משנה יומית

Estimation in *Trumot*

This week's *mishnayot* deal with how much *trumah* must be given to the *Kohanim*. The third *Mishnah* in perek 4 says that a generous person will give one fortieth of his produce to the *Kohen*, whilst a miser will donate one sixtieth and someone in between these two extremes will give one fiftieth. What is interesting is that although the *Mishnah* gives exact values for how much *trumah* should be given, when it comes to actually separating the *trumah* from the rest of the produce, the law is to estimate rather than to actually measure the exact amount of *trumah* given. The reason for this is that even though the *Chachamim* provided a measure for the size of *trumah gedolah*, the *Torah* itself does not provide a *shiur*. Instead it writes "your *trumah* shall be reckoned (*va'nechshav*)" (*Bamidbar* 18:27).

As is stated in *perek* 1, *Mishnah* 7, "One does not give *trumah* by measure, or by weight, or by number." However, the *Mishnah* goes on to explain that one can take *trumah* from produce that has already been measured, weighed or counted, making it possible for someone to donate close to the exact amounts mentioned earlier. In the case of *trumah*, there appears to be a clear distinction between estimating and calculating. While the produce as a whole may be calculated, the *trumah* itself may only be estimated.

We find a similar concept in this week's *mishnayot*. The *Misnah* (4:6) explains that there are three times during the agricultural cycle when we measure the capacity of fruit baskets to determine how much produce to donate based on their volume. For example if the basket's capacity is one hundred figs, we would donate two figs. These three agricultural periods relate to the ripening seasons of various fruits. Fruits that ripen earlier tend to be larger, so therefore a basket will hold fewer fruits. Whereas fruits which ripen later and tend to be smaller and more dried out.

Our *Mishnah* is usually interpreted in the context of the *mishnayot* preceding it. Many commentators, such as *Melechet Shlomo* and *Tiferet Yisrael*, explain that this *Mishnah*, like the ones before it, deals with *trumah gedolah* and teaches us that even though we are only supposed to estimate (not calculate) the amount of *trumah* we need to give, we must nevertheless determine the amount of available produce in order to be able to donate the amount that *Chazal* instructed us to donate. In this sense, while the exact volume of the produce is known, and the ideal amount of *trumah* can be calculated, we do not measure out this amount but estimate it when actually separating the *trumah*.

However, *Rambam* explains the *Mishnah* differently. *Rambam* defines the "basket" mentioned in the *Mishnah* as being the basket in which one measures *ma'asrot* (a tenth of the produce which is given to the Levi) and thus our *Mishnah* is not dealing with *trumah gedolah* which is an estimated donation, but rather with *trumat ma'aser*. *Trumat ma'aser* is given to the *Kohen* and comprises one tenth of the *ma'aser* that the *Levi* receives. *Trumat ma'aser* has a fixed amount that is mentioned in the torah – "*Ma'aser min hama'aser*" – "a tenth of a tenth" – and therefore the Levi does not estimate the amount of *trumat ma'aser* given, rather he gives an exact amount. It is with this in mind that *Rambam* explains our *Mishnah*. *Rambam* believes that because *Trumah gedolah* is a donation that is only ever estimated, it is not possible that our *Mishnah*, which discusses calculating the volume of a basket, is talking about *trumah gedolah*. Therefore the basket in our *Mishnah* must be the basket in which we measure *trumat ma'aser* so that in every season we can give the exact amount required.

Shmuli Wenig

בס"ד

Revision Questions

תרומות ד׳:א׳ – ה׳:א׳

- What is the law regarding a pile from which part of the intended *trumah gedolah* had been removed: (ד׳:א׳)
  - Once the *ma'asrot* have been removed?
  - With respect to other *tevel* produce?
- What is the law regarding a case where only a portion of the *ma'aser rishon* and *ma'aser ani* has been given – can one eat part of the remaining produce? (ד׳:ב׳)
- What are the three different sizes of *trumah gedolah*? (ד׳:ג׳)
- What is the law regarding one who separates the minimal amount of *trumah* and then decides to add more produce? (ד׳:ג׳)
- What is different about the way one can separate additional produce for *trumah* if they did not initially separate enough? (ד׳:ג׳)
- If someone was elected as a *shaliach* to separate *trumah gedolah*, but is unsure how much the owner wished to separate, can he still separate *trumah gedolah*? (ד׳:ד׳)
- What is the upper limit on the size of *trumah gedolah* if one wishes to separate more than the recommended *shiur*? (Include all three opinions) (ד׳:ה׳)
- What are the three times when the volumes of the baskets are measure?
- What is the preferential order of how one should measure the baskets (from the following options)? (ד׳:ו׳)
  - Number of items it contains,
  - Precise weight,
  - Weight of items it contains.
- If *trumah* becomes mixed with *chulin* produce, how many parts of *chulin* for every part of *trumah* is required such that the *trumah* is considered annulled? (ד׳:ז׳)
- Regarding the previous question, what is the status of the mixture if there is not enough *chulin*? (ד׳:ז׳)
- If, for example, the *chulin* produce are different colours, can they still combine to annul the *trumah*? (Include the three opinions) (ד׳:ח׳,ט׳)
- The previous case was an example where *R' Eliezer* ruled stringently, while *R' Yosi* ruled leniently – describe the case where *R' Eliezer* rule leniently and *R' Yosi* ruled stringently. (ד׳:י׳)
- Explain the debate regarding a case where *trumah* falls on top of a pile, and the entire top section is consequently removed. (ד׳:י"א)
- If *trumah* fell and got mixed up with *chulin*, yet one is unsure which of the two piles the *trumah* fell into – can the two piles combined to annul the *trumah* if the piles are in two separate houses? (ד׳:י"ב)
- What did *R' Akiva* rule in the case where a bundle of 50-50 *chulin-trumah* became mixed with fifty bundles of *chulin*? (ד׳:י"ג)
- Define what is meant by the term *meduma*? (ה׳:א׳)
- What must be done with: (ה׳:א׳)
  - *Tameh, meduma* produce?
  - *Tahor, meduma* produce?
  - A mixture of *trumah* and *ma'aser rishon*?
  - A mixture of *trumah* and *ma'aser sheni*?

Next Week's Mishnahyot...

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	שבת קודש
17th Apr. ח׳ ניסן	18th Apr. ט׳ ניסן	19th Apr. י׳ ניסן	20th Apr. י"א ניסן	21st Apr. י"ב ניסן	22nd Apr. י"ג ניסן	23rd Apr. י"ד ניסן
Trumot 5: 2-3	Trumot 5: 4-5	Trumot 5: 6-7	Trumot 5: 8-9	Trumot 6: 1:-2	Trumot 6: 3-4	Trumot 6: 5-6