

From the time until the time

מעת לעת -

Overview¹

The משנה taught that if the פירות that he was relying on for תרו"מ were gone, he needs to be concerned for a מע"ל (twenty-four hours), as the גמרא explains. תוספת addresses a difficulty here.

בנדה (דף ד, ב) דייק מאי טעמא שנתנו רבנן שיעור בנדה מעת לעת² -

In מע"ל a נדה asks, what is the reason that the רבנן set this time of a נדה by a נדה –

תוספות asks:

והימא דהכא (נמי) מאי טעמא³ -

And it is astounding; for here (too) what is the reason why they chose a מע"ל?

תוספות answers:

ויש לומר דדוקא התם דייק משום דאשה מרגשת בעצמה ובדין הוא דדיה שעתה⁴ כשמאי -

And one can say that only there the גמרא asked for a reason, since a woman senses in herself when she sees דם, so rightfully the ruling should be that דיה ruled - as שמאי שעתה -

ואי בעו רבנן למיקנסה⁵ לקנסוה מפקידה לפקידה⁶ כהלל:

And if the רבנן wanted to punish her, they should punish her לפקידה as מפקידה לפקידה; why a מע"ל? This explains why the גמרא there asks this question. However here there is no question, for we do not have another option which is preferable over a מע"ל.⁷

Summary

There is no reason here why it should not be a מע"ל

¹ See 'Overview' to previous המניח ד"ה תוספות.

² When a woman sees דם (she has her 'period'); she is טמא from that moment on, according to שמאי. However הלל maintains she is טמא retroactively up to the last time she checked herself and was not bleeding. The רבנן say she is טמא at most for a מע"ל prior to her seeing דם. The גמרא discusses there the reason for this ruling.

³ תוספות is asking why here the גמרא did not discuss the reason for the ruling of מע"ל, just as the גמרא discussed this regarding נדה.

⁴ דיה שעתה; her time (of seeing) is sufficient; there is no need to make her למפרע טמא, because presumably if she was טמא before she would have sensed it.

⁵ See the גמרא there that the חכמים were מתקן that a woman should check herself twice a day, and this woman since she did not do it, they made her טמאה for a מע"ל.

⁶ מפקידה לפקידה; from one checking to the current checking. She is טמאה למפרע until the time she knows that she checked herself and she was טהורה.

⁷ See 'Thinking it over'.

Thinking it over

Why should we not give him a קנס that it should be considered אבודים, up to the last time he checked that they were there (like מפקידה לפקידה)?