

What is sharing; grabbing

מאי חולקין חוטפין –

Overview

The גמרא explains that the expression חולקין והגררנים does not mean that the כהנים would exchange their portion of the לחם הפנים for a portion of other קדשים (which would refute the view of אב"י), but rather חולקים means that they would grab more than their share. תוספות explains the meaning of this answer.

כלומר לעולם אין בו דין חלוקה והאי חולקין חלקו המגיעו קאמר¹ -

The גמרא means to say that in truth there is no חלוקה (we cannot exchange the portions of different קדשים), and when the ברייתא states חולקים, it means his portion which was allotted to him (which was the size of a פול [bean]) -

וכשאינו מגיע לו כי אם מעט² חוטף חלק חבירו ואוכלו -

So when he only received a small portion (a פול) he would grab his friend's portion and eat it as well -

כדקתני סיפא מעשה באחד שחטף חלק חבירו -

As it states in the end of this ברייתא, it happened by one כהן that he grabbed his friend's portion (and they called him [derisively] בן חמצן).

תוספות asks:

ואם תאמר כיון שדרכן לחטוף³ אמאי קרו להו חמצן טפי מאחרים -

And if you will say, since it was customary for the כהנים to grab the לחם הפנים (from their friends), why did they call that individual a חמצן more than the other כהנים, who also grabbed?!

תוספות answers:

ויש לומר לפי שחטף חלק הגרגרן כמותו⁵ -

And one can say that this individual grabbed the portion of another כהן who was a גרגרן like him -

אבל האחרים לא היו חוטפין אלא מחלק הצנועין כשמושכין ידיהם:

¹ See 'Thinking it over'.

² See חזו"ן ד"ה הצנועין that after the death of הצדיק שמעון there was a 'curse' in the לחם הפנים and the portion of each came out to be the size of a פול. The צנועין (כהנים) would withdraw and not eat their portion (since it was so small) but the גרגרנים (כהנים) would not only eat their portion but would grab the portions of others as well.

³ The גמרא states חוטפים – חולקים; indicating that (all) the גרגרנים were חוטפים.

⁴ See חזו"ן ד"ה מאי that a חמצן means a חמסן one who takes something by force.

⁵ The כהן from whom he grabbed did not forfeit his portion; he wanted his portion (and another's as well).

However the other גרגרנים **would not grab** from the other גרגרנים, **but rather they** would only grab **from the portion of the צנועין** who would retract their hands⁶ and not take their allotted share.

Summary

The גרגרנים would 'grab' the portion of the צנועין, however the בן חמצן, grabbed from another גרגרן.

Thinking it over

According to תוספות that חולקין means that they divided the לחם הפנים equally, why is it necessary for the גמרא to say מאי חולקים חוטפים, we should just answer that they did not exchange the לחם הפנים with other קדשים, they merely divided the לחם הפנים?⁷

⁶ The צנועין were מושכין ידיהם, they forfeited their portion, therefore it was not (that) disgraceful if the גרגרנים grabbed their portion.

⁷ See (עד"ז) in נחלת משה.