

Menachos – Simanim

פרק ט – כל קרבנות הצבור

דף פה – 85 Daf

1. How to produce superior grain for *menachos*, and how its sifting is examined

The next Mishnah states that we do not bring grain from a fertilized field, an irrigated field, or a field with trees, all of whose produce is inferior (Rashi says the Mishnah refers to the עומר and שתי הלחם, while Tosafos says the Mishnah refers to all *menachos*). The Mishnah describes how to produce superior grain: *He plows the first year without planting, and in the second year he plants it seventy days before Pesach, and it produces abundant fine flour.* The Gemara discusses if it is plowed again in the second year (in the summer, besides for the plowing just prior to planting), and eventually brings a Baraisa which states: *he (plows the entire field and) leaves half of it fallow and plants the other half, and the next year does the reverse.* This indicates that there is no earlier pre-season plowing the second year. The Mishnah teaches that the גובר inserts his hand into the flour to see if it was sufficiently sifted, and if dust comes up in his hand, it is invalid until it is sifted again. In a Baraisa, Rebbe Nassan says the גובר smears his hand with oil and inserts it into the flour until he brings up all of its dust.

2. Does one incur *malkus* for being *makdish* wormy grain, like being *makdish* a בעל מום?

The Mishnah taught that if the flour became wormy, it is invalid. A Baraisa teaches that if the majority of fine flour or wheat kernels became wormy, it is invalid. Rava asked: if someone was *makdish* wormy grain for a *minchah*, מהו בעל מום משום בעל מום – *does he incur malkus for them because of the prohibition against being makdish a בעל מום?* Do we say that since it is invalid, it is like בעל מום, or does this prohibition only apply to an animal? A similar question was asked regarding a Mishnah which teaches that any wood in which a worm was found is invalid to be used on the מזבח. [Shmuel says this is only true regarding moist wood, but dry wood can be scraped off, and is valid.] Rava asked: if someone was *makdish* wormy wood, does he incur *malkus* as if he was *makdish* a בעל מום? Since it is invalid, is it like בעל מום, or does the prohibition only apply to an animal? The Gemara concludes about each of these questions: תיקו – *let it stand unresolved.*

3. The abundant שמן in אשר's portion

The next Mishnah compares sources for oil for *menachos*. A Baraisa teaches: "*he dips his foot in oil, referring to אשר's portion, where oil flows like a spring.*" The people of לודקיא once needed oil, and sent an agent to purchase a million *manehs'* worth of oil. He was eventually sent to a farmer in חלב, whom he found digging under his olive trees. He asked if he had a million *manehs'* worth of oil to sell, and the farmer told him to wait until he finished his work. After finishing, he shouldered his tools home, clearing stones as he went. The agent wondered if the Jews had made a mockery of him, sending him to this apparently poor farmer. At home, the farmer's maidservant brought him a golden bowl filled with oil, in which he dipped his hands and feet, fulfilling the above *passuk*. He then measured out the enormous quantity of oil for the agent, and offered him even more. Since the agent had no more money, the farmer followed him back to collect the payment, and when the townspeople came out to praise him, he told them to praise the farmer. This incident fulfills the *passuk*: *יש מתעשר ואין כל – there is one who appears wealthy and has nothing, and one who appears poor and [has] great wealth.*

Siman – Dentist

As the **dentist** proudly displayed his treasure prize box to his young patients, filled with **superior grain for menachos so finely sifted that nothing clung to his hands as he checked it**, a child pointed out that **he was makdish wormy grain which might incur malkos like בעל מום**, while a **poor-looking patient** suddenly flooded the waiting room with oil, **dipping his hands and feet into a golden bowl** he pulled out.



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3 things to remember

1. How to produce superior grain for menachos, and how its sifting is examined
2. Does one incur *malkus* for being *makdish* wormy grain, like being *makdish* a בעל מום?
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