

And a teacher of children

ומקרי דרדקי¹ –

OVERVIEW

ר"ב 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 מקרי דרדקי. There is a dispute between רש"י and תוספות as to why a מקרי דרדקי is considered a דלדל.

פירש בקונטרס בהמקבל² (בבא מציעא דף קט,א ושם) דהוי פסידא דלא הדרא -

רש"י explained in פרק המקבל that if a מקרי דרדקי does not teach properly it is considered an irretrievable loss -

משום דשבשתא כיון דעל על -

Because an error, once it enters into the mind of the student, it remains there, and it cannot be unlearned (easily) –

פרש"י disagrees with תוספות:

וקשה לרבינו יצחק דהא רבא גופיה אית ליה לעיל³ דשבשתא ממילא נפקא -

And the ר"י has a difficulty with this explanation of רש"י, for it is himself who maintained previously, that an error will be corrected on its own; the student will recognize the mistake sooner or later and correct himself -

תוספות offers his explanation:

ואומר רבינו יצחק דהוה פסידא דלא הדל -

And the ר"י says that it is an irretrievable loss -

דאותה שעה שמלמד להם טעות הם מתבטלים ואותה שעה אין יכולין להחזיר לעולם:

Since at the moment that he is teaching them incorrectly, they are wasting time (and not learning תורה) and that moment can never be retrieved!

SUMMARY

A מקרי דרדקי is considered a דלדל since על על (רש"י), or the time wasted from learning תורה can never be retrieved.

¹ The text in the גמרא reads ומקרי ינוקא (not ומקרי דרדקי). סופר מתא, which was the ד"ה of the previous תוספות is mentioned last in the גמרא (after ינוקא and תלמידי).

² (עמוד רש"י בד"ה מקרי).

³ See כא,א. How can we explain the ruling of רבא that a מקרי דרדקי is considered a דלדל because of שבשתא כיון (as רש"י would have it), since רבא himself disagrees with this concept and maintains the opposite that שבשתא כיון?!

THINKING IT OVER

According to תוספות that a מלמד can be fired for making a mistake in teaching, because it causes ביטול תורה, are we allowed to give the children time off in middle of learning (recess, etc.); it is causing ביטול תורה?!