

A בס"ד

Intro

Today we will Be"H learn ק"א of דף of בתרא. Some of the topics we will learn about include:

קברים

The standard dimensions of the different parts of an underground burial plot, including מערות, the crypts, כוכין, the graves, and חצר, the central courtyard.

The Gemara discusses various options for the graves' exact placement, including:

כמין נגר

במעמיק, at alternating depths; and כי חרותא, at diagonals.

A

קברים
מערות
כוכין
חצר

Various options for the graves' exact placement

כמין נגר
במעמיק
כי חרותא

B The Gemara also references the following ideas:

קמתידשי להו

It is disrespectful to place graves underground in an area such as the courtyard where people will stand above them for extended periods of time.

כל אמתא בריבועא

אמתא ותרי חומשי באלכסונוא

The diagonal of a square measures 1 and 2/5ths of its side.

B

קמתידשי להו

כל אמתא בריבועא
אמתא ותרי חומשי
באלכסונוא

1 So let's review...

Zugt di Mishnah

המוכר מקום לחברו לעשות לו קבר

If someone sells space in his property for the buyer to build an underground family burial chamber;

וכן המקבל מחברו

לעשות לו קבר

Or if someone contracts to build this chamber for another person;

The following are the required measurements:

עושה תוכה של מערה

ד' אמות על שש

A crypt consists of two caves, each measuring four by six אמות.

And a ברייתא adds

גובה המערה ארבע אמות

Each cave requires a height of four אמות.

The Mishnah continues:

ופותח לתוכה שמונה כוכין

שלש מכאן ושלש מכאן

ושנים מכנגדן

Each cave has space for eight graves dug into its walls: three on each long side, and two in the wall opposite the entrance.

וכוכין

ארכן ארבע אמות

ורומן שבע

ורחבן ששה

Each grave measures four אמות long, seven טפחים high, and six טפחים wide.

1

משנה

המוכר מקום לחברו לעשות לו קבר

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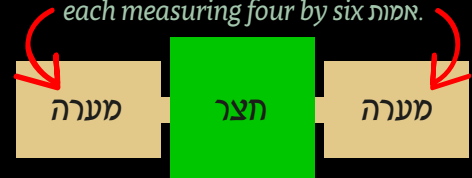
וכן המקבל מחברו לעשות לו קבר

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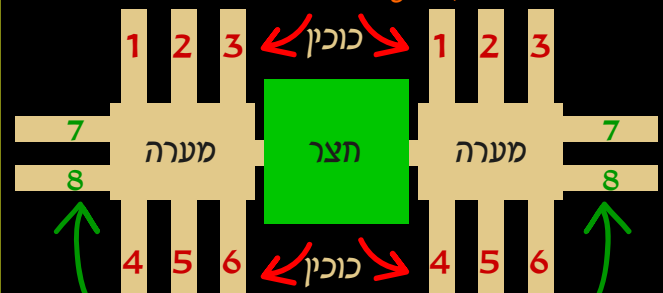
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וכוכין ארכן ארבע אמות

ורומן שבע

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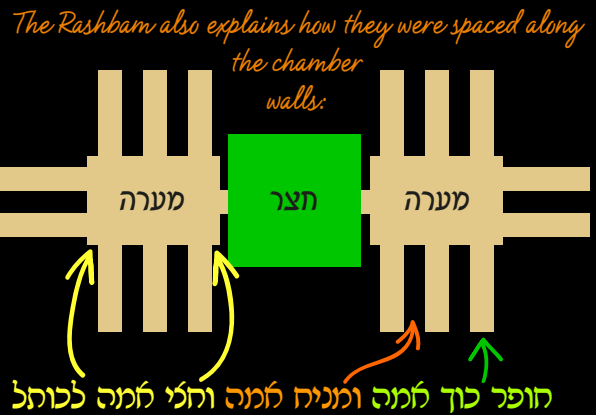
Each grave measures four אמות long, seven טפחים high, and six טפחים wide.

