

בטאי

OVERVIEW

שמות מובהקים concludes his clarification of the תוספות.

גרסינן דבטי שם ישראל –

Our text read בטאי (and not בטי) for בטי is a Jewish name -

– כדאמר בקידושין (דף ע"ב) בטי ברמות רוחיה לא קביל גיטא דחירותא –

As the גמרא relates in מסכת קידושין that בטי because of his arrogant spirit would not accept a document of emancipation, תוספות explains -

שהיה עבד והיה מחזיק עצמו כישראל:¹

For בטי was an כעני but he held himself as a complete Jew, therefore he refused to accept a שטר שחרור because in his mind he was already a (free) Jew (and had no need for a שטר שחרור).

SUMMARY

בטי is a Jewish name, while בטאי is from the שמות מובהקים.

THINKING IT OVER

Do the names בטי and בטאי sound different (besides being spelled different), or are they only spelled different, but sound similar?

¹ בטי would tell everyone that he was born Jewish (he would [try to] hide the fact that he was a freed slave). Therefore בטי could not and would not maintain himself as a ישראל if his name was from the שמות מובהקים of the ערכאות, but rather בטי must have been an accepted Jewish name. See מהר"ץ חיות.