

פְּשִׁיטָא! בַּת לְוִי מִן הַמַּעֲשֵׂר אֵינָהּ כֹּהֵן לְוִיָּהּ.

The Gemara asks: It is obvious that she is disqualified, as she is a *zona*, a woman who has had sexual relations with a man forbidden to her by the Torah and with whom she cannot establish a marital bond. The Gemara answers: Since it was necessary for the *tanna* to mention the disqualification of a daughter of a Levite from partaking of the tithe,^N he added that an Israelite woman is likewise disqualified from marrying into the priesthood.

וְבַת לְוִי מִן הַמַּעֲשֵׂר מִי מִפְּסֻלָּא בְּזוֹנוֹת? וְהִתְנַיָּא: לְוִיָּהּ שְׁנִשְׁבִּית, אִם שְׁנִבְעָהּ בְּעֵילָת זָנוּת, נוֹתְנִין לָהּ מַעֲשֵׂר וְאוֹכְלָת! אָמַר רַב שִׁשְׁתִּי: קְנָסָא.

The Gemara asks: And a daughter of a Levite, is she disqualified from partaking of the tithe^H by licentiousness? But isn't it taught in a *baraita*: In the case of a Levite woman who was captured, who may have had intercourse with one of her captors, or even in a case where a Levite woman definitely engaged in licentious sexual relations, we nevertheless give her first tithe and she may eat it? This indicates that an act of fornication does not disqualify a woman from partaking of the tithe. Rav Sheshet said: The disqualification is a penalty imposed by the Sages on this particular woman for not taking sufficient care, as she married without witness testimony as to her first husband's death.

"בַּת כֹּהֵן מִן הַתְּרוּמָה". אֶפְלוּ בְּתְרוּמָה דְרַבָּנָן.

§ The mishna further taught that the daughter of a priest in this situation is disqualified from partaking of *teruma*. The Gemara explains: This statement does not refer to *teruma* by Torah law, as it is obvious that she is prohibited to eat this produce. Rather, she is barred even from *teruma* that applies by rabbinic law.^N

"וְאִין יוֹרְשֵׁיוּ שֶׁל זֶה וְיוֹרְשֵׁיוּ שֶׁל זֶה יוֹרְשִׁין כְּתוּבָתָהּ" וְכוּ'. כְּתוּבָה מֵאִי עֵבִידְתָּהּ? אָמַר רַב פָּפָא: כְּתוּבַת בְּנִין דִּיבְרִין.

§ And the mishna also taught: Neither the heirs of this one nor the heirs of that one inherit her marriage contract. The Gemara asks: A marriage contract, what is its purpose; why mention the inheritance of a marriage contract after the mishna has just said that she is not entitled to the payment of a marriage contract at all? The Gemara answers: Rav Pappa said: This is referring to the marriage contract payment of the male sons. One of the conditions of a marriage contract is that any male children born to this woman who inherit from their father will receive the sum of her marriage contract in addition to their share of the inheritance with their other paternal brothers.

פְּשִׁיטָא! מַהוּ דְתִימָא: לְדִידָהּ דְעֵבְרָא אִיסוּרָא קְנָסוּהָ רַבָּנָן, לְזִרְעָהּ לֹא קְנָסוּ רַבָּנָן, קָא מְשַׁמְעֵ לָן.

The Gemara asks: This is obvious. Since she does not have a claim for the payment of her marriage contract, she is not entitled to the other conditions of a marriage contract either. The Gemara answers: It is necessary. Lest you say that with regard to the woman herself, who committed a prohibition, the Sages penalized her, but with regard to her offspring the Sages did not penalize them, as they did nothing wrong, the *tanna* therefore teaches us that the entire marriage contract is canceled, along with all its conditions.

HALAKHA

A daughter of a Levite...from the tithe – בַּת לְוִי מִן הַמַּעֲשֵׂר: A Levite woman who engaged in licentious sexual relations is still permitted to partake of first tithe. Therefore, a Levite woman who was captured and may or may not have had intercourse with her captor is certainly permitted to partake of first tithe. However, if a Levite woman married based on the testimony of one witness that her husband had died and her husband subsequently arrived, the Sages penalized her by prohibiting her to partake of the tithe, as stated by Rav Sheshet (Rambam *Sefer Zera'im*, *Hilkhot Ma'aser* 1:2).

NOTES

A daughter of a Levite from the tithe, etc. – בַּת לְוִי מִן הַמַּעֲשֵׂר: Some commentaries state that even Rabbi Meir agrees that a Levite woman who engages in licentious sexual relations is not disqualified from partaking of tithes (*Tosafot*). However, others apparently maintain that Rabbi Meir is of the opinion that a daughter of a Levite is barred from tithes not only by rabbinic law, as a penalty, but she is actually prohibited from eating first tithe by Torah law (Rambam; see Rashash). According to this opinion, the Gemara must be explained differently, as there is no novelty in her disqualification from tithes according to the opinion of Rabbi Meir, since he prohibits tithes to all regular Israelites. Rather, the Gemara must be referring to the opinion of the Rabbis (*Arukh LaNer*).