2 As the Rashbam explains;
 ארכן ארבע אמות
 שהמת ג' אמות
 ואמה לארון
 Three אמות is the length of the average corpse, with one additional אמה needed for the casket.
 ורומן שבע
 להכניס ארון בריוח
 The casket is six טפחים high, plus an extra טפח to allow for easy access, and
 וגם להיות אויר טפח בין הקרקע לארון
 שלא לטמא העוברים דרך המערה
 The extra טפח contains the טומאה in the chamber, and passersby could walk over the chamber without becoming טמא.
 ורחבן ששה
 שהאדם תופס אמה
 As Tosfos explains, a person is a bit less than one אמה wide.

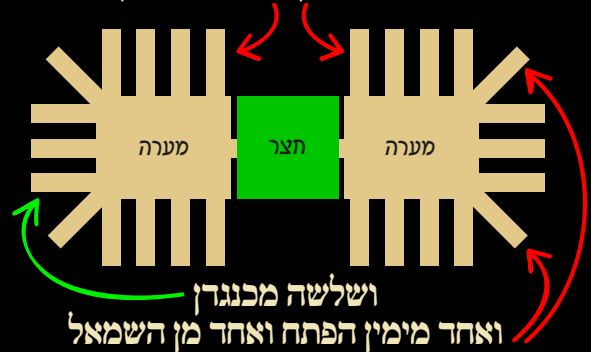
The Rashbam also explains how they were spaced along the chamber walls:
 חופר כוך אמה
 ומניח אמה
 וחצי אמה לכותל
 Each grave was one אמה wide, with a space of an אמה between graves, and $\frac{1}{2}$ אמה space between the corner graves and the walls. ®

3 However,
 רבי שמעון אומר
 עושה תוכה של מערה
 שש אמות על שמונה
 רבי שמעון maintains that each cave measures six by eight אמות;
 ופותח לתוכה
 שלשה עשר כוך
 And contains 13 graves,
 ארבעה מכאן וארבעה מכאן
 ושלושה מכנגדן
 ואחד מימין הפתח
 ואחד מן השמאל
 Four on each long side, three on the wall opposite the entrance, and one on either side of the entrance;

2 As the Rashbam explains;
 ארכן ארבע אמות – שהמת ג' אמות – ואמה לארון
 Three אמות is the length of the average corpse, with one additional אמה needed for the casket.
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3 רבי שמעון אומר
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 שש אמות על שמונה
 Each cave measures six by eight אמות;
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 And contains 13 graves,
 ארבעה מכאן וארבעה מכאן



4 The Mishnah continues
 ועושה חצר על פי המערה
 שש על שש
 כמלא המטה וקובריה
 The crypt requires a courtyard at the entrance to these
 caves, measuring six אמות by six אמות, to accommodate a
 coffin and the pallbearers.
 ופותח לתוכה שתי מערות
 אחת מכאן ואחת מכאן
 And this courtyard opened to the two caves.

However,
 רבי שמעון אומר
 ארבע לארבע רוחותיה
 Each courtyard opened to four caves, one in each
 direction.
 =====

4

ועושה חצר על פי המערה שש על שש
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 The crypt requires a courtyard of six אמות by six אמות,
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 And this courtyard opened to the two caves.

רבי שמעון אומר
ארבע לארבע רוחותיה
 Each courtyard opened to four caves,
 one in each direction.

5 The Gemara elaborates on the exact positioning of the graves. רבי שמעון said
ואחד מימין הפתח
ואחד מן השמאל
There was a grave to the right and the left of the entrance
of each cave.

The Gemara asks
הני תרי להיכא שדי להו
Where exactly were these two graves positioned?
אי לבראי
If they were dug under the courtyard near the entrance,
there are two issues;

As the Rashbam explains
דריסת נושאי המטה
כשמביאין את המטה לחצר
בשביל הילוך לפי שעה
לא קפיד
According to רבי שמעון that there are four caves in all four
directions, the funeral party must cross over the graves in
order to get into the courtyard in the center. However,
since it's only momentarily it is not considered disrespectful.
However,
מושיבים שם המטה
ומשתהין שם הרבה
Once in the courtyard, they would linger there for some
time to deliver eulogies.

