

אין עושין בורסקי אלא למזרח העיר –

We do not make a tannery, only east of the city

OVERVIEW

¹ explains why a tannery should be established to the east of the city.

משום דרוח מערבי² שהוא קשה ירחיק ויוליך הריח מן העיר -

Because the west wind, which is strong will distance and remove the odor of the tannery from the city -

כדאמרין (ברכות מ,א) הישן למזרח גרנו דמו בראשו³ מפני⁴ שרוח מערבית מביא הקש בחוטמו:

As רשב"ג states, ‘one who sleeps eastward of his threshing floor, his blood is on his head’, since the west wind brings the straw from the גורן into his nostrils.

SUMMARY

The powerful west wind will prevent the bad odor of the tannery from reaching the city to the west of the tannery.

THINKING IT OVER

1. Explain the differences between פירש"י⁵ and פ' התוס'.
2. Where is the indication greater that the west wind is strong; our גמרא, or the גמרא in ברכות?

¹ This means that the city is to the west of the tannery.

² A west wind is a wind which blows from the west towards the east. If the city is west of the tannery, the wind will blow from the city to the tannery so the odor from the tannery will continue to travel east, away from the city.

³ This means he is responsible for his life; he is doing something which is dangerous.

⁴ This reason is given by תוספות; it is not in the גמרא.

⁵ See רש"י ד"ה אלא.