Menachos 35 – Good Morning Raboisai

1️⃣ סדר הפרשיות בתפילין – Rashi vs Rabbeinu Tam

The Gemara discusses the order of the ארבע פרשיות in תפילין של ראש.

The Beraisa says:

- **קדש לי**
- **והיה כי יביאך**
- **שמע**
- **והיה אם שמוע**

Rashi understands:

The order is exactly as written in the Torah.

From the wearer's perspective (the one putting them on), the order is:

1. קדש
2. והיה כי יביאך
3. שמע
4. והיה אם שמוע

Rabbeinu Tam reads the Gemara differently:

- The two right compartments contain:
    - קדש
    - והיה כי יביאך
- The two left compartments contain:
    - שמע
    - והיה אם שמוע

But their internal positioning differs from Rashi's layout.

Critical point:

According to Rabbeinu Tam, the writing order must still follow the Torah sequence.

Even Rabbeinu Tam agrees:

- You must **write** them in Torah order.

- The difference is only in how they are **inserted into the batim**.

2️⃣ If You Switch the Parshiyos – פסול

Rav Chaninah in the name of Rav:

If you switched the parshiyos — פסול.

Abaye suggests:

- If you switched the two outer ones, you could theoretically swap them back.
- If you switched the two inner ones, also fixable.

Rava disagrees:

Any שינוי מקום — invalid.

Each parshah must remain in its designated compartment.

📦 Structure of the Tefillin

3️⃣ The Ma'avarta – הלכה למשה מסיני

The passage where the רצועה passes through (מעברתא)
is:

הלכה למשה מסיני.

4️⃣ The Shin on the Box – הלכה למשה מסיני

The embossed **שין** on תפילין של ראש is also:

הלכה למשה מסיני.

Important rule:

The shin must be **formed properly**, not carved out via removing surrounding material (חק תוכות).

It must be:

- Pressed outward from the leather.
- Not artificially shaped by cutting.

Additionally:

Each compartment must be visibly separated.

5️⃣ The Box Must Be Square – מרובעות

תפילין must be:

מרובעות — perfectly square.

This includes:

- Top surface
- Base (תיתורא)
- And diagonals (אלכסון)

How do you check?

If each side is equal,
the diagonals must measure proportionally (about 1.4× side length).

If diagonals differ:

- It is not a true square.

6️⃣ Round Tefillin – פסול

A Beraisa states:

תפילין עגולות — סכנה ואין בהן מצוה.

If shaped like a walnut (bulging and round), it is dangerous and invalid.

The problem is not mild rounding,
but significant distortion.

7️⃣ Holes in the Batim

If holes develop:

- Two adjacent compartments with holes → still kosher.
- Three compartments → פסול.

If the holes face directly into each other (כנגד זה),
and the leather is new → פסול.

If the leather is old and flexible → may remain kosher.

Test:

If you stretch and it returns to shape — considered old and stable.

🎗️ The Retzuos

8️⃣ Retzuos Must Be Black

Retzuos:

- Must be made from kosher animal hide.
- Must be black on the outside.

Other colors:

- Green, white, yellow — invalid externally.
- Red — forbidden (גנאי and suspicion).

Inside surface:

- Does not require black.

9️⃣ Retzuah Snapped — Can You Tie It?

If the רצועה tears:

You may not tie a knot to fix it.

Reason:

מצוה נאה — זה א-לי ואנוהו.

The strap must be whole and dignified.

If enough length remains after tear (proper shiur),
it may still be kosher.

🔟 Shiur of the Retzuos

Minimum length:

One opinion:

- Until the index finger.

Another:

- Until the middle finger.

Rabbi would wrap them around his palm.
Others extended further.

✨ **Takeaway – Menachos 35**

- Order of parshiyos defines validity.
- Writing order must follow Torah sequence.
- Shin, square shape, and ma’avarta are הלכה למשה מסיני.
- True squareness requires diagonal precision.
- Round or distorted batim are invalid.
- Retzuos must be black and dignified.
- Tefillin demand structural perfection.

לעילוי נשמת אמי מורתי רות בת הרב מנחם מנדל