

Two cows were plowing

שתי פרות היו חורשות –

OVERVIEW

The משנה in שנהגו states that there are places where people had the custom not to work on ער"פ (before חצות) and other places where it was customary to work on ער"פ (קודם חצות). However if one travels from a מקום where they do מלאכה to a place where they do not, he should not do מלאכה to avoid מחלוקת. In our גמרא there is the view of שאול that there were two cows plowing in ירושלים. Our תוספות will discuss how this reconciles with the משנה of שנהגו.



בירושלמי¹ דייק ירושלים לא מקום שנהגו בו שלא לעשות מלאכה –

In the ירושלמי he is critical of this statement; is not ירושלים a place where the custom is not to do any work on ערב פסח?! How was it permitted to allow these cows to plow in the public view?!

ערב פסח on איסור מלאכה an נוהג were ירושלים in assumed that the ירושלמי explains why תוספות כלומר² סברא הוא לנהוג שם איסור –

The ירושלמי means to say that it is logical to institute in ירושלים an איסור to work on ערב פסח –

כיון שמתקבצין שם אף ממקומות שנהגו בהן איסור³ –

Since people gather there [also] from places where the custom is to refrain from working.

ומשני נראות כחורשות:

And the ירושלמי answers; it appeared as if they were plowing; however in reality they were not plowing (the plow did not go into the earth).

SUMMARY

The cows only appeared to plow; but in reality they would not plow, for ירושלים conducted itself as a place where no מלאכה was done on ער"פ.

THINKING IT OVER

¹ פ"א ה"ה.

² See יהודה (לקמן נה, א) and the משנה states that in יהודה who explains the כלומר thus; ירושלים is in יהודה and the משנה states (לקמן נה, א) that in יהודה they did מלאכה, so why is the ירושלמי troubled. Therefore תוספות explains the ירושלמי with the כלומר.

³ The גמרא states later (ג, ב) that דברים המותרים ואחרים נהגו בהן איסור אי אתה רשאי להתיר בפניהם (ג, ב). In addition there are so many people who do not do מלאכה on ער"פ it is proper that no one should do מלאכה in order to avoid any מחלוקת.

ער"פ שחל להיות If the פרות merely appeared to plow; did they use them as well on שחל להיות בשבת, or not?⁴

⁴ See תוספות ר"פ.