

ורבי מאיר עמודין היכא הו קיימי –

And according to ר"מ, where were the עמודין placed

OVERVIEW

The גמרא asked since according to ר"מ the ס"ת was placed in the ארון; where was there place for the עמודים of שלמה. Our תוספות explains this question.

anticipates a difficulty: תוספות

אף על פי שיש ריוח הרבה לרבי מאיר בכל האורך לבד מנגד ספר תורה¹ –

Even though there was plenty of space along the length of the ארון, except for the area by the ס"ת, so what is the question? They were placed הארון!

replies: תוספות

פשוט היו לו שהיו מונחים בצד ראש הארון שספר תורה מונח²:

It was obvious to the questioner that the עמודים were placed at the same side of the head of the ארון, as where the ס"ת lay.

SUMMARY

The עמודים were placed in the area where the ס"ת was.

THINKING IT OVER

1. Were the עמודים lying down or standing up?³

2. Why could not the עמודים be placed in the two empty טפחים near the תורה (which were utilized only that⁴ נכנס ויוצא כשהוא דחוק⁵)?

3. Do we know the size of the עמודים?

¹ The ארון was nine טפחים wide from east to west and fifteen טפחים long from north to south. Only seven טפחים of the width were accounted for (six for the לוחות and one for the walls). That means that in the length of the ארון from north to south, there was empty space of two טפחים wide, except at one end (let us say the north) where the ס"ת took up two טפחים. This leaves us with an empty space of twelve טפחים long (one for the walls and two for the ס"ת) by two טפחים wide; enough room for the עמודים.

² At that end, where the ס"ת was kept, there was no more place because it was occupied by the ס"ת. See 'Thinking it over' # 2.

³ See נח"מ.

⁴ See the גמרא on the עמוד א'.

⁵ See תוספות ישנים.