

## If it should happen upon him

## אילו איתרמיא ליה -

### OVERVIEW

The גמרא rejected the view that מצוה עד שליש means that one has to pay a third of his assets for a מצוה; for then if he would have to purchase three מצות simultaneously, he would have to give away all his assets. תוספות anticipates that there may be a slightly different interpretation of רב הונא which would avoid this 'bankruptcy'. However it would still not resolve the issue.

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אפילו מיירי בעשורייתא דרבי<sup>1</sup> כדאשכחן בפרק מציאת האשה (כתובות דף סח,א) -

Even if we assume that רב הונא, when he said מצוה עד שליש, was discussing a שליש that is similar to the 'tenth' that רבי instituted, which we find in פרק מציאת האשה; then it will come out that even if he is required to purchase three מצות simultaneously, he will not remain totally impoverished.<sup>2</sup> Perhaps this is the meaning of רב הונא.

- תוספות responds that even if that is the meaning -

מכל מקום ידוע שלא היה חייב לבזבז כל כך:

Nevertheless it was obvious that he would not be obligated to squander so much; giving away more than seventy percent of his assets for three מצות.

### SUMMARY

It is inconceivable that a person should have to spend a considerable (majority?) portion of his assets for מצות.

### THINKING IT OVER

According to תוספות that it is inconceivable to spend so much for a מצוה, the גמרא seemingly could have asked that (even) if two מצות occur, he will also have to spend most of his money, which (seemingly) should also be inconceivable.

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<sup>1</sup> רבי taught that a daughter (of a deceased father) receives a tenth of the assets of the estate for a wedding 'dowry'. The גמרא explains however if there are ten daughters and they are marrying simultaneously, the procedure is as follows. Ten percent of the entire estate is taken and set aside; leaving ninety percent of the estate available. Then ten percent of the remaining ninety percent is taken and set aside; leaving eighty one percent of the estate available. This continues ten times; a tenth is taken from the remaining assets of the estate (not from the original value of the estate). Once all ten 'tenths' were removed, this amount is divided among the ten sisters equally, and the remaining estate is inherited by any remaining brothers. (The sisters total share is slightly less than 65% [or about six and one half percent each] and the brothers share slightly more than 35%.)

<sup>2</sup> He will follow the same pattern as by עישורייתא דרבי; first taking a third of all his assets then taking a second third of the remaining two thirds and then a third third of that remainder (which will leave him with slightly less than thirty percent of his original worth). He will not, however, remain destitute.