

Chullin – Simanim

פרק יא – ראשית הגז

דף קלה – 135 Daf

1. ראשית הגז is obligated for "מרובה" – many sheep

The eleventh Perek begins: ראשית הגז נוהג בארץ ובחו"ל – the obligation to give *the first fleece* to a Kohen applies both in Eretz Yisroel and outside Eretz Yisroel, and both during and after the Beis Hamikdash, but only to *chullin* animals, not to *kodashim*. ראשית הגז is more stringent than זרוע לחיים וקבה, because זרוע לחיים וקבה applies to both בקר – cattle and צאן – flock, whereas ראשית הגז only applies to רחלות – sheep (and not goats), and only applies במרובה – where one owns many sheep. Tannaim dispute the meaning of "מרובה": Beis Shammai says two sheep are obligated in ראשית הגז, because a *passuk* refers to two sheep as "צאן" – a flock. Beis Hillel requires five sheep, based on the *passuk* חמש צאן עשויות – five prepared flock. Regarding how much *fleece* must be shorn to obligate ראשית הגז, Rebbe Dosa ben Harkinas says: חמש רחלות גוזזות מנה ומנה – five sheep, each shorn of a maneh and a half of fleece. The Chochomim say that five sheep shorn in "any amount" are obligated in ראשית הגז, which the Gemara will define.

2. ראשית הגז is excluded from קדשים – three explanations

Kodashim is exempt from ראשית הגז because "צאנך" – your flock excludes the flock of *hekdes*. The Gemara asks why a *passuk* is necessary, since shearing the fleece of *hekdes* is forbidden!? It answers that the *passuk* excludes *kodashim* of בדק הבית (i.e., monetary *kedushah*), whose shearing is only prohibited מזדבן. Although the fleece itself would be *hekdes*, it could be redeemed and given to a Kohen. According to the opinion that בדק הבית require קדשי בדק הבית, require "standing and assessing" before פדיון, shorn fleece cannot be redeemed. Therefore, Rebbe Yannai explains that the *passuk* is needed where one was *makdish* an animal חוץ מגזוזה – except for its fleece, which remains *chullin*. Since shearing weakens the animal itself, he must have also stipulated חוץ מכחישה – except for its deterioration. [However, if one was *makdish* an animal as a korban, the *kedushah* automatically spreads to the entire animal.] Rava says the Mishnah's exclusion of *hekdes* is where one was *makdish* only the fleece itself. It is exempt from ראשית הגז, because the *passuk* says "גז צאנך תתן לו" – the fleece of your flock you shall give him, implying that the obligation only applies to that which lacks nothing but shearing and giving to the Kohen, excluding this case, whose shearing would additionally require פדיון.

3. ראשית הגז is obligated in שותפות ישראל whether Machlokes

In a Baraisa, the Tanna Kamma says: בהמת השותפים חייב בראשית הגז – an animal of Jewish partners is subject to the *mitzvah* of ראשית הגז. רבי אלעאי exempts it, because "צאנך" – your (singular) flock implies שותפות ולא של שותפות – not the flock of partners. The Rabbonon respond that this *derashah* is needed to exempt a partnership with an idolator from ראשית הגז, but שותפות with a Yisroel is obligated. רבי אלעאי counters that שותפות with an idolator is already excluded from a היקש to *terumah*, where grain jointly owned with an idolator is exempt. The Rabbonon either reject the היקש, or hold that such grain is חייב in *terumah*. Alternatively, רבי אלעאי agrees that צאנך is needed to exclude a partnership with an idolator from ראשית הגז, but argues that since the reason for that exemption is דלא מייחדא ליה – because [the animal] is not exclusively his, שותפות with a Yisroel is exempt for the same reason. The Rabbonon argue that an idolator is not subject to the entire law of ראשית הגז, whereas a Yisroel is, so such a partnership is likewise חייב.

Siman – Cola

The **cola company** that sponsored the ראשית הגז contest, where the Beis Shammai Team brought two sheep while the Beis Hillel Team insisted on five, gave a **case of cola** to a man whom the contest organizers turned away because his sheep were *kodashim* and exempt, while two Jewish partners who jointly owned a flock drank **cola** beside the vending machine and debated whether their partnership was *chayav* in ראשית הגז.

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3 things to remember

1. ראשית הגז is obligated for "מרובה" – many sheep
2. קדשים is excluded from ראשית הגז – three explanations
3. *Machlokes* whether שותפות ישראל is obligated in ראשית הגז

