

Bava Kamma Daf 12

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Slaves: Land or Movables?

The *Gemora* relates: There was an incident in Nehardea and the judges collected a debt from the slaves of the orphans (*for they maintained that slaves are regarded as land*).

There was an incident in Pumbedisa and Rav Chana bar Bizna collected a debt from the slaves of the orphans (maintaining that slaves are regarded as land).

Rav Nachman (*who held that slaves are regarded as movables*) said to them: Return the slaves to their original owner, and if not, I will seize your mansions (*and pay them with that*).

Rava said to Rav Nachman: There is Ulla, Rabbi Elozar, the Nehardean judges and Rav Chana bar Bizna, who all maintain that slaves are regarded as land. Who do you hold like?

Rav Nachman replied: I know the following *Baraisa*: Avimi taught: A *pruzbul (after shemitah all debts are cancelled unless the lender wrote a pruzbul; a document which transfers all of one's personal loans to the Beis Din, and their debts are not cancelled after shemitah*) can take effect only if the debtor has land (*for then it can be regarded as if the debt was paid up before shemitah*), but it does not take effect upon slaves. Movables can be acquired together with land (*by making a kinyan on the land, one automatically acquires the movable property;* this is called a kinyan agav), but not with slaves. [This Baraisa holds that slaves are regarded as movable items.]

The Gemora suggests that this dispute is actually the same as the following argument among the Tannaim: When one sells slaves and lands to a purchaser, if he made a propriety act on the slaves, he has not acquired the land, and similarly, by making a kinyan on the land, he has not acquired the slaves. In the case of lands and movables, if he made a propriety act on the land, he has acquired the movables, but by making a kinyan on the movables, he has not acquired the land. In the case of slaves and movables, if he made a propriety act on the slaves, he has not acquired the movables, and similarly, by making a kinyan on the movables, he has not acquired the slaves. But it was taught in another Baraisa: If he made a propriety act on the slaves, he has acquired the movables. Now, is this not the argument between them: The latter Baraisa maintains that slaves are considered as land, whereas the former *Baraisa* is of the opinion that slaves are regarded as movables?

Rav Ikka the son of Rav Ami, however, said: All the *Tannaim* agree that slaves are regarded as land. The former *Baraisa* stating that the transfer of movables is ineffective may maintain that the land required (*to acquire movables*) is such that resemble the fortified cities of Judah, which do not move. [*Although slaves are regarded as land, they cannot acquire slaves with them. This is derived from a Scriptural verse.*]



For we learned in a Mishnah: Movable property can be acquired together with real property through money, a document, or *chazakah* (*by making a kinyan on the land*, *he automatically acquires the movable property; this is called a kinyan agav*). And it was asked: From where is it known? Chizkiyah said: Scripture said: And their father gave them gifts of gold and silver, and delicacies, together with fortified cities in Judah.

There are some who reported another version: Rav Ikka the son of Rav Ami said: All the *Tannaim* agree that slaves are regarded as movables. The latter *Baraisa* stating that the transfer of the movables is effective deals with the case when the movables sold were on top of the slaves (and they are acquired through the kinyan of "courtyard").

The *Gemora* asks: And when the movables are on the slaves, what of it? The slave is a moving courtyard, and a moving courtyard cannot effect an acquisition for its owner!? And if you reply that we are discussing a slave who is standing still, hasn't Rava laid down that things which do not effect an acquisition when moving, do not effect an acquisition when standing or sitting?

The *Gemora* answers: Rava's ruling is applicable when the slave is bound (*since he presently cannot move*).

The *Gemora* asks from a different *Baraisa*: If he made a propriety act on the land, he has acquired the slaves!?

The *Gemora* answers: There, the slaves were standing on the land.

The *Gemora* notes: This implies that the first *Baraisa* which stated that the transfer of the slaves is ineffective deals with a case where the slaves were not standing on the land. That is all very well according to the version that Rav Ikka the son of Rav Ami said that slaves are regarded as movables; that if why if they were standing on the land,

the transfer is effective, otherwise, it is ineffective. But according to the version which understands that slaves are regarded as land, why would it be necessary for the slaves to be standing on the land? But Shmuel said: If someone is sold ten properties in ten different countries, he acquires all of them once he makes a propriety act on one of them.

The *Gemora* replies: And according to the version that slaves are regarded as movables, is it any better? Why do we need the slaves to be standing in the field? Have we not established that the movables are not required to be piled on the land in order to be acquired together with the land?

The answer must be that there is a distinction between movable items that can move themselves and movable items that cannot move. Likewise, there must be a distinction between land that moves and land that doesn't move. Since slaves are land that moves, they cannot be acquired with land unless they are standing on it. However, in Shmuel's ruling, the entire earth is connected in one body (and therefore a kinyan on one parcel of land is sufficient for all the others). (12a1 – 12b1)

Kodshim Kalim

The *Mishnah* had stated: One is liable for damages only on property that is not subject to the *halachos* of *me'ilah* (one who has unintentionally benefited from hekdesh or removed it from the ownership of the Beis Hamikdosh has committed the transgression of me'ilah, and as a penalty, he would be required to pay the value of the object plus an additional fifth of the value; he also brings a korban asham).

The *Gemora* infers from the *Mishnah* that one may be liable for damaging consecrated property as long as it is not subject to the *halachos* of *me'ilah*?



The Gemora asks: Who is the Tanna that holds like that?

Rabbi Yochanan answers: It is discussing *kodshim kalim* and it is in accordance with the opinion of Rabbi Yosi HaGelili. For it was taught in a *Baraisa*: It is written: "*If he will commit a treachery against Hashem (by lying to his fellow)*." This includes *kodshim kalim*, which are considered his money; these are the words of Rabbi Yosi HaGelili.

