

Menachos – Simanim

פרק ד - התכלת

Daf 41 – מא – דף

1. Is *tzitzis* a **גברא** or a **חובת טלית**?

Tannaim disagree if *טלית כפולה* – a garment which is worn *folded* requires *tzitzis* at the corners of the crease. Rava bar Rav Nachman did, and the garment unfolded, leaving the *tzitzis* in the middle of the garment. When Rabbah bar Huna commented that these *tzitzis* do not fulfill the "כנף" mentioned in the Torah, Rava bar Rav Nachman took it off and put on another garment. Rabbah bar Huna said: *מי סברת חובת גברא הוא* – *Do you think that [tzitzis] is a personal obligation*, and only applies to a garment which is worn? *חובת טלית הוא* – *It is an obligation relating to the garment*, requiring every four-cornered garment which one owns to have *tzitzis*, even when not being worn. Therefore, *זיל רמי לה* – *go place [tzitzis] on [the garment you removed]*. Later, Shmuel says: *כלי קופסא חייבין בציצית* – *articles of clothing left in a drawer are obligated in tzitzis*, because he holds *tzitzis* is a *חובת טלית*. However, he agrees that a garment made for a burial shroud does not require *tzitzis*, because the *passuk* says "אשר תכסה בה" – *with which you cover yourself*, and *היא לא לאיכסויי עבידא* – *this one is not made for covering a living person*.

2. Doing **טצדקי** to avoid the **mitzvah** of *tzitzis*, punished during a time of **ריתחא**

The Gemara stated that *מלאך* disagreed with Rabba bar Huna (that *tzitzis* is a *חובת טלית*): *א* once found Rav Ketina wearing a linen cloak, which the Rabbis had exempted from *techeiles*. The *מלאך* said to him, "Ketina, Ketina, *סדינא בקייטא וסרבלא בסיתוא* – *since you wear a linen cloak in the winter, and a woolen cloak with rounded corners in the summer*, *מה תהא עליה* – *what will become of the mitzvah to have tzitzis with techeiles?*" Rav Ketina responded: *ענשיתו אעשה* – *Do you punish for not fulfilling a positive commandment in which one is not obligated?*" The *מלאך* replied: *בזמן דאיכא ריתחא ענשין* – *At a time when there is Heavenly anger, we do punish even those who do not fulfill mitzvos such as tzitzis.*" The Gemara assumes this punishment would not apply if *tzitzis* was a *חובת טלית*, since his garments are not obligated in *tzitzis*. However, it counters that even if *tzitzis* is a *חובת גברא*, it certainly only applies when one wears a garment obligated in *tzitzis*! Therefore, it concludes that the *מלאך* was telling him: *טצדקי למיפטר נפשך מציצית* – *you appear to be employing tactics to exempt yourself from tzitzis*, and that is the cause for punishment.

3. The required number of threads, placement on the garment, and minimum length

A Baraisa asks: *כמה חוטין הוא נותן* – *how many threads does one place for tzitzis?* Beis Shammai requires four, but Beis Hillel requires only three. *וכמה תהא משולשת* – *And how much should it hang down?* Beis Shammai says four fingerbreadths, and Beis Hillel says three, but is referring to larger fingerbreadths which are four per *tefach*, not five. Rav Pappa clarifies that a Biblical *tefach* equals *ארבע בגודל* – *four fingerbreadths measured with the thumb*, which is six with the little finger, and five with the middle finger. Rav Huna rules that *tzitzis* is made of four threads, attached within four *אצבעות* of the garment's edge, and should hang down four *אצבעות*. Rav Yehudah says it is made of three threads, attached within three *אצבעות* of the garment's edge, and should hang down three *אצבעות*. Rav Pappa concludes with the *halachah*: *ד' בתוך שלש משולשת ארבע* – *it is four threads, attached within three אצבעות of the garment's edge, and hangs down four אצבעות*. The Gemara objects that a Baraisa teaches that the elders of Beis Shammai and Beis Hillel ruled that *tzitzis* have no *shiur*! The Gemara answers that they have no maximum shiur, but do have a minimum *shiur*.

Siman – Grandma

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3 things to remember

1. Is *tzitzis* a חובת גברא or a חובת טלית?
2. Doing טצדקי to avoid the *mitzvah* of *tzitzis*, punished during a time of ריתחא
3. The required number of threads, placement on the garment, and minimum length

