גדול העושה צדקה בסתר יותר ממשה רבינו –

One who gives charity discreetly is greater that משה רבינו

OVERVIEW

The גמרא states that one who gives צדקה בסתר is greater than תוספות. Our תוספות. Clarifies this mystifying statement.

פירוש¹ יותר משכך חמה ממשה רבינו בתפלתו –

The explanation of this statement is that he quiets the anger of Hashem through צדקה בסתר; more that משה was able to quell the anger of Hashem with his prayer-

תוספות responds to an anticipated difficulty:

ואף על גב דמשה נמי עשה צדקה בסתר 2 שמא אותה שעה כבר פסק אותו זכות 3 And even though משה also performed צדקה בסתר; perhaps at that time (after the צדקה בסתר when משה said (כי יגורתי וגו') the merit of that צדקה בסתר had already terminated.

SUMMARY

Giving צדקה בסתר has a greater capacity of quelling Hashem's anger, than the power of משה תפילת משה.

THINKING IT OVER

How does תוספות indeed know that משה preformed צדקה בסתר, perhaps in the מדבר (where there were no poor people [for all their needs were met]), there was no opportunity for צדקה בסתר to give צדקה בסתר?

 $^{^1}$ It obviously cannot mean (as the simple reading indicates) that one who does צדקה וא is greater than משה (of whom it states in the תורה (in 'דברים (ברכה) that כמשה נביא בישראל (ולא קם עוד נביא בישראל (דברים (ברכה)); rather it must be referring to a specific advantage.

² Since it is such a great מצוה it is obvious that משה would perform it. See (however) 'Thinking it over'.

³ The merit of that צדקה בסתר may have been utilized already for something else.

⁴ Why was he afraid (and said 'כי יגרותי וגו'), since he observed מתן צדקה בסתר?!

⁵ See footnote # 2.

⁶ See (יעב"ץ) הגהות ר' יעקב עמדיו.

⁷ See נח"מ.