

your stomach...שוף¹ – שוף אכריסך

Overview

The גמרא discusses the case of a two story house that is sinking until the ceiling of the lower level is very low. The owner of the upper level can resist the efforts of the lower level owner to rebuild, by saying to him even though your ceiling is very low, nevertheless 'שוף אכריסך וכו'. There is a dispute between רש"י and תוספות as to the meaning of this phrase.

פירוש הקונטרס שחה קומתך **interprets** this to mean, **bend down** to your stomach.

ר"י, **however it seems to the**, that the word -

שוף means rubbing – שוף לשון שפשוף

that he is rubbing his stomach **on the ground**, because he needs to 'crawl on his stomach'² to get into the house.

Summary

There is a dispute between רש"י and תוספות if the word שוף means bending down (רש"י), or rubbing (תוספות).

Thinking it over

1. It seems according to תוספות that the lower level is so low that he must crawl. However the גמרא states that if the ceiling fell below ten טפחים, he can force him to rebuild. If he has to crawl it would seem that it is lower than ten טפחים!

2. Is there any practical difference between רש"י and תוספות (since the גמרא states the ten טפחים rule)?

¹ There is a dispute between רש"י and תוספות as to the translation of 'שוף'.

² The ר"י perhaps prefers his interpretation, for the prefix 'א' (in אכריסך) is usually translated as 'on'. However according to רש"י, the translation here is 'bend down to your stomach'. רש"י perhaps disagrees with the ר"י, because of the first question in 'Thinking it over'.