For he hired him to gather מציאות

ששכרו ללקט מציאות –

OVERVIEW

רב פפא explained that the מציאה of a פועל belongs to him and not to his employer (which explains why לעצמו is מציאת ואים). The exception is when the owner hires him specifically to gather מציאו; then the מציאה belongs to the employer. The ברייתא however does not say that the מציאה belongs to the employer if he hired him to gather מציאות but rather that it belongs to the employer if he hired him for general work. תוספות responds to this question.

והכי פירושו¹ דברייתא במה דברים אמורים –

And this is the explanation of the ברייתא; when do these rules apply (that the מציאה of a worker belongs to him [and not to his employer]) -

 $-^2$ בזמן שאמר ליה עשה עמי באותו ענין שהוא כמו נכש עמי היום In a situation where the employer said to the worker, 'work for me in a specific manner, which is similar to 'weed for me today''; in that case the מציאה belongs to the worker -

אבל³ אמר ליה עשה עמי מלאכה של מציאות כולי:

However, if the employer said to the worker, 'work for me a מציאה work', etc., then the מציאה belongs to the employer.⁴

SUMMARY

The term נכש עמי refers to all work except ללקט מציאות; which is referred to as עשה עמי מלאכה.

THINKING IT OVER

It would seem that the interpretation of the ברייתא according to is somewhat strained; why did he not follow the explanation of either רחב"א or אמר ר"י?!

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¹ See 'Overview'.

 $^{^{2}}$ נכש עמי היום is representative of all type of work that is done for the employer, except to gather מציאות.

³ The 'אבל' denotes that this is a totally different type of work than גיכש עמי; this refers to ללקט מציאות.

⁴ Even if this מציאה is not the type for which the employer hired him to gather.

 $^{^{5}}$ See תוספות הרא"ש.