Even from *teruma* prohibited by rabbinic law – אֶפְלוּ בְּתְרוּמָה דְרַבָּנָן: Several early authorities dispute Rashi's claim that she is prohibited to partake of *teruma* by Torah law as a penalty. They contend that in the case of any woman who engaged in forbidden relations, even if she is not classified as a *zona*, e.g., if she engaged in intercourse against her will or unwittingly, she is nevertheless disqualified from partaking of *teruma* by Torah law. This *halakha* was necessary only to preclude the consideration that the Sages might not have prohibited her to partake of *teruma* by rabbinic law because she did not sin willingly. The Gemara therefore clarifies that the Sages even penalized her in that case, as rabbinical enactments are generally instituted on the model of Torah law (Ramban; Rashba).

He does not consummate levirate marriage, neither by Torah law nor by rabbinic law – לא מדאורייתא – ולא מייבבם, לא מדאורייתא – ולא מייבבם. The commentaries ask: It is clear why he performs *halitza*, but the Gemara has not explained why he cannot consummate levirate marriage, as she is not considered to have been married to his brother when the latter died. If so, why can't he marry her anyway, even though this is not considered levirate marriage (Rabbi Akiva Eiger)?

Some commentaries answer that the Gemara means that there is no mitzva by Torah law for him to perform levirate marriage, and therefore even if he had relations with her unwittingly or against her will he does not have to give her a bill of divorce, unlike an actual *yavam*, as the Sages did not decree that any aspect of levirate marriage should apply in this case (Rashash). Others suggest that he is considered the brother of one who engaged in licentious sexual relations with a woman, who is also forbidden to her by rabbinical decree (*Keren Ora*, based on Jerusalem Talmud).

Her found objects...which are monetary, they did not penalize her – דממונא הוא לא קניס. Although the Gemara mentions only two *halakhot* here, the same principle applies to the nullification of her vows. The phrasing is somewhat imprecise, as the key factor is not that the Sages are penalizing her, since the denial of her earnings to her husband is hardly a punishment for her. Rather, the important distinction is between the basic prohibition against sexual relations on the one hand and all the other obligations that stem from a marriage on the other hand (Rashba; see *Tosafot*).

”אחיו של זה ואחיו של זה חולצין ולא מייבבין.” אחיו של ראשון חולץ – מדאורייתא, ולא מייבבם – מדרבנן. אחיו של שני – חולץ מדרבנן, ולא מייבבם – לא מדאורייתא ולא מדרבנן.

”רבי יוסי אומר: כתובתה על נכסי בעלה” וכו'. אמר רב הונא: בתראי מודו לקמאי, קמאי לא מודו לבתראי.

רבי שמעון מודי ליה לרבי אלעזר דמה ביאה דעיקר איסורא לא קניס, וכל שכן מציאאיה ומעשה ידיה דממונא הוא. ורבי אלעזר לא מודי ליה לרבי שמעון: מציאאיה ומעשה ידיה דממונא הוא, לא קניס, אבל ביאה, דאיסורא הוא, קניס.

ותרוייהו מודו ליה לרבי יוסי: הני דיתבא תותיה לא קניס וכל שכן כתובה, דלמשקל ומיפק קאי. ורבי יוסי לא מודי להו, כתובה דלמשקל ומיפק – הוא דלא קניס, אבל הני דיתבא תותיה – קניס.

רבי יוחנן אמר: קמאי מודו לבתראי, בתראי לא מודו לקמאי, רבי יוסי מודי ליה לרבי אלעזר: כתובה דמדידה לדידה – לא קניס, וכל שכן מציאאיה ומעשה ידיה דמדידה לדידה.

ורבי אלעזר לא מודי ליה: מציאאיה ומעשה ידיה הוא דמדידה לדידה – לא קניס, אבל כתובה דמדידה לדידה – קניס.

§ The mishna further taught that the brothers of this one and the brothers of that one all perform *halitza*, and they do not consummate levirate marriage. The Gemara explains: The brother of the first one performs *halitza* by Torah law, as that woman is legally the wife of the first husband and therefore requires *halitza*. But he does not consummate levirate marriage by rabbinic law, as the Sages penalized her and prohibited her from returning to the first husband. Conversely, the brother of the second one performs *halitza* by rabbinic law, so that people do not say that a childless woman can leave her *yavam* without *halitza*. But he does not consummate levirate marriage, neither by Torah law nor by rabbinic law,ⁿ as her marriage to the second man was an error.