The *Gemora* asks from a *Mishnah*: If a *Kohen* betroths a woman with his portion of the *korbanos*, whether it was from *kodshei kodoshim* or *kodshim kalim*, the *kiddushin* is invalid. Let us say that this *Mishnah* is not in accordance with Rabbi Yosi HaGelili?

The *Gemora* answers: Our *Mishnah* could even be according to Rabbi Yosi HaGelili. Rabbi Yosi might only hold that *kodshim kalim* that is alive is considered a person's own money. However, after it is slaughtered, it is not, because the person now has it given to them (*the Kohanim and the owner*) "from the table of Hashem" (*the altar*).

The Gemora asks: And while it is alive, did he (R' Yosi HaGelili) say that (that it is the property of the possessor)? But it has been taught in a Mishnah: An unblemished bechor may be sold alive, and a blemished bechor as well - whether alive or slaughtered; and the Kohen may also betroth a woman with it. And Rav Nachman said in the name of Rabbah bar Avuha: This (that a Kohen can sell it alive and unblemished) was taught only for nowadays, since a Kohen has a monetary claim upon it, but in the era when the Temple was in existence, since an unblemished bechor is destined to be offered up, we may not sell it alive, unblemished (for a Kohen has no claim on it except from the time when its sacrificial parts are burnt on the altar). And Rava asked Rav Nachman from a Baraisa: "If he will commit a treachery against Hashem (by lying to his fellow)." This includes kodshim kalim, which are

considered his money; these are the words of Rabbi Yosi HaGelili. And Ravina deflected the proof by saying that the *Baraisa* is referring to an unblemished *bechor*, but it is one that was born outside of *Eretz Yisroel*, and it is in accordance with Rabbi Shimon, who maintains that If an unblemished *bechor* came from outside *Eretz Yisroel* into *Eretz Yisroel* they may be offered up. – this implies that it is only if they came up, but initially they should not be brought. And if it is true that Rabbi Yosi HaGelili said that kodshim kalim are regarded as the property of their possessor while they are alive, he (Ravina) should have answered that this Baraisa is following the opinion of Rabbi Yosi HaGelili and the other (ruling of Rav Nachman invalidating the sale of a bechor during the time of the Temple) is according to the Rabbis?

The Gemora answers: Do you speak of Kohanic gifts (such as bechor)? Kohanic gifts are different (and they are not the regarded as property of the *Kohen*), for they acquire it "from the Table of Hashem." (12b1 – 13a1)

INSIGHTS TO THE DAF

Mobile Courtyard

The *Gemora* states that a moving courtyard cannot effect an acquisition for its owner. The Rishonim disagree as to the reason for this. Rashi and Tosfos maintain that since the *halacha* that a courtyard can effect an acquisition for its owner is derived from the *halacha* of acquiring through one's hand, a moving courtyard, which does not resemble to a hand (*which is stationary*), cannot effect an acquisition for its owner.

The Ritva and the Ran suggest a different reason for this. They say that since the courtyard can be a great distance away from the owner, it is not considered protected by the owner, and therefore it is disqualified from effecting an acquisition for the owner.



The Divrei Mishpat notes that the following case would be a difference between them: If a lost object would fall on his animal which is in his courtyard. If a mobile courtyard is excluded because it does not resemble a person's physical hand, he will not acquire this lost object, for the animal is a moveable object. If, however, a mobile courtyard is disqualified from effecting an acquisition because it is not guarded from intrusion by the owner, here, he will acquire the lost object because the object is protected.

Kinyan Agav

The *Gemora* rules that the movable property does not need to be piled on the real property in order for the *kinyan agav* (*by making a kinyan on the land, he automatically acquires the movable property*) to be effective.

The Rishonim ask: If the *halachah* would be that *kinyan agav* is effective only if the movable property is piled on the land, why would it be necessary to use *agav*? The movable property should be acquired because it is resting in his courtyard!?

The Ritv"a answers: The *Gemora* is referring to a case where the courtyard is not protected and therefore it cannot be used to make a *kinyan*. That is why *agav* is necessary.

The Shitah Mekubetzes answers that a courtyard can acquire for a person movable property that entered it only after it became his. However, a courtyard cannot acquire property that was in it before the courtyard became his.

The Steipler Gaon writes that the Shach states this *halachah* only with respect to the acquisition of a courtyard without the knowledge of the owner. However, if he intends to use the courtyard to acquire the movable

property which is found in it, it will be effective even if the property entered the courtyard before it became his.

DAILY MASHAL

Swaying

Our Daf deals with various manners of acquisition. Torah is also something that is acquired. Once it (the Torah) is acquired, it becomes part of us.

Harav Yehudah Halevi in his classic Sefer Hakuzari (Kuzari 2 79) written more than 9 centuries ago addresses the question why is it that Klal Yisroel sway their entire bodies while learning Torah. The truth is that the Zohar (Parshas Pinchos 218b) already makes mention of this custom. The Rishonim write that this concept was first seen at matan Torah as the Possuk (Yisro 20 14) writes " וינועו ויעמדו (see Ba'al Hatorim (Parshas Yisro 20 15)]. This custom also found its way into the Remoh (OC 48 1) who writes "ונהגו המדקדקים להתנועע בשעה שקורין בתורה".

Why is it that universities are still as stone, but the visitors of botei medrash are always, swinging and swaying.

The answer to this is that the universities are busy with חבמה but we are busy with Torah. Torah effects our very beings, not just our brains! Torah changes who we are and not just what we know!