Therefore,
אי לבראי
הא קמיתדשי להו
If they were dug under the courtyard, the pallbearers
would remain standing over the graves for a longer time,
and this would be disrespectful to the deceased?

Furthermore, a Mishnah states
חצר הקבר
העומד בתוכו טהור
One who stands in the courtyard of these burial graves is
still טהור. If there were graves dug under the courtyard,
why does one not become טמא from these graves?

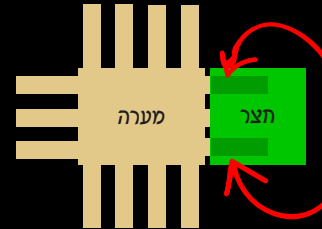
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רבי אלעזר said
אחד מימין הפתח ואחד מן השמאל

?

הני תרי להיכא שדי להו

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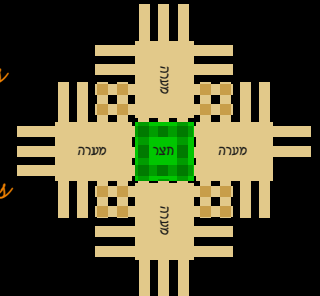


אי לבראי

If they were dug
under the
courtyard
near the entrance,
there are two
issues;

דריסת נושאי המטה
כשמביאין את המטה לחצר
בשביל הילוך לפי שעה לא קפיד

רבי אלעזר said
that there are four caves
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However, since it's only momentarily it is not
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Once in the courtyard, they would linger there
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One who stands in the courtyard of these burial
graves is still טהור.

If there were graves dug under the courtyard,
why does one not become טמא from these graves?

6

The Gemara offers two answers:

1.
דעביד להו כמין נגר
These graves were dug vertically, immediately adjacent to the entrance to the caves, and people do not usually stand so close to the entrance.

2.
However, רבי יוחנן says
קבורת חמורים היא זו
This is how one buries animals, by tossing them into a pit, and is disrespectful to the deceased. Therefore, he answers
דעביד להו בקרן זוית
ובמעמיק
They were dug at the corners of the cave opposite the entrance, at a lower point than the two adjacent graves.

The Rashbam explains
לפיכך עושה אותם לשם
Although one could dig multiple graves throughout the chamber at different levels, they were placed purposefully at the corners, because
כל מה שנכנס הכוך שבקרן בקרקע
מתרחק מן הכוכין
They were successively further from the adjacent graves as they deepened, minimizing their combined effect on the walls between them.

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6

1

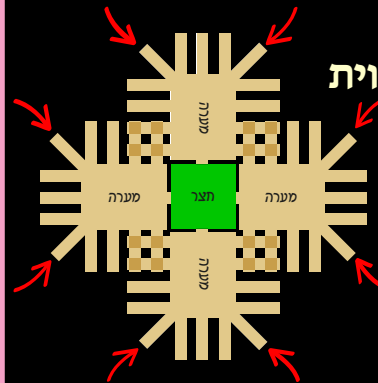
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רבי יוחנן קבורת חמורים היא זו

This is how one buries animals, by tossing them into a pit, and is disrespectful to the deceased!



Therefore, he answers
**דעביד להו בקרן זוית
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They were successively further from the adjacent graves as they deepened, minimizing their combined effect on the walls between them.

7 The Gemara now explains רבי שמעון's other ruling
 ארבע לארבע רוחותיה
 Each courtyard opened to four caves, one in each
 direction; and asks
 היכי עביד להו
 הא קא נגעי כוכין להדדי
 The corners graves of each cave overlapped the graves of
 the adjacent cave?

The Gemara suggests three answers:

1.
 במעמיק
 They were dug at alternating depths, allowing for this
 overlapping.

