Menachos 39 – Good Morning Raboisai

1️⃣ גארדומין – Very Thick Strings

The Gemara discusses **גארדומין**— when the tzitzis strings tore after originally being kosher.

We learned previously:

If enough string remains to tie a simple slip-knot (כדי עניבה), the tzitzis remain kosher.

Question:

What if the strings are very thick and even though the remaining length is technically sufficient, it's impossible to tie a slip knot because of the thickness?

Answer:

Since the thickness itself clearly shows recognizable strings after the knot, it is still valid.

2️⃣ תכלת ולבן – Are They מעכב?

We revisit the machlokes:

- **רבי**– תכלת and לבן are מעכב one another.
- **חכמים**– אינם מעכבין זה את זה.

Halacha follows Chachamim:
White without blue is valid.

3️⃣ How Many Knots Are Required?

The Gemara proves:

There must be a real knot (קשר) – not merely inserted threads.

Why?

Because of the principle:

עשה דוחה לא תעשה

The mitzvah of tzitzis overrides the prohibition of שעטנז (wool & linen mixture).

But if one merely inserts wool into linen without tying it, that is not halachic שעטנז.

Therefore, tzitzis must include a halachic knot — otherwise the Torah would not need to override שעטנז.

Conclusion:

קשר עליון – דאורייתא

A valid knot is required.

4️⃣ If One String Tore at the Top

If a string tore:

- During the original tying → פסול.
- After it was originally kosher → may remain valid if sufficient length remains.

5️⃣ The Structure – גדיל and פתיל

The Torah calls tzitzis:

- גדילים
- פתיל

Contradiction?

Resolution:

It must contain both:

- A **גדיל**(wrapped section)
- Loose strings (פתיל / ענף)

From the plural form **גדילים**we learn:

Minimum of four folded strings (which become eight ends).

6️⃣ Ideal Proportions

The ideal ratio:

- **שליש גדיל**
- **שני שלישים ענף**

Minimum requirement:

Even one wrapping (חוליה אחת) is technically kosher.

7️⃣ Number of Wraps

The Gemara states:

- Not fewer than **7 wraps**
- Not more than **13 wraps**

Symbolism:

- 7 – שבעה רקיעים
- 13 – שבעה רקיעים וששה אוירים שביניהם

Custom developed:

7–8–11–13 (or variants), but Gemara establishes basic framework.

8️⃣ White Before Blue

The wrapping should:

- Begin with white
- End with white

This shows precedence of לבן over תכלת in structure.

9️⃣ Pure "גדיל" Without Strings?

Case:

Someone wore a garment that had only wrapped knots and no loose strings.

One Amora praised it.

Another rejected it:

From the פסוק we require both גדיל and פתיל — wrapped section and loose strings.

Conclusion:

Must have visible hanging strings.

🔟 What Strings Work for What Garments?

Major sugya:

Which materials work for which garments?

Conclusion:

🟢 **Wool (צמר) and Linen (פשתים):**

Work for **any garment** — even silk.

🔵 **Other materials (silk, etc.):**

Only work for garments of the same material.

Thus:

- Wool strings → valid for all.
- Linen strings → valid for all.
- Silk strings → only for silk garment.

⚖️ **Rabbinic Discussion**

Even silk garments require tzitzis (at least מדרבנן).

However:

Rabbanan would not permit שעטנז unless the garment is obligated at least rabbinically.

✨ **Takeaway – Menachos 39**

- גארדומין valid if minimal recognizable length remains.
- קשר is דאורייתא.
- Must have both גדיל and ענף.
- Ideal ratio: 1/3 wrapped, 2/3 loose.
- 7–13 wraps framework.
- White precedes blue.
- Wool & linen strings work universally.
- Other materials are limited to their own type.

לעילוי נשמת אמי מורתי רות בת הרב מנחם מנדל