§ The mishna taught: Rabbi Yosei says that the obligation of her marriage contract is upon the property of her first husband. Rav Huna said: The last Sages in the mishna, Rabbi Elazar and Rabbi Shimon, concede to the first ones, and merely add to their statement. However, the first ones do not concede to the last Sages. In other words, the second set of Sages extend the rulings of the first Sages beyond the cases to which they specifically referred.

The Gemara clarifies this statement: Rabbi Shimon concedes to Rabbi Elazar. How so? For if with regard to sexual relations, which is the main prohibition, Rabbi Shimon did not penalize her, as he claims that the intercourse of the *yavam*, her first husband's brother, acquires her and exempts her rival wife, all the more so her first husband should be entitled to her found objects and her earnings, which are merely money. And yet Rabbi Elazar does not concede to Rabbi Shimon, as he claims that in the case of her found objects and her earnings, which are only money, the Sages did not penalize her,ⁿ but with regard to sexual intercourse, which is a prohibition, they did penalize her.

And Rabbi Shimon and Rabbi Elazar both concede to Rabbi Yosei with regard to a marriage contract. If in the case of these matters discussed above, which are relevant when she is living under her husband's authority and is treated as a married woman, the Sages did not penalize her, but allowed him to retain her found articles and earnings as though she were a full-fledged wife, all the more so they did not make her forfeit the marriage contract, which is designed for her to take and then leave the marriage. And by contrast, Rabbi Yosei does not concede to them. He maintains that in the case of a marriage contract, which is for her to take and leave, the Sages did not penalize her, but with regard to these other conditions, which take effect when she is still living under his authority, they did penalize her.

In contrast to Rav Huna, Rabbi Yohanan said: The first Sages concede to the last ones, but the last ones do not concede to the first Sages. According to Rabbi Yohanan, the statements of the first Sages are more inclusive, whereas the second Sages restrict and limit the previous rulings. How so? Rabbi Yosei concedes to Rabbi Elazar, as he reasons as follows: If with regard to a marriage contract, which is given from him to her, the Sages did not penalize her, as Rabbi Yosei maintains that since she did not sin willfully she is entitled to her marriage contract, all the more so they did not enforce a penalty with regard to her found objects and her earnings, which are from her to him. The Sages certainly did not cause him to forfeit something he has the right to claim from her.

And Rabbi Elazar does not agree with Rabbi Yosei with regard to a marriage contract. He claims that it is concerning her found objects and her earnings, which are from her to him, that the Sages did not penalize her. However, as pertains to the marriage contract, which is from him to her, the Sages did penalize her, as a punishment.

Those with whom relations are forbidden by Torah law do not require a bill of divorce – עריות שבתורה אין צריכות – הימנו גט: With regard to all forbidden women, if they married under the mistaken assumption that they were permitted to do so, when they discover their error they do not require a bill of divorce, as the act of betrothal is ineffective in these cases. One exception is a married woman who remarried with the permission of the court, in which case the Sages obligated the second husband to give her a bill of divorce (Rambam *Sefer Nashim, Hilkhot Geirushin* 10:9; *Shulhan Arukh, Even HaEzer* 15:27).

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Does she...require a bill of divorce – מי בעיא גט: There is a difference between the opinions of the Rabbis and Rabbi Shimon here. The Rabbis require the second man to give her a bill of divorce so as to publicize the fact that she is forbidden to the first husband, whereas Rabbi Shimon maintains that the second husband does not give her a bill of divorce at all, so that people not think his marriage was of any validity (Ramban; see *Tosafot*).

ותרויהו מודו ליה לרבי שמעון: ומה הגי דמחיים – לא קניסי, ביאה דלאחר מיתה לא כל שכן. ורבי שמעון לא מודי לה: ביאה הוא דלאחר מיתה – לא קניסי, אבל הגי דמחיים – קניסי.

And Rabbi Yosei and Rabbi Elazar both concede to Rabbi Shimon, for the following reason: And if with regard to these, i.e., her found objects and earnings or her marriage contract, which are given in his lifetime, the Sages did not penalize her, then with regard to the sexual relations of the *yavam*, which occur after the death of the husband, is it not all the more so that they should not penalize her, and she should remain permitted? And Rabbi Shimon does not concede to them, as it is only in the case of sexual relations, which occur after his death, that the Sages did not penalize her. However, with regard to these other matters, which apply during the husband's lifetime, the Sages did penalize her by depriving her of them.

”נשאת שלא ברשות” וכו'. אמר רב הונא אמר רב: הכי הלכתא. אמר ליה רב נחמן: גנבא גנובי למה לך? אי סבירא לך ברבי שמעון – אימא: הלכה ברבי שמעון, דשמעתין ברבי שמעון קאזלה.

