

The city scribe

סופר מתא –

OVERVIEW

רבא ruled that certain people are considered forewarned and can be fired if they made a mistake, without any (additional) warning, since their mistake is a mistake which cannot be rectified. Among these people is a סופר מתא. There is a dispute between רש"י and תוספות as to the identity of the סופר מתא.

לא כמו שפירש בקונטרס¹ כותב ספר תורה בטעות דאין זה פסידא דלא הדר דיכולין להגיהו -
A סופר מתא is not, as רש"י explained, one who wrote a ס"ת with mistakes, for that is not considered an irretrievable loss, for the ס"ת can be amended -

אלא כדפרישית לעיל² כותב שטרות:

Rather a סופר מתא is one who writes the documents, as I explained previously.

SUMMARY

תוספות maintains that the סופר מתא is the scribe who writes the ס"ת, while רש"י maintains it is the scribe who writes the documents.

THINKING IT OVER

If the scribe wrote the incorrect amount in a loan document (for instance a sum less than the actual loan) and the לווה paid the smaller amount. Seemingly if witnesses testify to this mistake, cannot the מלווה collect his loss from the סופר (if the לווה is not here, etc.)? Why is it a פסידא דלא הדר?³

¹ בד"ה פסידא.

² [TIE (there) footnote # 8]. A mistake in the amount due in a loan document is an irretrievable loss to either the lender or the borrower.

³ See הרשב"א.