

סמך לפלגא סמך לכולה – If He juxtaposed a half sized wall relative to the original dividing wall, it is as if he juxtaposed a full sized wall, equal to the dividing wall.

Overview

The גמרא cited the view of רב הונא, that if the new wall that was placed adjacent to the original wall was only half the size of the original wall, nevertheless he is required to pay for half of the entire original wall. The reason is because we assume that eventually he will enlarge the new wall to the same dimensions as the original wall, and utilize the entire original wall.

האי לפלגא – This statement, that the new wall was **half** the size of the old wall – **איירי בין לאורך בין לגובה** – it is discussing both cases; **whether** it was half the length of the original wall, or **whether** it was **half** the height of the original wall. In both cases the same rule applies¹; that it is סמך לכולה, and he must pay for the cost of half the original wall.

Summary

It makes no difference whether the new wall was smaller than the original wall in height or length; in both cases he must pay for half of the entire original wall.

Thinking it over

What would be the דין if the new wall was smaller than the original wall in both length *and* height?

¹ One may have thought that the rule of סמך לפלגא סמך לכולה is only when it was as long as the original wall but not as high; for it is customary to build a wall upwards, row by row, therefore it is likely that he will eventually build it up to the height of the dividing wall. However if the wall did not extend the full length of the dividing wall I may have thought that it is unusual to extend it sideways in the length. See following תוספות ד"ה ומודה, for a possible proof/explanation why תוספות maintains that סמך לפלגא is in both dimensions.