

For I did not eat meat of an ox

דלא אכלי בשרא דתורא -

Overview

answered ר' נחמן in one way in the evening and the next morning he reversed himself. ר"נ explained the reason he did not explain it this way in the previous evening is because he did not eat meat.¹

שרוי בתענית² היה:³

He was engaged in fasting; therefore, he did not eat meat.

Summary

ר"נ could not eat in the evening because he was fasting.

Thinking it over

According to תוספות, why did ר"נ not say clearly, 'I was fasting'; why state, 'I did not eat meat'?!⁴

2. Seemingly the משנה in (פ"ו מ"ד) states, במלח תאכל, so why is ר"נ saying בשרא דתורא?⁵

¹ See ד"ה דלא who writes, לא דקדקתי טעמו של דבר.

² Presumably תוספות means that since he was fasting, he could not concentrate properly in the matter at hand and therefore had to reverse his decision the following morning. See 'Thinking it over'. See לאדמה"ז פרק ז', for a (seemingly) slightly different take on this matter that the meat broadens one's perspective.

³ Perhaps תוס' assumed that ר"נ was שרוי בתענית, for otherwise, when he was asked (and he was hungry), why did he not eat first before giving an answer (as he seemingly did the next morning). See (also) אמתחת בנימין.

⁴ See חידושי הש"ס למהר"י פיק.

⁵ See שדה צופים לרש"ד פרידמן.