

But it is merely causative

– **והא גרמא הוא**

OVERVIEW

The גמרא explained why we must distance a ladder from a dovecote, because it is possible that when one will place the ladder near the dovecote, a נמייה (mongoose/weasel?) may jump from the ladder onto the dovecote and kill the birds. The גמרא asked, but it is merely a גרמא (and גרמא is בניזקין), why should he be prevented from placing his ladder there.

תוספות asks:

תימה דלא פריך הכי לעיל¹ גבי דוושא:

It is astounding that the גמרא did not pose this same difficulty previously regarding דוושא (trampling traffic).

SUMMARY

The case of דוושא is also considered a גרמא and the גמרא there is not troubled by it!

THINKING IT OVER

Can we not distinguish between the case of נמייה (where it is more גרמא [less direct cause]) and דוושא (where it is less גרמא [more direct cause])?²

¹ רבא explained on this עמוד the reason to distance one's wall from a neighbor's א"א is in order there should be traffic that will tamp down the earth between the two walls. The question is that even if the walls are not distanced and there no דוושא, the one erecting the second wall is not causing any direct damage, he is a גרמא בניזקין; the same question (and answer) the גמרא mentions here should have been mentioned previously as well.

² See TIE לימא ד"ה תוס' ד"ה לימא (on this עמוד) footnote # 8.