



Points to Ponder

הערות של רב יחיאל גרינהויז

יבמות דף צט

1. The Gemara brings a בריתא of ר"מ who said that sometimes one man and one lady can give birth to 5 nationalities. The Gemara then asks what's רבי מאיר teaching us, and answers that it teaches us the a עובד כוכבים or עבד who lives with a Jewish lady, their child is a ממזר. Why didn't ר"מ just tell us this הלכה by itself, without the other details?
2. The משנה discusses the ramifications of two babies who were mixed up at birth, one is the child of a כהנת and the other of a שפחה. The משנה says that if either one violated a לאו related to a זר, they do not get מלקות. Rashi says that this is because each can claim that maybe he is a כהן and didn't violate a לאו, and it will be a התראת ספק. Why do we need the reason of התראת ספק? Even if that would count as a good התראה it is still a ספק if he is a כהן and should not get מספק?
3. רש"י writes that a ספק כהן can not appoint a כהן to bring his קרבן as a שליח, because we have a rule that one can only appoint a שליח for a task that he himself can do. According to this how do we understand a regular ישראל bringing a קרבן and using the כהן as his שליח? The Gemara questions whether כהנים are דידן meaning our messengers, so how would that possibility work according to רש"י?
4. The Gemara asks how can it be that רבי אלעזר בר צדוק made a mistake, but we find that even animals of צדיקים are protected from causing a תקלה. Why didn't the Gemara ask the same question earlier regarding בי"ד who allowed a lady to remarry, and then her husband showed up?

If you have any comments or suggestions please email me at

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