

טהור מלהכשיר בו זרעים - It is eliminated from preparing the seeds

Overview

It seems that if a כלי חרס was perforated to a degree that a small root can protrude from this hole, the plants in this כלי חרס are considered attached to the ground, and even if they come into contact with water or other liquids they are still not מוכשר. Our תוספות claims that this גמרא refutes a פרש"י elsewhere.¹ לקבל טומאה

משמע דכלי חרס בעי נקיבה ודלא כפירוש הקונטרס בפרק קמא דגיטין² (דף ז,א) -

It seems from this גמרא that in order for a כלי חרס to be considered attached to the ground it requires being punctured, and not like רש"י explained in the first פרק of מסכת גיטין -

שפירש דספינה של חרס דכיון שהיא של עפר חשובה כנקובה³ ועת לקצר :

Where he explained regarding a ship made from earthenware, that since it was made from earth it is considered as if it is perforated; but now is the time to be brief.

Summary

A כלי חרס requires a hole in order to be considered attached to the ground.

Thinking it over

Seemingly תוספות could have refuted רש"י from the previous rulings (especially when ruled that להכשיר זרעים הוא כלי, which indicate that it is not considered נקוב even though it is a כלי חרס, why did תוספות wait until רבא said that כשורש קטן טהור מלהכשיר בו זרעים?!

¹ Food is not susceptible to become טמא unless it comes into contact with one of the seven liquids. However this must happen only after the food is detached from the ground. As long as the food is attached it cannot be לקבל טומאה. Once a כלי חרס is כלי חרס קטן, the כלי is considered מחובר and there can be no הכשר.

² See ד"ה עפר רש"י. The גמרא is discussing whether earth on a boat in ארץ ישראל is considered part of א"י and anything which grows on it is חייב במעשר רש"י. חייב במעשר רש"י there states that since the ship is made of חרס it is considered attached to the riverbed and is חייב במעשר. See תוספות there עציץ ד"ה who disagrees with רש"י as תוספות mentions here.

³ However from our גמרא it seems that only when it is punctured, is the כלי חרס considered מחובר, but not otherwise.