

עליונים למטה ותחתונים למעלה –

The higher were below and the lower were above

OVERVIEW

the son of ר' יהושע passed out and (after his recovery) he told his father that he observed (in שמים) an opposite world where עליונים were למטה and תחתונים למעלה. His father told him, 'you saw a clear world'. רש"י interprets עליונים ותחתונים as referring to the rich and poor; תוספות offers a different perspective.

פירש רבינו חננאל דאמרו הגאונים שקבלה בידם רב מפי רב –

The ר"ה explained that the גאונים said that they have a tradition, each רב (of the גאונים) from the mouth of a previous רב -

דעולם הפוך היינו שראה שמואל דהוה יתיב קמיה דרב יהודה תלמידה¹ –

That the upside down world means, that ר' יוסף בריה דר' יהושע saw that שמואל was sitting as a student before רב יהודה his pupil. The reason this reversal took place is-

משום דמיחה בשמואל בפרק במה בהמה (שם דף נה,א) –

Because רב יהודה protested the conduct of שמואל as related in פרק במה בהמה -

גבי ההיא איתתא דאתיא וצוחא קמיה דשמואל ולא אשגח בה² –

Regarding that woman who came and screamed before שמואל and שמואל paid her no attention -

אמר ליה רב יהודה לית ליה למר אוטם³ אזנו מזעקת דל וגומר:⁴

אויטם, פסוק which states, שמואל is not the master concerned for the רב יהודה said to שמואל, etc. (one who closes his ear from the shout of the poor, when he will call I will also not answer).

SUMMARY

שמואל sat as a pupil before ר"י (in שמים) since ר"י protested the insensitivity of שמואל to the crying woman.

THINKING IT OVER

What are the relative advantages of פרש"י and פר"ח?

¹ This was the עולם הפוך which he saw.

² See the גמרא there how שמואל justified his action.

³ משלי כא, יג.

⁴ That is why in reality it was an עולם ברור, since רב יהודה was sensitive to the cries of the woman while שמואל was not, therefore ר"י was accorded this honor in שמים, that his master שמואל sit before him as a pupil (see מהר"ם).