

**כמה אדם רוצה ליתן כולי להשיא לעבדו -**

**How much a person is willing to give, etc. to marry her off to his servant**

### **Overview**

The גמרא explained the משנה, which stated that פגם is assessed as if she was a maidservant being sold, to mean the difference in price how much a person would pay to buy a שפחה for his עבד, whether she is a בתולה or a בעולה. Our תוספות clarifies this ruling.

asks תוספות

**תימה דמה שומא היא זו –**

**It is astounding! what type of assessment is this?!**

**וכי אשה חשובה ממשפחה גדולה אינה נפסדת בפגמה אלא שוה שפחה הניסת לעבד<sup>1</sup> -**

**Is it then so that a prominent woman from an important family does not lose her value by being defiled, only equivalent to the value of a maidservant who is married to a slave –**

answers: תוספות

**ויש לומר דכל אשה שמין לפי מה שהיא בענין זה -**

**And one can say, that we assess each woman according to her status, regarding this matter of buying her to marry his slave -**

**כמה אדם רוצה ליתן בין בתולה לבעולה להשיא לעבדו אשה כזאת הנפגמת<sup>2</sup> -**

**How much of a difference is there in what a person would pay to marry off to his slave such a devalued woman whether she is a בתולה or a בעולה -**

**והא דנקט שפחה אורחא דמלתא נקט דאין דרך להשיא לעבדו בת מלכים:**

**And the reason the גמרא mentions a שפחה, for he mentions the usual case, since it is not usual to marry one's slave to princesses (only to other slaves).**

### **Summary**

The term שפחה is merely an example; we assess each woman according to her status.

### **Thinking it over**

Why do we not simply assess how much one would be willing to pay for a בתולה more than for a בעולה for his marriage; why involve slaves at all?!<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> The difference in value between a שפחה בתולה and a שפחה בעולה is much less than the reduction in value of a prominent woman, whether she is a בתולה or a בעולה; how can we assess her loss based on the decreased value of a שפחה?!

<sup>2</sup> We are not assessing a שפחה necessarily, but rather each woman according to her status.

<sup>3</sup> See דרישה אבן העזר סי' קע"ז אות ג'.