

אם לעשות לה פה חייב – If in order to make an opening for it, he is liable

OVERVIEW

The גמרא cites a משנה which states that if someone, when bursting an abscess, intends to make an opening for the abscess; he is liable for transgressing an איסור תוספות. [However if he only intends to release the pus he is exempt.] דאורייתא explains what is this opening and why he is liable.

דפתח¹ זה עשויה להכניס ולהוציא אויר² ולהוציא ליחה:

For this opening is made to bring in and to take out; meaning to bring air into the abscess and to remove the pus from the abscess.

SUMMARY

An opening must serve a dual purpose; to remove and to bring in, and לעשות לה פה meets this requirement.

THINKING IT OVER

Do (this) תוספות and רש"י³ agree as to the meaning of לעשות לה פה⁴?

¹ The one who is חייב for לעשות לה פה is doing the מלאכה of בונה; he is building a פתח (an opening). However a proper opening requires a dual purpose; to bring things from the outside, inside into the opening, and to take things out from inside the openings. תוספות explains that this opening (of the מורסא) also has a dual purpose, and therefore it is considered a פתח and he is חייב משום בונה.

² His intent (by bursting this מורסא) is not merely to remove the pus (as in the case of להוציא ממנה ליחה), but rather he also wants that air should come into the מורסא, in order that it should dry out and heal properly.

³ ד"ה אם.

⁴ See סוכ"ד אות עג.