

Bava Metzia Daf 53

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May the studying of the Daf Notes be a zechus for their neshamot and may their souls find peace in Gan Eden and be bound up in the Bond of life

#### **Redeeming with Earlier Money**

Chizkiyah had stated: With respect to *ma'aser sheini* produce worth less than a *perutah*, one may declare, "It, together with its fifth, is redeemed with earlier redemption money" (*money that he used to deconsecrate other ma'aser sheini produce*). This is because it is impossible for a person to calculate his money exactly (*and he made certain that the money used was worth more than the produce*).

The Gemara asks on this from the following Mishnah [Bikkurim 2:1]: In respect to terumah and bikkurim (the first ripe fruits which must be brought to the Beis Hamikdosh in Yerushalayim), one is liable for the penalties of death (if he eats them illegally) and a fine of a fifth (of the value of the food, in addition to its actual cost, which a non-Kohen must pay if he consumed unwittingly any quantity of terumah or bikkurim); they both are forbidden to a non-Kohen, and they are the property of the Kohen; they become nullified (when intermingled with non-sanctified produce) in a mixture of one hundred and one; and they require washing of the hands (prior to touching or eating these foods); and one who was tamei and immersed himself in the mikvah is required to wait until sunset before eating these foods. All these restrictions apply to terumah and bikkurim, but not to maaser sheini.

Now, when it states that *ma'aser sheini* does not become nullified, does that not mean that it will become nullified in a majority (*which must be referring to a case where the prohibition is one that will not become permitted except through nullification; it must be that it became tamei and cannot be brought to Yerushalayim, and if the produce is valued at over a perutah, it could become permitted through deconsecration; so the case must be where the produce is*  worth less than a perutah)? But if Chizkiyah is correct, then even if the produce is worth less than a perutah, it should be regarded as something that will otherwise become permitted, and there is a principle that any item that will eventually become permitted is not nullified even when intermingled with a thousand items of its like!?

The *Gemara* suggests an alternative explanation in the *Mishnah*: Perhaps the meaning of the *Mishnah* is that *ma'aser sheini* cannot become nullified at all (*because of the principle mentioned above*).

The *Gemara* explains why that cannot be the meaning of the *Mishnah*, for the *Mishnah* is listing the stringencies of *terumah*; not its leniencies (*that terumah can become nullified and ma'aser cannot*).

The Gemara asks: But the Mishnah states that terumah is the property of the Kohen (which is a leniency)!?

The Gemara answers: We cannot say that ma'aser sheini cannot become nullified, for we have learned explicitly in a Baraisa that ma'aser sheini can become nullified in a majority. And what type of ma'aser sheini are we referring to? Ma'aser that is not valued at a perutah and ma'aser that entered Yerushalayim and left.

Now if Chizkiyah is correct, why can't they deconsecrate it (*the ma'aser which is less than a perutah*) with the earlier redemption money (*and it will not be necessary to become nullified*)?

The *Gemara* answers: The *Baraisa* is discussing a case where he has not redeemed any *ma'aser sheini* before.

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The *Gemara* asks: Why can't he bring other *ma'aser* that he has (*worth less than a perutah*) and combine the two (*and then deconsecrate it*)?

The Gemara answers: Biblical and Rabbinic ma'aser cannot combine. [The ma'aser sheini produce in the mixture has been Biblically nullified (for the principle that any item that will eventually become permitted is not nullified is a Biblical one), and it is only regarded as Rabbinical ma'aser.]

The Gemara asks: Why can't he bring ma'aser sheini of demai (produce purchased from an am ha'aretz; we are uncertain if ma'aser was separated and one is Rabbinically obligated to separate ma'aser from it) and combine the two?

The *Gemara* answers: We are concerned that he might bring Biblical *ma'aser*.

The *Gemara* asks: Why can't he bring two *perutah* coins and deconsecrate a *perutah* and a half's worth of *ma'aser sheini* produce, and then he will be able to deconsecrate the half a *perutah's* worth of *ma'aser* found in the mixture?

