Menachos 11 – Good Morning Raboisai

1️⃣ Foreign Objects Found During Kemitzah

The Mishnah discusses a case where, during **kemitzah**, the Kohen discovers an **external object** mixed into the flour, such as:

- A **stone**
- **Salt**
- A piece of **levonah** (frankincense)

Even though these items differ in nature, **all invalidate the kemitzah**.

Why list three examples?

- Each is a **chidush**:
    - A stone → never belongs on the Mizbeach
    - Salt → *is* normally required on korbanos
    - Levonah → is actually part of a Minchah

The Mishnah teaches that **any foreign item inside the kemitzah invalidates it**, even something otherwise fit for the Mizbeach .

2️⃣ Why a Foreign Object Is a Problem

Kemitzah must be:

- **Exactly** three fingers of flour
- No more, no less

If there is an object inside:

- The volume of flour is reduced
- The kemitzah is no longer complete

Even if the object is:

- On the **side**
- Near the **top**
- Or exits through the thumb/pinky side

It still counts as **inside the kemitzah** and invalidates it.

3️⃣ How Kemitzah Is Physically Done

The Gemara describes the **precise hand positioning**:

- Only **three fingers** (middle fingers) collect the flour
- The **thumb and pinky** are used to:
    - Level the top
    - Remove excess flour

This explains:

- Why kemitzah is named after the **kmitzah finger**
- Why it is considered one of the **most difficult avodos** in the Mikdash

Even small errors in technique can invalidate the Minchah.

4️⃣ Variations in Technique — All Unresolved

Several "what if" cases are raised:

- Palm facing down vs. palm facing up
- Scooping inward vs. curling fingers outward
- Flour sticking to the **side wall** of the vessel
- Flour placed into the **base of the kli** (not the usable interior)

All of these questions end with:

Teiku — unresolved until Eliyahu.

5️⃣ Chafinah vs. Kemitzah

The Gemara compares **kemitzah** to **chafinah** (taking two handfuls of ketores on Yom Kippur):

- Both require:
    - Extreme precision
    - No spilling

- Chafinah may even be harder:
    - One grain falling invalidates the avodah

This reinforces why kemitzah is treated with such exactness.

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6 Too Much or Too Little Oil

Rules for oil in a Minchah:

- Required amount: **one log**

Cases:

- **Too much oil** → פסול
- **Too little oil** → פסול

Chiddush:

- Even **adding oil that is itself kadosh** (from another Minchah) still invalidates

The Torah says **"שַׁמְנָהּ"** — *its oil*:

Only oil designated **specifically for this Minchah** is valid.

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7 Levonah — How Much Must Remain?

Machlokes Tannaim:

- **Rabbi Meir**:
    - Whatever amount you started with
    - Must remain **in full** until haktarah
- **Rabbi Yehudah**:
    - **Two pieces** (shtei shittiklach) suffice
- **Rabbi Shimon**:
    - Even **one piece** is enough

Key distinction:

- This applies to **levonah that comes with a Minchah**
- Levonah brought **on its own** (e.g. full levonah offering):

- Requires **100% retention**
- Even slight loss invalidates

8️⃣ Source of the Machlokes

All opinions derive from the same pasuk:

"כָּל הַלְּבוֹנָה אֲשֶׁר עַל הַמִּנְחָה"

- Rabbi Meir:
  - "Kol" = all, literally
- Rabbi Yehudah:
  - Includes an extra unit via "את"
- Rabbi Shimon:
  - Does not darshen "את" → only one unit needed

9️⃣ Lechem HaPanim and the Bezichin

Parallel case:

- **Lechem HaPanim** has two **bezichin** of levonah
- If extra bezichin were set aside:
  - Doubling invalidates
- If extras were lost:
  - Depends **when** they were lost:
    - Before removal time → fine
    - After removal time → invalid

Key principle:

Once the **time** for avodah arrives,
it is treated as if the avodah already occurred.

✨ Takeaway – Menachos 11

- Any foreign object inside a kemitzah invalidates it

- Kemitzah demands exact physical precision
- Technique matters — many edge cases remain unresolved
- Oil and levonah must be **exactly as prescribed**
- Levonah standards differ when brought alone vs. with a Minchah
- Time itself can create halachic consequences
- Kodshim demand **perfect conformity**, not approximation

לעילוי נשמת אמי מורתי רות בת הרב מנחם מנדל