

Reish Lokish sold himself to bandits - ריש לקיש זבין נפשיה ללודאי -

Overview

The גמרא relates a somewhat bizarre story how ר"ל sold himself to לודאי, and eventually killed them all. תוספות explains how ר"ל came to do this.

קודם שחזר למוטב¹ דמסתמא לא היה מזלזל בעצמו כל כך:

This story occurred before ר"ל returned for the better (he did תשובה), for presumably after he did תשובה, he would not have denigrated himself so much.

Summary

חוזר בתשובה before he was לודאי sold himself to ר"ל.

Thinking it over

1. Was the זלזול that he sold himself or that he killed them?
2. How could תוספות say that this happened before he was חוזר למוטב², the גמרא relates immediately after this story regarding the death of ר"ל, so seemingly this was in his later years?³

¹ See 'Thinking it over'.

² See footnote # 1.

³ See מהריעב"ץ.