

## Half-Bricks – כפיסין

### Overview

There is a פסוק which states that לעתיד לבוא 'אבן מקיר תזעק וכפיס מעץ יעונה': '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.

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**כפיסין are half-bricks.<sup>1</sup> The גמרא explains<sup>1</sup> – מפרש בגמרא ארחי**

תוספות asks:

**פסוק The ר"י has a difficulty; for the פסוק states:**

**‘And a כפיס from a tree will answer him’**

**משמע שהוא של עץ – this implies that a כפיס is made from wood.** It is not part of a brick.

תוספות answers:

**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 כפיסין to mean ארחי? Why is תוספות asking his question in the משנה, before we are certain what כפיסין are?!

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