LAF YOMI

Arakhin 4 · November 21, 2026

ON TODAY'S DAF

Arakhin 4 keeps working through the 'hakol' baraitot — kohanim, Leviyim and Yisraelim in megillah, zimun and erachin — then turns to Ben Buchri's half-shekel: why kohanim shouldn't give, why they must, and why erachin and shekalim don't travel together. On 4b the long baraita on 'b'erkecha' unpacks erech stam, the valuation of a vital limb, the goses who can't be stood before the kohen, and the tumtum and androgynos.

ARAKHIN · EVERYONE BENTCHES — NO REBELLIOUS SON IN JERUSALEM



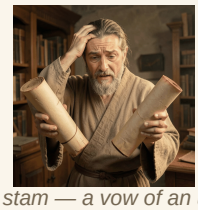
1. *Why does bentching follow eating? The Meshach Chochmah: a full man grows arrogant and forgets Hashem — but you'd think eating kodshim couldn't lead you astray. The Beit Yisrael adds that this is why the Gemara says there was never a ben sorer u-moreh in Yerushalayim.*

“What did they eat in Yerushalayim? They ate kodshim meat. And what did they drink in Yerushalayim? Kodshim nesachim. You can't become a ben sorer u-moreh from eating kodshim.”

— Rabbi Moshe Elefant

In the daf: Arakhin 4a · Hakol chayavin b'zimun — eating kodshim · Hear it in the shiur: Rabbi Moshe Elefant · 5:59

ARAKHIN · ERECH STAM — THE TWO OPPOSITE PESHITAS



2. *The Gemara brings two lishanot on an erech stam — a vow of an unspecified valuation. The first says the poor man's discount, heseg yad, doesn't apply. The second says it does — and the Gemara says peshita, obviously.*

“A moment ago the Gemara says it's pashut that by an erech stam the din of heseg yad doesn't apply. Now our Gemara says not only does the din of heseg yad apply, but it's pashut that it applies. How could there be two peshitas that are exact opposite of each other? This is a baffling word.”

— Rabbi Moshe Elefant

In the daf: Arakhin 4b · erech stam — the two opposite peshitas · Hear it in the shiur: Rabbi Moshe Elefant · 40:45

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ARAKHIN · BEN BUCHRI — THE KOHEN CAVES TO PEER PRESSURE



3. According to Ben Buchri, a kohen who gives the machatzit hashekel must hand it over to the tzibbur — mesar l'tzibbur — so it stops being his private money. But why doesn't the Gemara demand the same of women, who also give though they're not obligated?

“Women aren't obligated to give the machatzit hashekel. Nobody's forcing them to give. Kohanim, however, may feel pressure to give — since all other men above twenty are giving, they're going to feel peer pressure that they should give it as well. And since it's such a popular mitzvah and everybody's giving, the kohen wants to be part of it and gives it properly.”

— Rabbi Moshe Elefant

In the daf: Arakhin 4a · Ben Buchri — דמייתי להו ומסר לציבור · Hear it in the shiur: Rabbi Moshe Elefant · 23:12