2.
 דעביד להו כי חרותא
 The graves along each cave's side were dug at diagonals,
 keeping them the necessary distance from each other.

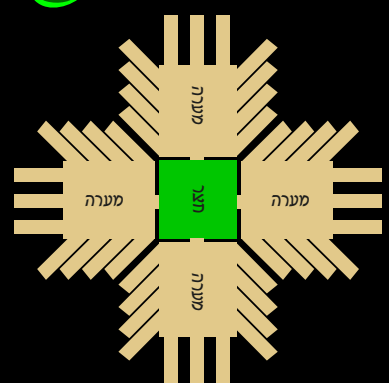
7 **רבי שמעון**
ארבע לארבע רוחותיה

**היכי עביד להו
 הא קא נגעי כוכין
 להדדי**
*The corners graves of
 each cave overlapped
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 adjacent cave?*



1 במעמיק
*They were dug at alternating
 depths,
 allowing for this overlapping.*

**2 דעביד להו
 כי חרותא**
*The graves along
 each cave's side
 were dug at
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 necessary distance
 from each other.*



8 However, the Gemara challenges this second solution:

כל אמתא בריבועא
אמתא ותרי חומשי באלכסונא
The diagonal of a square is $1 \frac{2}{5}$ of its side, and so
כמה הוי להו

חד סרי וחומשא
Since the length of each cave is eight אמות, the square
formed between two caves is eight by eight, and its
diagonal is 11 and $\frac{1}{5}$.

Therefore,
כוכין כמה הוו תמוניא
תמוניא בחד סרי וחומשא
היכי משכחת לה

If the graves were dug at an angle, they all intersected the
diagonal of the square. Yet there were eight graves
between these two sides.

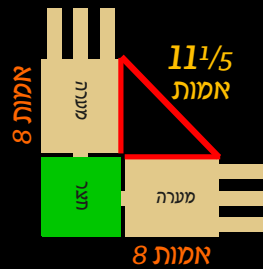
Each grave measured one אמה, with a אמה between them,
and so eight graves required a length of 15 אמות, while the
diagonal only measures $11 \frac{1}{5}$?

The Gemara responds
ברותא היא
Indeed, this answer is mistaken, and we must defer to the
former answer.

8

כל אמתא בריבועא
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The diagonal of a square is $1 \frac{2}{5}$ of its side, and so

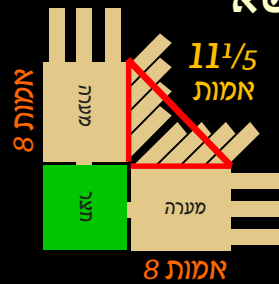


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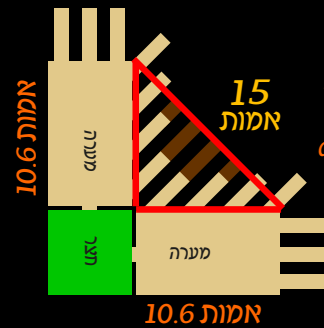
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תמוניא בחד סרי וחומשא
היכי משכחת לה



If the graves were dug
at an angle, they all intersected
the diagonal of the square.
Yet there were eight graves
between these two sides.



Each grave measured 1 אמה,
with an אמה between them,
and so eight graves required
a length of 15 אמות,
while the diagonal
only measures $11 \frac{1}{5}$?

The Gemara responds

ברותא היא

Indeed, this answer is mistaken,
and we must defer to the former answer.

9 3. A third answer;
בניפלי
Any overlapping graves were much smaller than the size described in the Mishnah and used for the stillborn. Therefore, they did not damage each other.
=====

The Mishnah concludes
רבן שמעון בן גמליאל אומר
הכל לפי הסלע
It depends on the firmness of the soil, as the Rashbam explains
לפי חוזק הקרקע
ירבה או ימעט כוכין
Depending on the strength of the cave's walls, sometimes less than one אמה between graves could be sufficient, allowing for more graves, and sometimes more than one אמה between graves would be required, resulting in less graves.

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