



OVERVIEW PESACHIM DAF 4

Section 1: More About Breaking Bad News Gently

When Rav traveled from Bavel to Eretz Yisrael, his uncle R. Chiya asked about his parents. One had passed away, but Rav didn't say it directly. He kept hinting - when R. Chiya asked about one parent, Rav answered about the other, until R. Chiya understood.

R. Chiya then took off his shoes and headed to the bathhouse. From his behavior we learn three Halachos:

- A mourner may not wear shoes.
- If you only hear about a death more than 30 days after it happened ("old news"), you mourn for just one day.
- Even a short part of a day counts as a full day of mourning.

Your Speech Shows Your Background

- A man who was always saying "take it to court!" turned out to be from Shevet Dan - Yaakov's Berachah says "Dan Yadin Amo" (Dan will judge his people).
- A man who kept praising the seashore turned out to be from Shevet Zevulun - Yaakov said "Zevulun will dwell by the shore."

Section 2: When Exactly Do We Search?

Question: Everyone agrees Or means night. But why search so early? Chametz isn't even Assur until midday on the 14th!

- **Suggestion:** Because eager people do Mitzvos as soon as possible.
- **Problem with that:** If eagerness were the reason, first thing in the morning should be early enough!
- **Real answer (Rav Nachman bar Yitzchak):** Two practical reasons: (1) At night, everyone is home. (2) Candlelight works much better for searching in cracks and corners at night than in the daytime.

Abaye adds: Even a Talmid Chacham who has a regular nighttime learning session should not sit down to learn on the night of the 14th before doing the search. He might get so into his learning that he forgets to search altogether.

Section 3: Renting a House on Erev Pesach - Who Searches?

Question: If someone rents out his house right around the 14th, who is responsible for the Chametz search - the landlord or the new tenant?

- On one hand, it's the landlord's Chametz that's in there.
- On the other hand, it's now the tenant's house.

Answer (Beraisa): It depends on the keys. If the 14th arrived and the landlord hadn't handed over the keys yet, it's his job. If the keys were already given over, it's on the tenant.

'Can We Assume It Was Already Searched?'

Question: If you rent a house on the 14th and the landlord isn't around to ask - can you just assume he already searched it?

Answer: There's a Beraisa that says everyone is trusted when it comes to Chametz searching - even women, slaves, and children can say "I checked" and we believe them. This works because Bedikas Chametz is only Rabbinic (from the Torah, you just need to mentally declare your Chametz worthless). Since it's Rabbinic, the Chachamim were lenient about who we trust.

'What If You Rented Thinking It Was Clean, and It Wasn't?'

Question: Can the tenant back out of the rental?

Answer (Abaye): No. People actually enjoy doing Mitzvos themselves and spending their own money on them. The tenant would have rented the house even if he'd known he had to do the search.

Section 4: When Does Chametz Become Forbidden on Erev Pesach?

Mishnah - Two Opinions:

- **R. Meir:** You can eat Chametz until the end of the 5th hour of the day. At the start of the 6th hour, you burn it.
- **R. Yehudah:** You can eat only until the end of the 4th hour. During the 5th hour it's in limbo - you can't eat it, but you don't burn it yet. At the start of the 6th hour, you burn it.

Question: Where does the Torah say Chametz is Assur on Erev Pesach at all? Pesach is the 15th!

Answer (Abaye): Two Pesukim seem to contradict each other. One says no Chametz for seven days (all of Pesach). The other says "on the first day, get rid of your Se'or" - which sounds like the removal happens on Pesach itself, when you already can't have it! The resolution: "the first day" doesn't mean the 15th. It means the 14th (the day before Pesach). And the word "Ach" (but) tells us that only part of that day is included - so the Issur kicks in partway through the 14th.