Menachos 32 – Good Morning Raboisai

1️⃣ How Do We Roll a Mezuzah?

The Gemara discusses the proper way to roll a mezuzah.

Practice observed:

- Roll from **"אחד" toward "שמע"**
- So that when you open it, **"שמע"** appears first.

This follows the way **Rav Huna** saw it done.

2️⃣ Open (פְּתוּחָה) or Closed (סְתוּמָה)?

Major discussion:

Should the two parshiyos in a mezuzah —

- **שמע**
- **והיה אם שמוע**

— be written as:

- **סְתוּמָה**(closed format), or
- **פְּתוּחָה**(open format)?

Rav Huna:

- Write them as **סְתוּמוֹת**

Challenge:

- They are not adjacent in the Torah
- Why indicate connection?

Resolution:

- Halacha follows **Rabbi Shimon ben Elazar**
- But only regarding leaving space at the top
- Not necessarily about formatting as פתוחה

Final ruling:

- The minhag is **סתומה**

- If written פתוחה → **בדיעבד כשר**

Minhag carries significant weight.

3️⃣ The Power of Minhag

Illustration:

Even if **Eliyahu HaNavi** would come and instruct against established minhag — we do not necessarily listen.

Minhag has halachic force, especially in areas like:

- **Chalitzah footwear**
- And here — mezuzah formatting

4️⃣ Can You Cut a Mezuzah Out of a Sefer Torah?

Case:

- A Sefer Torah destined for גניזה
- One cuts out the two mezuzah parshiyos

Is it valid?

Answer:

- **No**

Reason:

אין מורידין מקדושה חמורה לקדושה קלה

You may not downgrade from:

- Sefer Torah → Mezuzah

Because:

- Sefer Torah has greater kedushah

5️⃣ Additional Problems with Cutting from Sefer Torah

Even aside from קדושה:

1. Formatting issues

2. Sirtut requirements
3. Different parchment types
4. Possible structural mismatches

Although some of these could theoretically be resolved,
the kedushah downgrade alone invalidates it.

6️⃣ Klaf vs Duchsustus

Important halacha:

- **Tefillin** → written on **קלף**
- **Mezuzah** → written on **דוכסוסטוס**

Clarification:

Each hide layer has two sides:

- One side facing the hair
- One side facing the flesh

You must write on the correct side.

Writing on the wrong surface:

- Invalid for tefillin
- Subject to machlokes regarding mezuzah

There exists a Tanna who permits certain deviations,
but mainstream halacha requires precision.

7️⃣ Sirtut (Scoring Lines)

Mezuzah requires **סירטוט**— scoring lines in the parchment.

Source:

- **הלכה למשה מסיני**

If written without sirtut → פסול.

Tefillin:

- Machlokes whether sirtut required.

- Common practice today: yes.

8️⃣ Writing from Memory

General rule:

- One may not write Torah text from memory.

Exception:

- **Tefillin and Mezuzah**
- Since they are short and commonly memorized

Halacha:

- Permitted to write from memory
- But care must be taken.

9️⃣ Respect for Sefer Torah

Story:

An Amora sat on a bed where a Sefer Torah was resting.
Another Amora reacted strongly — jumping as if bitten by a snake.

Lesson:

- Even when technically permitted,
  one must show profound respect for Torah.

🔟 Writing Mezuzah Like a Letter (איגרת)

If mezuzah is written:

- Without proper format
- Without sirtut
- Like an informal letter

It is **פסול**.

Source:

- The word **"וכתבתם"**

- Compared via גזירה שוה to proper Torah writing

1️⃣1️⃣ Mezuzah Leaning Against the Doorpost

If mezuzah is:

- Leaned against the doorpost
- Not properly affixed

It is:

- **Invalid**
- And considered a spiritual danger

The mezuzah must be:

Properly fixed to the doorway.

✨ Takeaway – Menachos 32

- Mezuzah parshiyos are written **סתומה**
- Minhag determines practice
- One may not downgrade kedushah
- Correct parchment layer matters
- Mezuzah requires sirtut
- Tefillin/mezuzah may be written from memory
- Torah demands visible reverence
- Proper affixing of mezuzah is essential

לעילוי נשמת אמי מורתי רות בת הרב מנחם מנדל