

שאני התם דאיכא טפח יתירא –

It is different there; for there is an additional טפח

OVERVIEW

The גמרא inferred from our משנה that a wall requires a width of five טפחים to support a height of four אמות. However a width of six טפחים can support even a height of thirty אמות, as witnessed by the אמה טרקסין. תוספות suggests that there may a different explanation¹ how a wall of thirty אמות high was supported by a width of (only) six טפחים.

הוה מצי לשנוי דאגב תקרה ומעזיבה קאי טפי כדאמרין בסמוך:²

The גמרא **could have answered** this apparent anomaly; **for on account of the weight of the ceiling and the plaster**, which rested and weighed down on the wall, therefore **it supports** much **more** than four אמות high for each five טפחים wide, **as** the גמרא **shortly states**.

SUMMARY

A wall can support a greater proportional height (than four אמות for each five טפחים width) provided it is not a free standing wall; but is braced by the weight of a roof/ceiling bearing down on it.

THINKING IT OVER

Can a wall of five טפחים wide, with a תקרה ומעזיבה on it, support a height of thirty אמות?

¹ תוספות perhaps finds it difficult that the addition of only one more אמה width (a 20% increase), can support an additional twenty six אמות of height (a 650% increase)!

² See 'עמוד ב'. See 'תוס' there, ד"ה אמר, which seems to contradict our תוספות.