

הא קא משמע לן לזבון איניש ברתיא –

He is teaching us this; a man should sell his daughter

Overview

חנינא interprets the פסוקים (following the laws of שביעית) that the situation of one who is נושא ונותן בפירות שביעית will deteriorate until he will sell his daughter (for an אמה),¹ and even worse he will be required to borrow and pay interest.²

תוספות responds to an anticipated difficulty:

אף על גב שמפדין אותה בעל כרחו³ מכל מקום רבית קשה⁴ יותר:

Even though we redeem the daughter **even against the will of the father** (so why is selling the daughter ‘better’ than borrowing with רבית, seemingly in both case he winds up having to return the money⁵). **Nonetheless borrowing with רבית is much worse.**

Summary

Even though there is a requirement to redeem the אמה, nevertheless borrowing with רבית is worse.

Thinking it over

Is תוספות question and answer on the גמרא, or is תוספות explaining the question (ב"מ"ט) and the answer (ברתיה מגרעא ונפקא וכו') of the גמרא?⁶

¹ The פרשה of selling a daughter is not mentioned here, but ריב"ז inserts it here to teach us that one should rather sell his daughter than borrow with רבית.

² The simple explanation would be that by selling his daughter the father keeps the money and does not have to return it, however by a loan he has to return the money plus interest. However this is not the answer the גמרא gives. Once we learn the תוספות, the answer of the גמרא is understood. See ‘Thinking it over’.

³ See the גמרא previously on יחא, and in ד"ה אמר תוס'.

⁴ As the גמרא explains that by the daughter the amount required to pay to the master in order to redeem her, keeps on decreasing, but the payment of the loan with interest keeps on increasing.

⁵ Alternately, we see that selling a daughter is a terrible thing, and we even force (either the family or the father) to redeem her. See נחלת משה.

⁶ See בית לחם יהודה אות תקלב.