

Menachos – Simanim

פרק ט – כל קרבנות הצבור

Daf 86 – פו – דף

1. The three stages of the olive harvest, and the three grades of oil in each

The next Mishnah states that there are three olive harvests a year, and there are three grades of oil in each harvest. For the first harvest, *he picks [olives] at the top of the olive tree* (the Gemara emends this to "מגלגלו" – *he leaves it to ripen*), which has the most sun exposure, then pounds the olives in a mortar and puts them into a basket, through which the oil drips into a container. Rebbe Yehudah says the olives are placed in the sides of the basket. This is the first oil of this harvest. He then presses the olives with the beam, and according to Rebbe Yehudah, with stones, producing the second oil. The olives are ground and then pressed again, yielding the third oil. The first of this group is fit for the Menorah, and the others are fit for *menachos*. The second harvest is *גג* – *at the rooftops*, which ripens second, and its three grades of oil parallel those of the first harvest. The third harvest, taken from beneath the roofs, does not ripen on its own, is packed in a vat until the olives spoil (and soften), after which they are dried on the roof, and the same three grades are produced. Even in this harvest, the first grade is fit for the Menorah.

2. Menachos do not require שמן זית זך, because התורה חסה על ממונן של ישראל

The next Mishnah states: *all the menachos as well, logically, should have required pure olive oil* (the "first oils" mentioned above): if the Menorah, which is not for consumption, requires שמן זית זך, then the *menachos*, which are for consumption (by the מזבח), certainly should require שמן זית זך! Therefore, the Torah wrote that the oil should be "זך כתיב למאור" – *pure, pounded for illumination*, implying אין זך כתיב למנחות – *there is no necessity to have pure oil from olives pounded for menachos*. A Baraisa defines "זך" as "נקי" – *clear*, and Rebbe Yehudah defines "כתיב" as *כתוש* – *pounded in a mortar* (and not ground beforehand). This oil from crushed olives is also valid for *menachos*, because "כתיב" is also written regarding a *minchah*. Rather, the Torah wrote "למאור" in order to teach that oil from pounded olives is not required for *menachos*, *for the purpose of sparing Jews the cost*, as Rebbe Elazar explained: *התורה חסה על ממונן של ישראל – the Torah is concerned for Yisroel's money*.

3. לא לאורה אני צריך - עדות הוא לכל באי עולם שהשכינה שורה בישראל

Moshe was told to command ישראל to take pure olive oil "אליך" – *for you*, and Rebbe Shmuel bar Nachmani explained that Hashem was saying: אליך ולא לי – *the Menorah's light is for you, and not for Me*; לא לאורה אני צריך – *I do not need its light*. The Menorah was on the north side of the היכל, and the מנורה was on the south side (with the מזבח הזהב between them), whereby Hashem says: לא לאכילה אני צריך ולא לאורה אני צריך – *I do not need [the שולחן's] food and I do not need [the Menorah's] light*. The windows in the Beis Hamikdash were "שקופים אטומים" – *wide and narrow*, and a Baraisa explains that they were wide on the outside and narrow on the inside (the opposite of standard windows), because Hashem does not require outside light; rather, the light of the Beis Hamikdash goes out and illuminates the world. The phrase "פרוכת העדות" – *the curtain of testimony* (in משכן) is *darshened* to mean: [the Menorah] *is a testimony to everyone in the world that the Shechinah resides in Yisroel*. This refers to the נר מערבי, which miraculously outlasted the other lamps, and sometimes burned an entire day.

Siman – Police

There was a heavy **police** presence guarding the olive trees where workers were **harvesting the olives for oil in three stages, the second sent to be pressed with a beam for menachos** because התורה חסה על ממונן של ישראל, while the **first was for the menorah whose light was an עדות** that the שכינה שורה בישראל.



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3 things to remember

1. The three stages of the olive harvest, and the three grades of oil in each
2. Menachos do not require שמן זית, because התורה חסה על ממונן של ישראל
3. עדות הוא לכל באי עולם שהשכינה שורה בישראל

