רהבא said in the name of רהבא

אמר רחבא אמר רבי יהודה -

OVERVIEW

The גמרא cites a statement from רחבא in the name of רבי יהודה. Seemingly he was referring to his רבי the אמורא רב יהודה (who was a תלמיד of עלמיד) who lived in הבל The term בבל is reserved for תנאים or the אמוראים who lived in יש. Why is it that רחבא referred to רחבא as רבי יהודה explains.

♦

לפי שהיה רבו מובהק³ קרי ליה רבי:

Since רהבה was the master teacher of רהבה, therefore רהבה referred to him as (and not [merely] as רבי).

SUMMARY

רהבה, the אמורא was the רבו מובהק of רחבה; therefore רחבה referred to him as רבי.

THINKING IT OVER

Why would רהבא refer to רבי יהודה as רבי יהודה, when that may be misleading us into thinking that he is referring to a different רבי יהודה from '"א"י 4

See however רש"י later on דף נב,ב בד"ה רבי יהודה and רש"י in ביצה יא.ב ד"ה ורחבא.

² The rule is that סמיכה can be given only in א"י. Therefore the תנאים ואמוראים that lived in סמיכה (and received סמיכה were called with the (more) honorary ממיכה; while the בבל from בבל who could not receive סמיכה were called (merely). רב

 $^{^3}$ רבו מובהק is a reference to the teacher from whom one learned רוב חכמתו.

⁴ Namely רש"י, a grandson of רבינו הקדוש. See the previously referred to ר" (footnote # 1).