The *Gemara* answers: Do you think that one and a half perutah's worth of ma'aser consecrates two perutah's? That is not so! [The two *perutah* coins do not become holy with a *perutah* and a half of *ma'aser sheini* produce!] One *perutah* becomes holy because of a *perutah's* worth of produce, but a half a *perutah's* worth of produce does not have the ability to endow holiness on the second *perutah* at all. It emerges that he will be combining a half of a *perutah's* worth of Biblical *ma'aser* with a half a *perutah's* worth of Rabbinic al *ma'aser* (and that we already have established does not work).

The Gemara asks: Why can't he bring an issar coin (one which is considerably larger that a perutah; he can then "leave room" to deconsecrate the produce in the mixture)?

The *Gemara* answers: We are concerned that he might bring *perutos*. (52b3 – 53a3)

The *Baraisa* had mentioned a case (*of nullification*) where *ma'aser* entered Yerushalayim and left.

The *Gemara* asks: Why can't he bring it back into Yerushalayim and eat it there (*and there will be no need for nullification*)?

The *Gemara* answers: It became *tamei* (and therefore it *cannot be eaten*).

The *Gemara* asks: Why can't he redeem it? Did we not learn that Rabbi Elazar said that *ma'aser sheini* which became *tamei* can still be redeemed even in Yerushalayim!?

The *Gemara* answers: The *Baraisa* is discussing food which was purchased with *ma'aser sheini* money (*which cannot be redeemed*).

The *Gemara* asks: Even food which was purchased with *ma'aser sheini* money can be redeemed!? Did we not learn in a *Mishnah*: Food which was purchased with *ma'aser sheini* money, and (that food) became tamei, can be redeemed!?

The *Gemara* answers: The *Baraisa* is in accordance with Rabbi Yehudah's opinion, who holds that such food must be buried.

The Gemara asks: But if it follows Rabbi Yehudah, why does the Baraisa specify that it left Yerushalayim, the Baraisa should have stated the case where the produce was still in Yerushalayim (and according to Rabbi Yehudah can still not be redeemed)!?

The *Gemara* answers: Rather, the *Baraisa* must be referring to a case where the produce is still *tahor* and where the walls of Yerushalayim fell (*which is why it cannot be eaten or redeemed*).



The *Gemara* asks: But did Rava not say the following: The requirement of having the walls of Yerushalayim in order to eat *ma'aser sheini* is a Biblical one; however, the *halachah* that the walls of Yerushalayim absorb the *ma'aser sheini* (*in a way that it cannot be redeemed any longer*) is only a Rabbinical one. And the Rabbis only established this decree if the walls were still standing, but in a case where the walls are not standing, the law does not apply (*and therefore the ma'aser sheini in our case can still be redeemed*)!?

The *Gemara* answers: The Rabbis did not distinguish between the two cases (and the ma'aser cannot be redeemed once it entered Yerushalayim, even if presently, there are no walls standing).

Rav Huna bar Yehudah answers in the name of Rav Sheishes (regarding the original challenge to Chizkiyah from the Baraisa): The Baraisa is in fact discussing one case: Ma'aser sheini that is less than a perutah which entered Yerushalayim and left (it cannot be redeemed, and therefore it becomes nullified).

The *Gemara* asks: Why can't he bring it back into Yerushalayim and eat it there (*and there will be no need for nullification*)?

The *Gemara* answers: The *Baraisa* is referring to a case where the walls of Yerushalayim fell (*which is why it cannot be eaten*).

The Gemara asks: But let him redeem it? Did Rava not say the following: The requirement of having the walls of Yerushalayim in order to eat ma'aser sheini is a Biblical one; however, the halachah that the walls of Yerushalayim absorb the ma'aser sheini (in a way that it cannot be redeemed any longer) is only a Rabbinical one. And the Rabbis only established this decree if the walls were still standing, but in a case where the walls are not standing, the law does not apply (and therefore the ma'aser sheini in our case can still be redeemed)!? The Gemara answers: The Rabbis did not distinguish between the two cases (and the ma'aser cannot be redeemed once it entered Yerushalayim, even if presently, there are no walls standing).

