

דוולא -

OVERVIEW

תוספות ruled regarding דוולא that it requires one day's work for each partner. רב נחמן cites a dispute between ר"ה and רש"י as to the meaning of דוולא.

פירש רבינו חננאל ארץ שמשקין אותה בדלי לכל אחד ארץ שדולין לה יום אחד –

The ר"ה explained that דוולא means a land that is irrigated with a pail; in order to divide such a land, each one must receive a parcel of land large enough that it requires one day to irrigate it.

ר"ה disagrees with the תוספות:

וקשה לרבינו יצחק דאם כן הוה ליה¹ למיתני בבבל מאי² כדבעי באינך –

And the ר"י has a difficulty with the פירוש ר"ה; for if it is indeed so (that we are discussing the size of an irrigated land) the גמרא should have [inquired], 'what is the ruling in בבבל, as the גמרא inquired regarding the other cases (of plowing and the vineyard).

על כן נראה כפירוש³ הקונטרס:

The ר"י, therefore, prefers רש"י's explanation.

SUMMARY

According to the ר"ה the דוולא refers to fields that require irrigation, and according to רש"י it means a cistern.

THINKING IT OVER

Seemingly the author of this ruling asks (on פ"י ר"ה) that the גמרא should have inquired מאי בבבל⁴. How can תוספות ask that we should inquire מאי בבבל?!⁵

¹ ליה למבעי בבבל; הגהות הב"ה amends this to read; ליה למבעי בבבל.

² Perhaps in בבבל the land is so barren that even a field that it takes a day to irrigate is not worth toiling for. See 'Thinking it over'.

³ See רש"י ד"ה דוולא that we are discussing a cistern from which the fields are irrigated. There must be sufficient water in the cistern to irrigate for one day for each partner. This applies universally (we are not discussing the size of the field; just the capacity of the cistern).

⁴ See footnote # 2.

⁵ נה"מ.