

How can two fit into two

תרי בתרי היכי יתיב -

OVERVIEW

The גמרא asked how can a ס"ת whose diameter¹ is two טפחים fit into (the remaining space of) two טפחים (in the ארון). Based on this question תוספות determines the size of the ס"ת.

משמע שעם עמודין היה הקיפו ששה –

It seems that the six טפחים circumference of the ס"ת included the עמודין -

שאם היה הקיפו בלא עמודין אם כן נפיש ליה משני טפחים² בהדי עמודים:

For if the circumference of the ס"ת was six טפחים without the עמודין,³ then the diameter will be more than two טפחים together with the עמודים.

SUMMARY

The actual circumference of a ס"ת is slightly less than six טפחים; however together with the עמודים it is exactly six טפחים.

THINKING IT OVER

תוספות writes that it was six טפחים together with the (two) עמודין (plural). Once the גמרא said the נגלל הוא לתחלתו הוא נגלל it means that there was only one עמוד, so how can the גמרא ask תרי בתרי היכי יתיב, since it is less than תרי for one עמוד is missing?!⁴

¹ The diameter is a third of the circumference. The circumference of a תורה is six טפחים; the issue is whether it is six טפחים without the (עמודים) or it is six טפחים together with the (עמודים). See 'Thinking it over'.

² Why does the גמרא ask how can a ס"ת of two טפחים fit into a space of two טפחים, when the גמרא should have asked how can a ס"ת that is more than two טפחים fit into a space of two טפחים?!

³ This means that the diameter of the ס"ת without the עמודים is two טפחים based on the one to three formula.

⁴ See נח"מ.