

ומתחלקת בג' מפני שהיא כדיני ממונות –

And it is distributed by three because it is like monetary matters

OVERVIEW

The ברייתא states that when collecting for the קופה של צדקה (every week) there must be two collectors,¹ and when they distribute the money from this קופה it must be administered by three people. The reason three people are required is because it is a monetary decision (how much to give to each recipient²), therefore like all monetary decisions it requires (a בי"ד of) three. תוספות explains the difference between collecting and distributing,

תוספות asks:

ואם תאמר מהאי טעמא נמי תהא נגבית בג'³ –

And if you will say; for the very same reason (that distributing is like ממונות), it should also be collected by three (for collecting is also ממונות) -

תוספות answers:

ופירש רבינו תם לפי שהיה ידוע סכום של כל אחד ואחד כמה יתן⁴:

And the ר"ת explained that there was no need of assessment regarding the collection, because it was already known the amount which each individual will donate.

SUMMARY

The collectors only collected while the distributors assessed as well.

THINKING IT OVER

It would seem that if the needs of the עניים changed (from week to week), then the amount collected (from the עשירים) should also change from week to week. Why is assumed that the donation amount was fixed?

¹ The reason is because אין עושין שררות על הצבור פחות משנים משנים.

² See רש"י ד"ה מפני.

³ Just like by the distribution it is necessary to assess and evaluate the needs of the individual poor (and this is what makes it ממונות), the same evaluation is necessary to assess the wealth of the rich; how much they should give, so three people should be required for this judgment.

⁴ The assessment of the donors was already made (by some governing body [and is not likely to change from week to week]). The job of the collectors was limited to collecting the money only. However the task of the distributors was to assess the needs of the poor and give them accordingly (and their situation tends to be more volatile). See 'Thinking it over'.