The *Gemara* asks: If so, why specify that it was not worth a perutah; wouldn't the *halachah* be exactly the same if the produce was worth more than a *perutah*?

The Gemara answers: The Baraisa is speaking in the form of "it's not necessary to state." If it contains [a perutah's worth], it is unnecessary to state that the walls absorb it. But where it does not contain [a perutah's worth], I might think that the walls do not absorb it; therefore, we are taught [otherwise]. [The Baraisa is teaching us that the walls of Yerushalayim absorb the ma'aser (that it cannot be redeemed) even if the produce is worth less than a perutah.] (53a3 - 53b2)

#### Less than a Perutah

The Gemara cites a Baraisa: And if a man will redeem of his ma'aser [he shall add to it the fifth part thereof]: of his ma'aser - but not all his ma'aser. This excludes ma'aser sheini produce worth less than a perutah (it cannot be redeemed).

It was stated: Rav Ami said: This means that the *ma'aser* itself is not worth a *perutah*. Rav Assi said: Its *fifth* is less than a *perutah*. Rabbi Yochanan said: The *ma'aser* itself is not worth a *perutah*. Rabbi Shimon ben Lakish said: Its *fifth* is less than a *perutah*.

The Gemara cites a Baraisa which challenges Rav Ami and Rabbi Yochanan's opinion: For ma'aser sheini which is worth less than a perutah, it is enough to declare: "It and its fifth are redeemed onto the earlier money" (according to Chizkiyah). Now, it is well according to the opinion that it does not require redemption even if its fifth is worth less than a perutah, for that is why the Tanna stated: "it is enough," for although the ma'aser itself contains the worth of a perutah, since its fifth does not, it can be redeemed with



the earlier money. But according to the view that the *ma'aser* itself is worth less, what is the meaning of "it is enough" (*is this not obvious*)? The *Gemara* remains with a difficulty. (53b2 – 53b3)

#### DAILY MASHAL

#### Pigs in the Future

Our *Gemara* states that *ma'aser sheini* produce is regarded as something that will otherwise become permitted (*since it may be eaten in Yerushalayim, or it can be redeemed*), and there is a principle that any item that will eventually become permitted is not nullified even when intermingled with a thousand items of its like.

The Rishonim disagree regarding a food item that the *Gemara* is uncertain if it is forbidden or not and it remains unresolved. The inquiry will remain in that state until Eliyahu Hanavi clarifies it for us. The Ohr Zarua maintains that this is regarded as "something which can become permitted," since there is a possibility that Eliyahu will say that it is permitted. The Rashba disagrees and he explains: If Eliyahu will decide that the food is forbidden, it will emerge that this item will never be permitted. If he will rule that it is permitted, it actually was never forbidden. Either way, he argues, it cannot be labeled as "something which can become permitted." The Bach cites a Mordechai that it is not considered "something which can become permitted," for by the time Eliyahu will permit it, the food will be already ruined.

The Chasam Sofer cites the following question from the Rav in Frankfurt: Chazal write that a pig is called a "chazir," for in the future, Hashem will reverse the prohibition of the pig and it will be permitted. If so, according to those Rishonim, pig should be regarded as "something which can become permitted"?

The Chasam Sofer answers based upon that which was written in the Toldos Yitzchak: The Torah forbids animals

that do not have split hooves, or those that do not chew their cud because those animals are naturally conceited; they trample with their feet and they have a poison inside of them, which is extremely dangerous for a Jew to eat. The animals that do not digest their food easily and they are compelled to chew their cud; those animals are permitted to eat.

