איטלקי -

OVERVIEW

The משנה states that a פרוטה is one-eighth of an איסר האיטלקי. Our תוספות. Our איטלקי explains what is meant by איטלקי.

aeרש רבינו תם¹ על שם איטליא של יון

The ה"ת explained that this איטלקי was called איטלקי for it was named after the Greek איטליא.

תוספות anticipates and resolves a difficulty:

ואין לתמוה על הקו"ף בדאשכחנא (בעזרא ד') שושנכיא על שם שושן: And one should not wonder concerning the letter קוף which was inserted into the word איטליא (which is written without a קו"ף). This would seemingly indicate that we not discussing איטליא של יון but rather another place called איטליא (or something similar with a קו"ף in its name). איטלק responds that this does not pose any difficulty for the פירוש ר"ת, for we also find the word שושנכיא which is referencing the city of שושנכיא is inserted; here too an extra קו"ף is inserted.

SUMMARY

איטלקי refers to איטליא של יון and adding a קו"ף is not uncommon.

THINKING IT OVER

Why indeed was a קו"ף added instead of a יו"ף!!

 1 The ר"ת may have been concerned by a possible misinterpretation of רש"ז האטלקי where he states של כסף. This may lead one to (mistakenly) interpret כסף. Therefore the ר"ת clarifies that איטלקי means איטליא של יון (and that coin was made from בסף).

² This איסר may have been minted or was popular in איטליא של יון.

³ Usually, when a common noun receives an added letter to indicate that someone belongs to a certain group, the letter יו"ד alone is added. For instance בבלי becomes בבלי becomes בבלי similarly by איטליא; should be added and become איטליא (or something similar).

 $^{^4}$ פסוק טי is referring to various groups that פנופל; among them were the שושנכיא – people who came from the city שושן.

⁵ It seems from some commentaries that originally (a certain section of) Italy was under Greek control or influence, therefore it is called איטליא של יון – The Grecian Italy. (Others say this refers to the area of Calabria, Italy; from were many prefer to obtain their אתרוגים for on the פסוק (בראשית [תולדות] כז,לט) משמני איס מושבך (cited there in יהיה מושבך (זו איטליא של יון איטליא איטליא של יון איטליא