore his view is not accepted merely because:

- It lies numerically between Beis Shammai and Beis Hillel.

How Much Wool Is Required?

2️⃣7️⃣ The Mishnah's Shiur

👉 The Gemara now discusses the amount of wool required before:

- Reishis HaGez takes effect.

The earlier Mishnah gave:

- A substantial Shiur.

But several Amoraim give:

- Different measurements.

2️⃣8️⃣ Rav – Maneh U'Pras

👉 Rav says:

- Maneh U'Pras.

The transcript calculates this as approximately:

- 425 grams in total.

It must come from:

- Five sheep.

That works out to approximately:

- 85 grams per sheep.

2️⃣9️⃣ Shmuel – Sixty Sela

👉 Shmuel gives a larger Shiur:

- Sixty Sela.

The transcript estimates this at approximately:

- One kilogram of wool.

From this amount:

- The Kohen receives the appropriate portion.

3️⃣0️⃣ Rebbe Yochanan – Six Sela

👉 Rebbe Yochanan gives another Shiur:

- Six Sela.

But when it comes to the amount given to the Kohen:

- Five Sela is the important figure.

Even in the smallest qualifying case:

- The Kohen receives five
- And the owner is left with one.

3️⃣1️⃣ Rebbe Elazar – Kol Shehu

👉 Rebbe Elazar takes the most lenient position:

- Kol Shehu.

According to him:

- Even a very small amount can qualify.

The Gemara therefore has several apparently conflicting Shiurim that:

- Need to be reconciled.

How Much Does the Kohen Receive?

3️⃣2️⃣ Five Sela

👉 Our Mishnah says the Kohen receives:

- Five Sela.

This appears to fit particularly well with:

- Rebbe Yochanan.

But the Gemara notes that it appears difficult according to:

- Rav
- Shmuel
- And Rebbe Elazar.

3️⃣3️⃣ Two Different Shiurim

👉 The Gemara answers that we are dealing with:

- Two separate measurements.

One question is:

- How much wool is needed for the Mitzvah to begin?

Another question is:

- How much should each Kohen receive when the owner distributes the wool among several Kohanim?

These are:

- Not necessarily the same Shiur.

One-Sixtieth

3️⃣ 4️⃣ Reishis HaGez – 1/60

👉 Rav and Shmuel teach:

- Reishis HaGez B'Shishim.

The amount given is:

- One-sixtieth.

They also mention:

- Terumah B'Shishim
- Peah B'Shishim.

This immediately creates:

- A question.

3️⃣ 5️⃣ But Peah Has No Shiur!

👉 We say every day:

- Eilu Devarim She'ein Lahem Shiur.

Among them is:

- Peah.

Meaning:

- Min HaTorah there is no fixed minimum amount.

So how can the Gemara say:

- Peah is one-sixtieth?

3️⃣ 6️⃣ Torah Law vs Rabbinic Shiur

👉 The answer is:

- Min HaTorah, Peah has no fixed Shiur.

The Chachamim established:

- A practical minimum.

Similarly, the discussion of:

- One-sixtieth

can refer to the Rabbinic measure rather than:

- An absolute Torah minimum.

This distinction allows both statements:

- Peah has no Torah Shiur
- Yet the Chachamim can prescribe an amount.

📌 **Key Chazarah**

- A Treifah is exempt from Reishis HaGez, learned from Maaser Behemah.
- Although Reishis HaGez has more numerical similarities to Bechor, its similarity to ordinary “Pashut” animals makes Maaser the stronger comparison.
- Reishis HaGez applies only to sheep, not goats.
- The wool must be suitable for clothing and for the relevant use in the Beis Hamikdash.
- Hard, coarse wool not normally used for warmth is excluded.
- Removing wool by hand can count when that is the normal method; the same principle appears by harvesting for Peah.
- Onions are obligated in Peah and are normally harvested by hand, proving that the normal Derech is what matters.
- Beis Shammai requires two sheep for Reishis HaGez; Beis Hillel requires five; Rebbe Yosi says four.
- Beis Hillel derives five from “Chameish Tzon Asuyos,” connected to the story of Naval and Avigayil.
- “Asuyos” indicates that five sheep create the relevant Mitzvos.
- Rebbe Yosi derives four from “Arba Tzon.”
- Kabbalah in this Gemara means the words received through the Nevi’im, not mystical Kabbalah.
- Rebbe Yosi's four is not merely a compromise between two and five; it is an independent received tradition.
- Rav, Shmuel, Rebbe Yochanan and Rebbe Elazar give different Shiurim for the wool of Reishis HaGez.

- The Gemara distinguishes between the amount required to create the obligation and the amount distributed to each Kohen.
- Reishis HaGez is described as B'Shishim – one-sixtieth.
- Peah has no fixed Shiur Min HaTorah, even though the Chachamim established a practical amount.

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