Menachos 30 – Good Morning Raboisai

1️⃣ Errors in a Sefer Torah – How Many Are Too Many?

Rav rules:

- If a Sefer Torah has **three mistakes per column (עַמּוּד)** → it must be put in **גניזה**
- The Gemara challenges:
    - The accepted halacha is **four mistakes**, not three

Clarification:

- If **one column** in the entire Sefer Torah can be fixed and made perfect,
  it can **"save" the rest**, even if other columns have many errors.

Key distinction:

- **Missing letters (חָסֵר)** → more problematic
- **Extra letters (יָתֵר)** → easier to fix (scraped off)

Reason:

- Missing letters require patching, which ruins the visual integrity
- Extra letters can be removed cleanly

2️⃣ Chaser vs Yaser – Practical Examples

Examples from:

- **Mezuzos**
- **Tefillin**
- **Sifrei Torah**

Rules:

- In **Tefillin and Mezuzah**:
  Chaser / Yaser errors are often **not fixable**
- In a **Sefer Torah**:
    - Extra letters → usually fixable
    - Missing letters → limited tolerance

Aesthetic integrity matters:

Torah writing must be **beautiful and symmetrical**

3️⃣ Finishing a Sefer Torah – Must It Reach the Bottom?

Rav states:

- One may finish a Sefer Torah **in the middle of a page**

This seems to contradict other sources that require:

- Writing all the way to the **bottom line**

Resolution:

- Distinction between:
    - **Chumashim** (individual books)
    - **Full Sefer Torah**

Final understanding:

- You may finish:
    - **In the middle of the last line**
    - But **not high up on the page**
- You must reach the **bottom area** of the parchment

4️⃣ The Last Eight Pesukim of the Torah

Halacha:

- The final **eight pesukim** of the Torah:
    - Are read as **one aliyah**
    - Are not split

Why?
Because they are **unique**.

Machlokes:

- **Rabbi Yehudah**:
  Yehoshua wrote the last eight pesukim

- **Rabbi Nechemiah**:
  Moshe Rabbeinu wrote them **בדמע**(with tears)

Meaning of **בדמע**:

- Moshe wrote them without fully articulating
- Or with emotional pain
- Or without spacing, later clarified by Yehoshua

Either way:

These pesukim are fundamentally different

5️⃣ Writing Torah with Tears – Understanding בדמע

Several explanations:

- Moshe wrote while crying
- Moshe wrote without knowing the final meaning
- Letters were written but not separated into words

Common theme:

The final verses represent a **transition**
between Moshe's Torah and Klal Yisrael's future

6️⃣ The Mitzvah of Writing a Sefer Torah

Rashi:

- Writing a Sefer Torah yourself is a **great mitzvah**
- Buying one fulfills the mitzvah
- **Fixing even one letter** is considered as if you wrote it

Practical halacha:

Completing or correcting a Sefer Torah
= partnership in its authorship

7️⃣ Structure of the Parchment (יריעה)

Rules for layout:

- Each parchment:
    - **Minimum**: 3 columns
    - **Maximum**: 8 columns
- Lines per column: about **42**
- Letters per line: about **30**

Spacing rules:

- Between columns → two finger-widths
- Margins:
    - Top → 3 fingers
    - Bottom → 1 tefach
- Between lines → space of a **yud**

Purpose:

Beauty, clarity, and ease of reading

8️⃣ Majority of a Word Must Be Inside the Column

Rule:

- A word may slightly extend past the margin
- But **most of the word must remain inside**

Exception:

- **Shem Hashem** may **never** extend into the margin

9️⃣ Forgetting Hashem's Name – What Can Be Done?

Case:

- The scribe skipped writing **Shem Hashem**

Options:

- If ink dried:
    - Scrape off surrounding word
    - Write Hashem properly

    - Write the missing word **on top** (תּוֹלֶה)

Machlokes:

- **Rabbi Yehudah**: only the missing word is hung
- **Rabbi Yosi**: even Hashem's name may be hung
- **Rabbi Shizuri**: Hashem's name must be written **entirely above**, not half-and-half

Halacha:

Shem Hashem may be written fully above the line if needed

🔟 When Must a Whole Parchment Be Discarded?

If an error occurs:

- And fewer than **three full columns** remain to the right:
    - Entire parchment must be discarded
- If three columns remain:
    - You may cut and continue

This preserves the minimum structure of a parchment.

✨ Takeaway – Menachos 30

- Sefer Torah errors are judged by **type and distribution**
- Beauty and symmetry are halachic values
- The final eight pesukim are uniquely sacred
- Writing Torah is a shared mitzvah
- Layout rules ensure dignity and readability
- Hashem's name is treated with extreme care
- Structure and aesthetics define validity in Safrus

לעילוי נשמת אמי מורתי רות בת הרב מנחם מנדל