Menachos 29 – Good Morning Raboisai

1️⃣ The Height of the Menorah

The Gemara discusses the **height of the Menorah**.

- Rav states: the Menorah is **18 tefachim tall**
- Rav Shimi challenges:
    - There was a **three-step stone** for the Kohen
    - If the Menorah were only 9 tefachim, why would steps be needed?

Answer:

- Rav clarifies:
    - The **9 tefachim** refers **only from the branching point upward**
    - From the base to the branches = 9 tefachim
    - From branches to top = another 9 tefachim
- **Total height: 18 tefachim**

2️⃣ "Pure Gold" – How Pure Can Gold Be?

The pasuk states that the Menorah and its accessories were made of **זָהָב טָהוֹר**.

The Gemara explains:

- Shlomo HaMelech refined gold to such a level that:
    - Other gold was considered inferior
    - Silver became practically worthless in his time

Process:

- Gold was refined **again and again**
- From enormous quantities, they distilled down to **one kikar**
- Once gold reaches its maximum purity, further refining does nothing

Key idea:

Purity has a ceiling — once reached, it cannot increase

3️⃣ "Tahor" – Two Possible Meanings

The word טָהוֹר can mean:

1. **Spiritually pure**
2. **Able to receive tumah** (מקבל טומאה)

Application:

- By the **Shulchan**:
    - Torah calls it "טָהוֹר"
    - This teaches it **can receive tumah**
    - Despite being gold-plated wood and seemingly stationary

By the **Menorah**:

- Since metal vessels are obviously מקבל טומאה
- "Tahor" must mean something else

4️⃣ The Menorah Came Down from Shamayim

Conclusion:

- **The Menorah was shown to Moshe from Heaven**
- It was not that Moshe could not understand the design
- Rather, Hashem **showed him a fiery image**

Beraisa:

- Three items descended from Shamayim:
    - **Aron**
    - **Shulchan**
    - **Menorah**

Moshe was shown their form and instructed:

"כְּאֲשֶׁר אַתָּה מֵרְאֶה בָּהָר"

5️⃣ Letters, Crowns, and Precision in Torah

The daf shifts to **tagin** — the crowns on letters.

- Certain letters (שעטנ״ז ג״ץ) require **three tagin**
- Every detail is meaningful

Famous Aggadah:

- Moshe finds Hashem “adding crowns” to letters
- Hashem explains:
    - In the future, **Rabbi Akiva** will derive **mountains of halachos** from each crown

Moshe sits in Rabbi Akiva’s shiur:

- He does not understand
- Until Rabbi Akiva says:

“הלכה למשה מסיני”

- Moshe is comforted

6️⃣ Reward Beyond Understanding

Moshe asks to see Rabbi Akiva’s reward:

- He is shown Rabbi Akiva’s martyrdom
- His flesh being combed with iron

Moshe cries out:

“זו תורה וזו שכרה?!”

Hashem answers:

“שתוק — כך עלה במחשבה לפני”

Some truths lie beyond human comprehension.

7️⃣ Letters That Touch or Are Incomplete

The Gemara discusses **invalid letters** in a Sefer Torah:

- If letters touch → **Pasul**
- If a letter is missing a crucial part → **Pasul**
- Example:

- Hole in the inner space of a ה→ Kosher
- Missing the leg of the ה→ Pasul

Test:

- Bring a child who reads naturally
- If he reads it correctly → valid
- If not → pasul

8️⃣ Why the World Was Created with י and ה

Hashem created:

- **This world** with a ה
- **Olam Haba** with a י

Meaning:

- The open bottom of the ה:
  - Allows a person to leave
- The small opening above:
  - Allows return through **teshuvah**

Lesson:

Even if someone falls, the door back is always open

The crown atop the letter:

- Symbolizes that one who does teshuvah is **crowned**

✨ Takeaway – Menachos 29

- The Menorah's design was divinely shown to Moshe
- Gold purity has a defined limit
- Every detail in Torah — even crowns — carries meaning
- Rabbi Akiva revealed depths beyond Moshe's comprehension
- Reward and suffering are not always understood
- Torah letters must be written with absolute precision

- Teshuvah is always possible — and honored
- The structure of letters reflects the structure of existence

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לעילוי נשמת אמי מורתי רות בת הרב מנחם מנדל