Menachos 38 – Good Morning Raboisai

1️⃣ ארבע ציציות – מעכבין זו את זו

The Mishnah states:

ארבע ציציות מעכבין זו את זו

If a four-cornered garment is missing even one tzitzis, it is invalid.

Machlokes:

- **תנא קמא**– All four together form **one mitzvah**.
- **רבי ישמעאל**– Each tzitzis is its **own mitzvah**.

2️⃣ What's the Nafkamina?

Several practical differences:

🔹 Wearing Only Three Tzitzis

If someone has only **three tzitzis** attached:

- According to ת״ק:
  - The garment is invalid.
  - The wool thread (תכלת) may create a problem of שעטנז.
- According to רבי ישמעאל:
  - Each tzitzis is independent.
  - Three still count as mitzvah fulfillment.

🔹 Five-Cornered Garment

If a garment has five corners:

- ת״ק: Put tzitzis on four.
- רבי ישמעאל: Potentially five (each corner its own mitzvah).

🔹 Carrying on Shabbos

If only three tzitzis remain:

- ת״ק: They are not valid → considered a burden (משא).
- רבי ישמעאל: Still mitzvah → not considered carrying.

3️⃣ Altering a Corner to Avoid Tzitzis

If someone cuts a corner off:

- If done incorrectly, he may create **five corners**, not reduce to three.

If he merely ties or folds a corner:

- That does not change the halachic structure.
- Like tying leather does not make it into a כלי.

Only real sewing or cutting changes status.

4️⃣ Kavod HaBriyos vs Issur D'Oraisa

Story:

Mar bar Rav Ashi's tzitzis ripped in public.

Question:
Must he remove his garment immediately?

Principle:

כבוד הבריות דוחה לא תעשה

Clarification:

- Only pushes aside **דרבנן**.
- Not a full Torah prohibition.

If in a **כרמלית**(Rabbinic domain):

- Kavod HaBriyos may allow continuation.
  If in רשות הרבים:
- Must remove.

📘 New Perek – התכלת

5️⃣ תכלת אינה מעכבת את הלבן

Mishnah:

התכלת אינה מעכבת את הלבן
והלבן אינו מעכב את התכלת

You can fulfill tzitzis:

- With only white threads
- Or only blue threads

6️⃣ The View of Rebbi

Rebbi holds:

From the word:

וראיתם אותו

He understands:

- Both types function as one unit.
- Perhaps both required.

Chachamim respond:

From:

על כנפי בגדיהם

We learn:

- White corresponds to garment colour.
- Each stands independently.

7️⃣ Order of Insertion

Lechatchila:

- Insert **white first**, then blue.

Reason:

White corresponds to garment (מין כנף).

If reversed:

- Still kosher.
- Only missed the ideal order.

8️⃣ Garment That Is Entirely Blue

If the garment itself is blue:

Perhaps blue should be inserted first?

Gemara rejects:

Torah never tied order to garment colour in that way.

The mitzvah is white-first regardless.

9️⃣ Torn Tzitzis – גארדומין

If strings were originally kosher length and later tore:

They may remain valid if enough length remains.

Minimum:

Enough to tie a slip knot.

Important conditions:

- Remaining strings must have originally been kosher.
- Partner strings must still be intact.
- Applies to strings torn below the knot.

Unresolved:

If both torn strings barely meet minimum — תיקו.

🔟 Shiur Lengths

- Tzitzis length: 12 thumb-widths.
- Remaining torn length: enough for simple knot.

Parallel brought from:

- אזוב used for sprinkling — minimum size.

✨ Takeaway – Menachos 38

- Four tzitzis normally required.

- Machlokes whether each is independent.
- Kavod HaBriyos only overrides Rabbinic restrictions.
- White and blue are not mutually essential.
- Ideal order: white before blue.
- Torn strings may remain valid if minimal length remains.
- Original validity matters for continuation.

לעילוי נשמת אמי מורתי רות בת הרב מנחם מנדל