

אפילו קן קולמסא - Even hearing the preparation of the pen

OVERVIEW

A blind person is unfit to be a שליח הגט from מדינת הים, because he cannot say בפ"נ. From our גמרא it seems that it is not necessary for the שליח to actually see the גט being written לשמה. It is sufficient if he just hears how they prepare the ink and parchment for the writing of the גט. Why then is a blind person פסול to bring the גט? He can also hear the קולמסא. Our תוספות addresses this discrepancy.

לא דמי לסומא דפסול להביא גט¹ בפרק שני (לקמן דף כג,א):

This is not comparable to a blind person who is unfit to bring a גט as we learnt in the second פרק. (פרק תוספות offers no explanation as to what exactly is the difference.)

SUMMARY

A קן קולמסא is פסול to bring a גט even though he too can hear the סומא.

THINKING IT OVER

When a שליח says בפ"נ and in truth only heard קולמסא קן why is he not considered a liar?²

¹ The תוספות הרא"ש explains that a סומא is פסול either because he cannot be sure that he is receiving the same גט that the סופר was preparing (as opposed to a פקח), or because it appears that he is lying if he says בפ"נ, since he is blind. [See 'Thinking it over'.] Others (see מהר"ם ע"פ הנחלת משה) explain that if he is a פיקח, the סופר is careful to write the גט לשמה because the שליח may observe what he is doing. However by a סומא the סופר is not concerned. He may initially act as if he is preparing a גט לשמה, and then give him a גט that he wrote וכו' להתלמד וכו'.

² See previous footnote #1 and נח"מ.