

Traps are not spread, etc.

אין פורסין מצודות כולי –

Overview

The משנה states that according to ב"ש, one may not lay out his traps on ע"ש, unless they can trap their prey before שבת. The גמרא later¹ said that ב"ש was גוזר not to do this on ע"ש [only] in a case where if he would do it on שבת he would be חייב.² Our תוספות addresses how this is applicable to our case.

anticipates a difficulty: תוספות

אף על גב דבשבת נמי אם פירש מצודה אינו חייב חטאת³ שאינו יודע⁴ אם יצוד אם לאו -
Even though that even on שבת if he spread out his net he is not חייב חטאת (even if he trapped an animal⁵), since he does not know (when he puts out his trap) whether he will trap or not, so why is he not permitted to set out the trap on ע"ש –

responds: תוספות

מכל מקום גזרו לפרוש מצודה דפעמים אתי לידי חיוב חטאת כגון שבשעת פריסתו ילכוד -
Nevertheless ע"ש was גוזר not to spread a trap on ע"ש, because occasionally he will come to a חיוב חטאת on שבת, if, for instance, at the time when he sets his trap he captures his prey immediately, then he is חייב חטאת -
דהכי קתני בתוספתא (פרק י"ג ה"ה) הפורס מצודה לבהמה או לעוף ונכנס לתוכה חייב:
For this is what it states in the תוספתא; 'he who spreads out his net for an animal or a bird and it entered into it, he is חייב' a חטאת.

Summary

One is חייב for casting a net on שבת if the prey enters into it immediately.

Thinking it over

ב"ש prohibit doing on ע"ש something which is if done on שבת is חייב חטאת; so why are we prohibiting him from hunting on ע"ש, since he is not capturing his prey now (he will first capture it משחשכה), and in such a case he is not חייב on שבת?!⁶

¹ הנך דאי עביד להו בשבת מיחייב חטאת גזרו בהו ב"ש reads יטא.

² This is one view how to explain ב"ש. However there is another view (on יחא) that the reason of ב"ש is because of שביית כלים; according to this view it would seem that תוספות has no question.

³ See 'Overview' that ב"ש is אוסר on ע"ש, only when if this מלאכה was done on שבת, there would be a חיוב חטאת.

⁴ The תוספות הרא"ש writes because he is not בידים, that is why he is פטור.

⁵ See שפת אמת who questions this.

⁶ See שפת אמת.