Menachos 55 – Good Morning Raboisai

1️⃣ Do We Follow the Current State or the Original State?

A fundamental question discussed in the Gemara:

When an item changes size or form, do we judge it **based on its current state** or **based on what it originally was**?

Two possibilities:

- **כמו שהוא עכשיו**– according to what it is now.
- **כמו שהיו**– according to how it originally was.

Example:

A fig that was once large later shriveled when dried.

If we judge by **its present size**, it is smaller.
If we judge by **its original size**, it is still considered the larger measure.

This question affects several areas of halachah, including **maaser**.

2️⃣ Taking Maaser from Dried Figs

A case is discussed regarding **fresh figs (תאנים)** and **dried figs (גרוגרות)**.

Rule:

- One may separate **fresh figs as maaser for dried figs**.
- But one may **not separate dried figs for fresh figs**.

Reason:

Dried figs are **smaller in volume** than fresh figs.

If someone separates:

- 1 dried fig for 9 fresh figs

the amount is insufficient, since the dried fig represents **less produce** than a fresh one.

3️⃣ Exception – When Drying Is Common

The Baraisa says:

If the produce is in a place **where figs are commonly dried**, the rules change.

Why?

Because people know how to properly preserve them.

In such places:

- Fresh figs may be designated for dried figs as **תרומת מעשר**.

Since the produce will eventually be dried, they are viewed as **equivalent in value and process**.

4️⃣ When the Kohen Is Not Present

Another factor discussed is whether the **kohen is available immediately**.

If the kohen is not nearby:

- Fresh produce may spoil before he receives it.

Therefore, a **dried fig may actually be preferable**, because it lasts longer until it reaches the kohen.

Thus, preservation can sometimes outweigh freshness.

5️⃣ Two Different Cases in One Mishnah

The Gemara notices a difficulty:

The **first part** of the teaching seems to assume **no kohen present**, while the **second part** assumes **a kohen is present**.

Normally we try to explain a Mishnah as discussing **one situation**.

However, a principle is taught:

It is sometimes better to explain a Mishnah as referring to **two different circumstances** rather than attributing it to **two different Tannaim**.

6️⃣ The Process of Preparing a Mincha

The Mishnah teaches that **all מנחות require several stages**:

1. **לישה**– kneading the dough
2. **עריכה**– shaping or arranging it
3. **אפייה**– baking

During every stage, care must be taken **not to allow the dough to become chametz**.

If someone intentionally causes chametz during any stage, he transgresses a **lav** and may receive **malkos**.

7️⃣ Multiple Lashes for Each Action

The Torah states:

לא תֵאָפֶה חמץ חלקם

This teaches that even the **portion eaten by the kohanim (שיירים)** may not become chametz.

From the wording, Chazal derive:

Each significant stage of preparation can create **a separate transgression**, including:

- Kneading
- Shaping
- Baking

Each act is considered an **independent action** in the prohibition.

🔑 Yesodos of the Daf

- Halachah sometimes considers **original state vs current state**.
- Fresh figs may be separated for dried figs, but not the reverse.
- Shelf life and preservation can affect **trumos and maasros**.
- A Mishnah may sometimes discuss **two different situations**.
- In a מנחה, every stage must avoid **chametz**.
- Multiple actions can create **multiple lavin**.

לעילוי נשמת אמי מורתי רות בת הרב מנחם מנדל