



OVERVIEW PESACHIM DAF 6

Section 1: Animals and Doughs That the Government Can Claim

Question: If the government has the right to take a portion of your animals (a tax called Arnona), does Bechorah (the Kedushah of a firstborn) still apply? Maybe the government's claim is like having a non-Jewish partner, which normally exempts from Bechorah.

- If you can pay money instead and keep the animal - you fully own it, so Bechorah definitely applies.
- If the government can actually seize the animal and you can't just pay cash - it's more like a partnership, so maybe Bechorah doesn't apply.

Rava's ruling: Animals subject to Arnona are exempt from Bechorah. But dough subject to Arnona still requires Challah.

Why the difference? Everyone knows about government claims on animals, so nobody will be confused if you skip Bechorah. But government claims on dough aren't well-known - if we exempted it, people might wrongly think Challah never needs to be taken. So the Chachamim required it anyway.

Section 2: A Goy's Chametz or Hekdesh Chametz in Your House

Three cases in a Beraisa:

- A Goy walks through your yard carrying Chametz on Pesach - you don't have to stop him. It's not your Chametz.
- A Goy hands you his Chametz for safekeeping and you accept responsibility - now you have to get rid of it. Your responsibility makes it like yours.
- A Goy puts his Chametz in a specific designated corner of your house - you don't have to get rid of it. That corner is treated as if it's "his space" - you're not really using it.

Question: Does designating a spot actually make it "his"? Normally renting doesn't transfer ownership!

Answer: True, renting normally doesn't make a space "yours." But the Torah's Issur is based on the Chametz being in a place where you are regularly present. Since that corner is designated for the Goy, you don't go there, so it doesn't count as being "in your house."

Finding Chametz on Yom Tov

- **Rav Yehudah:** If you discover Chametz in your house on Yom Tov itself, flip a bowl over it so nobody accidentally eats it. After Yom Tov, burn it.
- **Rava:** Hekdesh Chametz doesn't even need a bowl over it. People instinctively stay away from anything belonging to Hekdesh.
- **Rav Yehudah also taught:** If a Goy's Chametz is sitting in your house (and you have no responsibility for it), put up a wall at least 10 Tefachim high in front of it as a reminder not to eat it. But for Hekdesh Chametz, you don't even need a wall - nobody's going to touch it.

Section 3: Traveling Before Pesach - Do You Have to Search First?

Rav Yehudah: If you leave on a sea voyage or join a caravan 30 or more days before Pesach, you don't need to search your house before you go. If you leave within 30 days of Pesach, you do.

Rava fine-tunes this: It all depends on whether you plan to come back during Pesach. If you're planning to return, you must search before leaving - even if you left months ago. If you're not coming back for Pesach, you're off the hook even within 30 days.

Related case: If someone piled up produce in his house (turning it into a warehouse) 30 or more days before Pesach, he doesn't have to dig underneath for Chametz. But if he piled it up within 30 days, he does - unless he's not planning to clear it out during Pesach.

Why Is 30 Days the Cutoff?

Beraisa: We start learning the Halachos of Pesach 30 days before it arrives.

- **R. Shimon ben Gamliel disagrees:** Only two weeks before.

Source for 30 days: Moshe taught Bnei Yisrael about Pesach Sheini on the 14th of Nisan - which was exactly 30 days before Pesach Sheini (14th of Iyar). This shows the practice of teaching Hilchos Pesach 30 days in advance.

Source for two weeks: Moshe taught about Pesach Rishon on Rosh Chodesh Nisan - about two weeks before the 15th. The Gemara uses a Gezeirah Shavah to confirm that the Pasuk was said specifically on Rosh Chodesh.

Section 4: The Torah Doesn't Always Follow Chronological Order

Question: In Sefer Bamidbar, the census (dated to the 1st of Iyar) appears before the Pesach passage (dated to the 1st of Nisan). Why does the Torah put the later event first?

Answer (Rav Menasiya): Ein Mukdam u'Me'uchar ba'Torah - the Torah doesn't necessarily arrange things in time order.

Rav Papa clarifies: That rule only applies when comparing two different topics. Within a single topic, the Torah does follow the correct order. If it didn't, we wouldn't be able to use rules like Kelal u'Ferat (general and specific), which depend on word order.

Section 5: You Must Also Mentally Nullify Your Chametz

Rav Yehudah: After searching the house, you also have to do Bitul - make a declaration that any Chametz you own is worthless and ownerless.

Question: If you already searched the house, why do you also need to nullify?

- **Maybe you missed some crumbs?** No - small crumbs are insignificant and automatically Batel.

Answer (Rava): It's a safety measure. What if, after the search, you stumble across a really nice roll and decide you don't want to burn it? If you hold onto it past the deadline, you'll violate the Torah.

Question: So just nullify it when you find it!

Answer: If you find it after the 6th hour on the 14th, it's too late to nullify. At that point, the Chametz is forbidden - it's no longer really "yours" to give up. R. Elazar teaches: a person doesn't technically own Chametz after the 6th hour, but the Torah still holds him responsible as if he does.

Question: Fine, but why right after the search? Why not during the 4th or 5th hour?

Answer: Those hours aren't when anything significant happens with Chametz - it's not the time of burning and not the time of the Issur. If we leave it to then, he'll probably forget. So the Chachamim required him to do Bitul right away after the Bedikah, when it's fresh on his mind.