If so, explains the Chasam Sofer, there will be no change in *halacha* regarding the pig. It was forbidden and will remain forbidden. Rather, Hashem will change the nature of the pig and it will begin to chew its cud. That is why it will be permitted then. Accordingly, the only pigs that will be permitted then, are those that will be born after this change occurs; however, the pigs that were in existence prior to that will remain forbidden. This is why a pig is not classified as "something which can become permitted."

#### **INSIGHTS TO THE DAF**

## Something that can become Permitted (Davar she'yeish lo Matirin)

The *Mishnah* states: If one makes a *neder* prohibiting himself from wine, he is permitted in cooked food which has in it the taste of wine. However, if he said, *"Konam* this wine that I will not taste," and it fell into a cooked dish, if it contains enough to impart flavor to the entire mixture, it is forbidden.

This would imply that if there is not enough to give flavor, it would be permitted. The Ra"n quotes his teachers who ask the following: Something which is forbidden on account of a *neder* is "something that can become permitted" (*davar she'yeish lo matirin*), and we have established that anything that can become permitted is not nullified even in a thousand!?

They answer that when we say that it is not nullified even in a thousand, that refers to something that has been mixed with its own kind. But here, when it says, "and it became mixed," it is referring to something else that is not the same



kind, like the case of eggs that were cooked with it. Anything that is mixed with something else that is not its kind is permitted, provided that it does not give flavor, even if it is "something that can become permitted." The Ra"n cites proof to this from a *Mishnah* in *Chalah* and a Yerushalmi.

They, therefore, objected to the statement of the Ri"f in Meseches Chulin concerning bread that was baked in an oven with roasted meat. The *Gemara* states that it is forbidden to eat it with a dairy sauce even though it has been established that we are not halachically concerned with vapors. The reason it is forbidden is because the bread is "something that can be permitted," since one may eat it together with meat. For that reason, it is not nullified, even in a thousand. It is evident from the Ri"f that he maintains that "something that can be permitted" is not nullified even in something that is not its kind.

The Ra"n, however, agrees to the Ri"f. When the Mishnah here says that "something can become permitted" becomes nullified in something that is not its own kind, that is referring to something that is forbidden now, but will become permitted in the future, like nedarim. For the Ra"n has the following question: Since according to the Chachamim, all forbidden things become nullified in their own kind just as in a different kind, why did the Chachamim make a distinction in the case of "something that can become permitted," between its own kind and a different kind? The reason is as follows: The Chachamim and Rabbi Yehudah disagree whether or not something can be nullified in its own kind. Rabbi Yehudah maintains that a forbidden item is not nullified in its own kind, because anything that is similar to another thing does not weaken and nullify it; rather, it preserves it and strengthens it.

The *Chachamim* disagree and hold that a forbidden item and something which is permitted are not similar to each other, even if they are the same kind. This is because one is forbidden and one is permitted. For it is not fitting to follow the similarity of their substance, but rather the difference in their being forbidden and permitted. It is for this reason that

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the *Chachamim* learned concerning "something that can be permitted" for the sake of being strict towards the opinion of Rabbi Yehudah. For since the forbidden item is not completely different from the permitted one, because the forbidden one will eventually become permitted, we say that it is not nullified in its own kind. It will only become nullified when mixed with a different kind, for the difference that exists between one kind and another will make up for the equality that is added here because it is "something that can be permitted." It is the difference between kinds that is the cause of nullification, and equality interferes with nullification.

### QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FROM YESTERDAY'S DAF to refresh your memory

Q: What amount constitutes *ona'ah* by a coin?

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A: It is a *machlokes* if it's 1/24<sup>th</sup>, 1/12<sup>th</sup> or 1/6<sup>th</sup>.

Q: Until how long can a cloak be returned in the villages, where it is a case of *ona'ah*?

A: Abaye – until Friday; Rava – until it is shown to a merchant.

Q: Can ma'aser sheini be redeemed with an eroded coin?

A: Yes.