Menachos 65 – Good Morning Raboisai

1️⃣ Understanding Ambiguous Bird Offerings

The Mishnah discusses women who brought **pairs of birds (קינים)** but used unclear wording:

• If she says it was for **zivah**, it includes a **chatas and an olah**.
• If her wording is unclear, it could mean she was saved from **danger** (like drowning or illness), in which case it is a **nedavah (olah only)**.

Because of this uncertainty, the Kohanim needed someone able to **interpret intent correctly**.

2️⃣ Mordechai – The Master Interpreter

Mordechai was appointed over the **kinim collection boxes** in the Beis HaMikdash.

His greatness was not just knowing languages, but being able to:

• **Combine and interpret multiple languages and expressions**
• Understand subtle meanings behind people's words
• Correctly determine whether money was for **chatas or olah**

This level of understanding was essential, since mistakes would lead to **incorrect korbanos**.

3️⃣ Requirements for Sanhedrin Members

Members of the **Sanhedrin** had to meet very high standards:

• Wisdom and strong analytical ability
• Knowledge of **70 languages** (to avoid relying on translators)
• Distinguished appearance and presence
• Understanding of **kishuf (sorcery)** to judge such cases properly

This ensured **accuracy in judgement** and prevented distortion of testimony.

4️⃣ The Public Harvesting of the Omer

Before the Omer was harvested:

• Beis Din agents would **tie the barley in bundles** while still attached
• On the night after Yom Tov, it was harvested with a **large public gathering**

The process included repeated questions:

• "Has the sun set?"
• "With this sickle?"
• "Into this basket?"

Each answered **three times by the crowd**.

This created a **public, dramatic ceremony**.

5️⃣ Why So Public?

The repetition and publicity were to counter the **Baitusim (Tzedukim)** who claimed:

• "ממחרת השבת" means **Sunday**

Chazal demonstrated clearly that:

• The Omer is brought **the night after Yom Tov**, even if not Sunday

This public display ensured correct **Torah interpretation was known by all**.

6️⃣ Special Days in Megillas Taanis

The Gemara lists special days when:

• **Fasting and eulogies are forbidden**

Two key periods in Nissan:

• **Rosh Chodesh → 8th Nissan**: Victory over those who denied the **Korban Tamid** as communal
• **8th Nissan → end of Pesach**: Victory over those who claimed **Shavuos must fall on Sunday**

The first victory was greater, so it had **stricter celebration (no fasting or hesped)**.

7️⃣ Refuting the Tzedukim – When Does the Omer Begin?

The Tzedukim argued Shavuos must always be on Sunday.

Chazal refuted this with multiple proofs:

• "וספרתם לכם" – counting depends on **Beis Din and people**, not fixed weekdays
• Comparison to **Rosh Chodesh** – determined by calendar, not weekday
• Logical comparisons between **Omer and Shtei HaLechem**

All show that counting begins **after Yom Tov**, not Sunday.

🛑 The Structure of Sefiras HaOmer

The Gemara shows:

• The Torah requires **counting 49 days**
• If counting always began Sunday, Shavuos would fall on **different total day counts after Pesach**

Since the Torah gives a fixed structure, it proves:

➡️ Counting begins **immediately after Yom Tov**, not based on the weekday.

🔑 Yesodos of the Daf

• Ambiguous korban wording requires **accurate interpretation of intent**.
• Mordechai's greatness was in **deep linguistic understanding**, not just translation.
• Sanhedrin required mastery of languages and wisdom for **precise judgement**.
• The Omer harvest was made highly public to **counter false interpretations**.
• Special ימים טובים commemorate victories over incorrect halachic views.
• The Omer count begins **after Yom Tov**, not necessarily Sunday.
• Sefiras HaOmer is based on **Torah structure and Beis Din**, not fixed weekdays.

לעילוי נשמת אמי מורתי רות בת הרב מנחם מנדל