Menachos 69 – Good Morning Raboisai

1️⃣ Omer and Shtei HaLechem – Must They Be in Order?

We know:

- **Omer (Pesach)** → permits Chadash for eating
- **Shtei HaLechem (Shavuos)** → permits Chadash for use in the Beis HaMikdash

The Gemara asks:

What if they happened **out of order**?

Example:

- The grain took root **after Pesach**, so it missed the Omer
- But it was ready by **Shavuos**, so it encountered Shtei HaLechem first

Question:

➡️ Can Shtei HaLechem permit it, and later the Omer complete the process?
Or must it follow the **proper order (Omer → Shtei HaLechem)**?

Conclusion:

➡️ The concept of **"Bikurim"** requires that the Mizbeach has not yet received this type of grain that season — so **order matters**.

2️⃣ Why the Omer Must Be Barley

The Gemara proves:

- The Omer is brought from **barley**, not wheat

Because:

- Shtei HaLechem are called **"Bikurim"** (first of the wheat)
- If the Omer were also wheat, then Shtei HaLechem would **not be first**

Thus:

➡️ Omer = barley
➡️ Shtei HaLechem = wheat

3️⃣ When Does Shtei HaLechem Permit Fruit?

The Gemara asks:

At what stage must produce be for Shtei HaLechem to permit it?

Possibilities:

• When it has already **taken root**
• When it has begun to **form (buds/fruit stage)**
• Or even later stages of development

The Gemara concludes:

➡️ If **rooting already works**, then certainly later stages do
➡️ But there is still a question about intermediate stages (like early leaves)

Result:

➡️ The exact boundary remains a **Teiku (unresolved)**

4️⃣ Grain Planted in the Ground – Still Food or Not?

Case:

• Someone takes **grain and plants it whole in the ground**

Question:

➡️ Does it still retain its status as **food**, or is it now considered **part of the ground (karka)**?

This affects multiple halachos:

• Whether the **Omer permits it**
• Whether it is subject to **ona'ah (pricing laws)**
• Whether it requires **shevuah (oath laws)**

The Gemara leaves this as an **open question**.

5️⃣ Grain from Animal Waste

Case:

• Wheat or barley found in **animal waste**

Questions:

• Can it become **tamei (receive tumah)**?
• Can it be used for a **korban**?

If someone actively designates it for eating, it can become food.

However:

➡️ Using it for korban is problematic due to **"הקריבהו נא לפחתך"** — we do not bring something low-quality before Hashem.

But:

• If it is replanted and grows fresh, the question becomes whether it was **weakened or changed** through digestion.

This too remains **unresolved**.

6️⃣ Objects Passing Through Digestion

Extreme cases discussed:

• A **basket swallowed by an elephant**
• **Human flesh** consumed and later recovered

Key question:

➡️ Does passing through digestion **change its halachic identity**?

Findings:

• Soft materials (like flesh) may change status
• Hard materials (like bone or wood) may not

The halacha depends on whether the object is considered **"digested and transformed"** or not.

7️⃣ Grain Falling from Clouds

A strange but real halachic question:

• Grain that came down via **clouds (e.g. ship cargo carried in clouds)**

Question:

➡️ Can it be used for **Shtei HaLechem**?

Requirement:

• Shtei HaLechem must come from **Eretz Yisrael**

So:

• If “ממושבותיכם” excludes only Chutz LaAretz → maybe valid
• If it requires specifically normal growth from the land → invalid

This question also remains **unresolved**.

🔑 Yesodos of the Daf

• The process of Chadash requires **correct order: Omer → Shtei HaLechem**.
• The Omer must be **barley** so that Shtei HaLechem can be true “Bikurim” of wheat.
• The stage of growth needed for היתר remains partially **unresolved**.
• Grain planted whole raises questions of **food vs. land status**.
• Items changed through digestion may or may not **lose their original halachic identity**.
• Korbanos must be brought from **respectable quality materials**.
• Some rare cases (like grain from clouds) remain **Teiku**.

לעילוי נשמת אמי מורתי רות בת הרב מנחם מנדל