

רַבֵּנָן – He killed all of the רַבֵּנָן – קטלינהו לכולהו רבנן.

Overview

examines the statement that the רַבֵּנָן killed all the רַבֵּנָן (besides תוספות
(בבא בן בוטא

It is not precisely all of them. – לאו דוקא כולהו רַבֵּנָן did not actually kill all the רַבֵּנָן; others remained alive. תוספות will prove his point:

בני בתירא – for there were the בני בתירא

ascended הלל when א"י – who were princes in א"י – שהיו נשיאים כשעלה הלל מבבל **from בבל to א"י**. The בני בתירא were then the functioning נשיאים. רַבֵּנָן did not kill them.
relates in פסחים גמרא As the כדאמרינן בפסחים בפרק אלו דברים (דף טו,א)
will now go on to prove that הלל and the בני בתירא lived in the same time as רַבֵּנָן.
פרק אלו דברים

and הלל was נשיא at the beginning of the last hundred years that the המקדש בית היה בפני הבית מאה שנה

of פרק א states in the first כדאמרינן בפרק קמא דשבת (דף טו,א) – שבת

and the reign of (the dynasty of) ומלכות רַבֵּנָן היה בפני הבית ק"ג שנה
was the last one hundred three years that the המקדש בית existed.

of פרק א states in the first כדאמרינן בפרק קמא דעבודה זרה (דף ט,א)
The reign of רַבֵּנָן coincided with the era of הלל and the בני בתירא. מסכת עבודה זרה.
That proves that there were רַבֵּנָן in א"י during the (beginning of the) reign of רַבֵּנָן².

Summary

The reign of רַבֵּנָן dynasty lasted the last one hundred three years of the בית שני. The הלל and his sons was during the last hundred years of the בני בתירא. הלל arrived from בבל and became the נשיא. רַבֵּנָן, therefore, did not kill all the רַבֵּנָן.

Thinking it over

Why did not תוספות prove that רַבֵּנָן did not kill all the רַבֵּנָן from the fact that הלל was a נשיא? Why does he prove it from the בני בתירא (only)?

¹ Perhaps he killed those that chose to emphasize and disseminate the ruling of אחיך.

² It is assumed that קטלינהו לכולא רבנן was in the very beginning of his reign. The fact that the בני בתירא were alive three years later, when הלל came to א"י and became נשיא, proves that some רַבֵּנָן were left alive.