Zevachim 96 – Good Morning Raboisai

Summary of Reb Eli Stefansky's Shiur

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1 Earthenware, Absorption, and Why Some Kelim Must Be Broken

The daf opens with the classic distinction between **metal** and **earthenware (חֶרֶס)**:

- **Metal kelim** can be purged (הַסָּקָה / הַגְעָלָה) and reused.
- **Earthenware** absorbs flavor permanently and **cannot be purged** → must be **broken**.

This explains:

- Why **earthenware kelim** used for Chatas are broken.
- Why **ovens in the Beis HaMikdash were made of metal**, not clay.

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2 Oven vs. Pot — A Critical Difference

A major clarification:

- **Oven (תַּנּוּר):**
  - Absorbs flavor from **inside**.
  - Fire is applied **inside**.
  - Therefore, **heating it sufficiently can remove absorbed flavor**.
- **Pot (קְדֵירָה):**
  - Absorbs through its walls.
  - Fire is normally applied **from the outside**.
  - Heating from inside risks cracking → people won't do it properly.
  - Therefore, **earthenware pots cannot be kashered**.

This resolves why:

- Heating helps for ovens,
- But **does not help for earthenware pots**.

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3 Why Not Fire the Pot From the Inside?

The Gemara asks:

If heating removes absorbed taste, why not fire an earthenware pot from the inside?

Answer:

- People fear it will **crack or explode**.
- They will **cut corners**.
- Since proper kashering won't be done → **the Torah forbids it altogether**.

Halacha is built not only on theory, but on **real human behavior**.

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4 Why Not Burn the Earthenware in a Furnace?

Another suggestion:

Put the earthenware kli into a furnace (כִּבְשָׁן) and burn out the absorption.

Rejected because:

- **Yerushalayim forbids kilns and smoke** (one of the "ten regulations of Yerushalayim").
- You may not create piles of shards or smoke in the Mikdash area.

So:

Breaking earthenware is the only option.

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5 Bishul B'Miktzas Kli — Cooking in Only Part of a Pot

Key case:

- Food was cooked using **only part of a pot**.
- Question:

Do we require **merikah u'shtifah** (scouring and rinsing) for the **entire pot**, or only that area?

Initial logic:

- By **kibbus** of garments, only the **stained area** is washed.
- Perhaps pots should follow the same rule.

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6 The Rejection — Cooking Is Not Like Blood

The Gemara rejects the comparison:

- **Blood** stays where it lands.
- **Cooking** spreads via:
    - Steam
    - Vapor
    - Oil splatter

Therefore:

If cooking occurred in part of a kli, the entire kli requires merikah u'shtifah.

This is explicit in a Beraisa:

- **Bishul b'miktzas kli → ta'un merikah u'shtifah b'chol ha'kli.**

The entire pot is affected.

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7 A Personal Story — Logic vs. Beraisos

The daf includes a striking story:

- A student leaves his rebbe to learn by **Rav Sheshas**, master of Beraisos.
- His former rebbe challenges him:

"You think being near greatness will rub off on you?"

The student replies honestly:

- The rebbe relied on **logic**.
- Rav Sheshas could defeat logic with **explicit Beraisos**.

Lesson:

Logic is powerful — but a Beraisa can overturn it instantly.

And indeed, here:

- Logic suggested partial washing.
- **Beraisa proves full washing is required**.

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8 Which Korbanos Require Merikah u'Shtifah?

The Torah introduces these laws in the context of **Chatas**.

So how do we know they apply to **other korbanos**?

The sugya explains:

- **Kodshei Kodashim** → definitely included.
- **Kodshim Kalim** → included through derivation.
- **Terumah** → excluded.

Why?

- Terumah is **less holy than any korban**.
- If even Kodshim Kalim require purging, certainly Terumah does *not* create stricter rules.

Yet Terumah **does** require cleaning — just with **lighter standards**.

9️⃣ Terumah — Lighter Requirements

Differences for Terumah:

- Does **not** require:
    - Cold rinse after scouring
    - Strict water-only cleansing
- May be cleaned:
    - With wine
    - With diluted liquids
- Does **not** require full merikah u'shtifah like korbanos.

This creates **three tiers**:

1. **Kodshei Mizbeach** — strictest
2. **Kodshim Kalim** — same system
3. **Terumah** — lighter requirements

🔟 Cold vs. Hot Water — What Is "Shtifah"?

Clarification:

- **Merikah** = scouring with **hot water** (hag'alah).
- **Shtifah** = rinsing with **cold water**, afterward.

For korbanos:

- **Hot → cold** is required.

For Terumah:

- **Hot alone** may suffice.

This explains modern kashering customs as well.

✨ **Takeaway – Zevachim 96**

- **Earthenware cannot be kashered**; it must be broken.
- Ovens differ from pots because of **where heat is applied**.
- Human behavior (fear of cracking) shapes halacha.
- **Cooking spreads absorption** → partial cooking affects the entire pot.
- Logic alone is insufficient without Beraisos.
- **Merikah u'shtifah** applies to all korbanos, even Kodshim Kalim.
- **Terumah** requires cleaning, but with **lighter standards**.
- The Torah builds a precise hierarchy of kedusha reflected in cleaning laws.

לעילוי נשמת אמי מורתי רות בת הרב מנחם מנדל