

## Half-bricks

## כפיסין –

### OVERVIEW

There is a פסוק which states that לבוא לעתיד it will be that 'אבן מקיר תזעק וכפיס מעץ'; 'The stone will shout from the wall and a כפיס from (a tree) [wood] will respond to the stone'. It seems from this פסוק that כפיס is a wooden object. The גמרא however interprets כפיס to mean half-bricks, made from mortar; not wood. תוספות will resolve this apparent contradiction.

מפרש בגמרא<sup>1</sup> ארחי –

**The גמרא explains that כפיסין are half-bricks.**

תוספות asks:

וקשה לרבינו יצחק והכתיב (חבקוק ב') וכפיס מעץ יעננה משמע שהוא של עץ –

**The ר"י has a difficulty; for the פסוק states, 'And a כפיס from a tree will answer him', this implies that a כפיס is made from wood.** It is not part of a brick.

תוספות answers:

ואומר רבינו יצחק דשמא היו מניחין עצים מלמעלה ומלמטה:

**And the ר"י says that perhaps they would place wood above and below the bricks** (to frame them, etc.) Therefore there is no contradiction from the פסוק. The פסוק says that the כפיס brick will respond from within its wooden frame.

### SUMMARY

כפיסין are half bricks. They are used to construct a wall within a wooden framework. The פסוק states that the half brick כפיס will call out from its wooden framework to respond to the stone.

### THINKING IT OVER

Why did not תוספות ask his question later in the גמרא; when the גמרא interprets כפיס to mean ארחי? Why is תוספות asking his question in the משנה, before we are certain what כפיסין is?!

<sup>1</sup> ד"ה אריח there רש"י. See דף גא, 1

<sup>2</sup> פסוק יא