

His mother came and wept before him אתיא אימיה וקא בכיא קמיה-

OVERVIEW

The גמרא relates that רב אחדבוי was refuting rather smugly the proofs ששת attempted to offer. As a punishment רב אחדבוי became speechless and forgot his learning. The גמרא continues (according to רש"י) that ששת's mother interceded on behalf of רב אחדבוי and pleaded with her son tearfully that he should restore to רב אחדבוי his speech and knowledge. תוספות offers an alternate version of the story.

פירש¹ רבינו חננאל דהיינו אימיה דרב אחדבוי –

The ר"ה explained that this refers to the mother of רב אחדבוי; she pleaded with רב ששת -

ולדידיה קרי² עולא משגש אורחא דאימיה שגרם לאמו להתבזות לפני רב ששת –

And it was רב אחדבוי whom רבא referred to as 'a child who contorts the ways of his mother', because רב אחדבוי caused his mother to embarrass herself before רב ששת -

והיא היתה מניקתו של רב ששת לכך אמר³ חזי הני חדיי דמצית מינייהו:

For רב אחדבוי's mother was the wet nurse of רב ששת, therefore she said to רב ששת, 'see these breasts from which you nursed'.

SUMMARY

It was the mother of רב אחדבוי (who was the wet nurse of רב ששת) who pleaded with רב ששת.

THINKING IT OVER

What are the relative advantages of פרש"י and פר"ח⁴?

¹ פירש uses the word 'פירש' to indicate that this פ"י is rejecting another (רש"י's) interpretation.

² See the very bottom of ט,א (and ט,ב).

³ The אמרה to מסרות הש"ס suggests that this be amended to אמרה.

⁴ See נח"מ.