Menachos 43 – Good Morning Raboisai

1️⃣ Can You Use Blue Strings Found in the Street?

The Gemara discusses whether one may use found blue strings for **תכלת**.

Havah Amina:
There is **no reliable test** to determine whether the dye is real תכלת or fake **קלא אילן** (indigo). Therefore, one must purchase תכלת only from a **מומחה**.

The Gemara challenges this:
There *are* chemical tests:

Test 1:
Soak in a mixture of:

- Alum
- Fenugreek juice
- Fermented urine (aged ~40 days)

If the color fades → invalid (likely קלא אילן).
If it remains strong → valid.

Test 2:
Bake it with a yeast starter.
If the color strengthens → kosher.

If it weakens → invalid.

The conclusion:
These tests determine whether it is real תכלת — but they **cannot test לשמה**. If dyed for testing purposes (without intent for mitzvah), the wool is פסול.

Thus:

אין בדיקה ללשמה

You cannot verify intent.

2️⃣ Buying Tzitzis from Non-Jews

If one buys a garment with tzitzis:

- From a Jew → presumed kosher.
- From a non-Jew merchant → valid (protects reputation).
- From an individual non-Jew → invalid.

Reason: Concern that invalid strings were used or improperly made.

3️⃣ Rav Yehudah and Women's Obligation

Rav Yehudah placed tzitzis on his wife's garment.

This implies he held:

ציצית אינה מצות עשה שהזמן גרמא

Since women are exempt from time-bound mitzvos.

The Gemara questions:

If so, why did he make a new bracha every morning?

Answer:
He would change garments in the daytime — creating a new חיוב.

4️⃣ Who Is Obligated in Tzitzis?

The Gemara lists:

- כהנים
- לוים
- ישראלים
- גרים
- נשים (according to one view)
- עבדים

Rav Shimon exempts women because he holds:

ציצית מצות עשה שהזמן גרמא

Why time-bound?

Because of:

וראיתם אותו

At night you cannot see it — therefore nighttime garments are exempt.

5️⃣ Blind Person vs Night Garment

Two possible exclusions:

- Blind person (cannot see)
- Night garment (cannot be seen)

The Gemara concludes:

Blind person is obligated — since others can see it.

Night garment is exempt — since no one sees it.

6️⃣ Four Corners – What Is Excluded?

The Torah says:

על ארבע כנפות כסותך

Does this exclude:

- A 3-cornered garment?
- A 5-cornered garment?

Conclusion:

A 3-cornered garment is exempt.
A 5-cornered garment is obligated (since it contains four corners).

7️⃣ Why Tzitzis Reminds Us of Mitzvos

וראיתם אותו וזכרתם

Seeing tzitzis leads to remembering mitzvos.

Different drashos:

- Reminder of קריאת שמע
- Reminder of איסור שעטנז
- Reminder of all תרי"ג מצוות

Gematria:

- ציצית (600)
- 8 strings

- 5 knots
  = 613

8️⃣ Surrounding Ourselves with Mitzvos

A person is surrounded by mitzvos:

- תפילין של יד
- תפילין של ראש
- ציצית (four corners)
- מזוזה

David HaMelech once stood in a bathhouse and felt "naked" of mitzvos — until he remembered **ברית מילה**, which accompanies a person always.

9️⃣ Why Techeles Is Blue

תכלת דומה לים
ים דומה לרקיע
רקיע דומה לכסא הכבוד

Techeles creates a visual chain upward to the **כסא הכבוד**.

🔟 White vs Blue Strings

Which is more severe to neglect?

Analogy:

If a king orders:

- One servant to bring a gold ring
- Another to bring a clay ring

Both fail — the one assigned the simpler task is more culpable.

So too:

White strings (common) are no less important than תכלת.

Ilui Nishmas Imi Morosi Ruth Bas Harav Menachem Mendel