§ The mishna taught that if she married without the consent of the court she is permitted to return to her first husband. Rav Huna said that Rav said: This is the *halakha*. Rav Nahman said to him: Why do you steal in, i.e., why do you state your opinion in a sneaky manner? If you maintain in accordance with the opinion of Rabbi Shimon, then you should explicitly say: The *halakha* is in accordance with the opinion of Rabbi Shimon, as your *halakha* follows the opinion of Rabbi Shimon.

וכי תימא, אי אמינא: הלכה ברבי שמעון משמע אפילו בקמייתא, אימא: הלכה ברבי שמעון באחרונה, קשיא.

And lest you say: If I were to say that the *halakha* is in accordance with the opinion of Rabbi Shimon, that would erroneously indicate that I agree with him even with regard to the first case, that of a married woman who married another on the basis of one witness. If so, you should say the following: The *halakha* is in accordance with the opinion of Rabbi Shimon with regard to the last case. The Gemara comments: Indeed, the question of why Rav Huna did not state his ruling in this manner is difficult.

אמר רב ששת: אמינא, כי ניים ושכיב רב אמרה להא שמעתתא. הלכה – מפלל דפליגי, מאי הוה לה למיעבד – מיאנס אנסה.

§ Rav Sheshet said: I say that when Rav dozed and was falling asleep he said this *halakha*. In other words, Rav did not examine the matter carefully, as this ruling is unnecessary. Rav Sheshet explains: From the fact that Rav declared a ruling of *halakha*, it may be inferred that others disagree with this opinion. However, there is actually no dispute here, as what could she have done? It is as though he raped her. Since she received the testimony of witnesses that her husband was dead, she had no reason to refrain from remarrying. Her actions cannot be considered willing, as why should she refrain from marrying after receiving the testimony of witnesses that her husband was dead? Her lack of knowledge in this matter renders this case analogous to a rape. And as is well known, a woman who was raped is permitted to return to her husband.

ועוד תנא: כל עריות שבתורה אין צריכות הימנו גט חוץ מאשת איש שניסת על פי בית דין. על פי בית דין הוא דבעיא גיטא, על פי עדים לא בעיא גיטא.

And it was further taught in a *baraita*: Any of those with whom relations are forbidden by Torah law do not require a bill of divorce^h to dissolve a union, except for a married woman who remarried by permission of the court. The Gemara infers: It is only a woman who married by permission of the court who requires a bill of divorce, but if she married based on testimony of witnesses she does not require a bill of divorce.

מני? אילימא רבי שמעון – על פי בית דין מי בעיא גט? והתנא, רבי שמעון אומר: עשו בית דין בהוראתן – כדון איש באשה, על פי עדים – בשגגת איש באשה, אידי ואידי לא בעיא גט.

The Gemara further inquires: Who is the author of this *baraita*? If we say it is Rabbi Shimon, in his opinion does a woman who married by permission of the court require a bill of divorceⁿ from the second man? But isn't it taught in a *baraita* that Rabbi Shimon says: If the court acted merely in accordance with their own instruction when they permitted a woman to remarry and her husband later arrived, it is as though this remarriage were a willful act of a man with a woman, and she is penalized like an intentional adulteress. Conversely, if she married based on testimony of witnesses, it is considered like an unwitting act of a man with a woman. Either way, neither in this case nor in that one, i.e., whether the marriage was in accordance with a decision of the court or based on witness testimony, does she require a bill of divorce, as a woman who committed adultery, whether unwittingly or intentionally, does not require a bill of divorce from the adulterer.

אֵלָא לָאוּ – רַבָּנָן הִיא.

Rather, is it not the case that this *baraita*, which states that a woman who engaged in forbidden relations, including one who married based on witnesses, does not require a bill of divorce, is in accordance with the opinion of the Rabbis? But if so, there was no need to issue a ruling to this effect, as everyone agrees that the *halakha* follows the majority opinion.

לְעוֹלָם רַבִּי שְׁמַעוֹן הִיא, וְתַרְיֵץ הֵכִי: רַבִּי שְׁמַעוֹן אָמַר עָשׂוּ בֵּית דִּין בְּהוֹרָאָתָן – בְּכוּוֹנֹת אִישׁ בְּאִשָּׁה [וּבְעֵינָא גַּט], עַל פִּי עֵדִים – כְּשֶׁלֹּא בְּכוּוֹנֹת אִישׁ בְּאִשָּׁה [וְלֹא בְּעֵינָא גַּט].

The Gemara refutes this suggestion: **Actually**, the *baraita* is in accordance with the opinion of **Rabbi Shimon**, and you should answer the difficulty as follows: **Rabbi Shimon says that if the court acted in accordance with their own instruction**, it is as though there was the intention of a man with a woman, i.e., as though the man had relations with the woman for the purpose of marriage, and therefore she requires a bill of divorce from him. Conversely, if she married based on testimony of witnesses they considered it as though there was no intention of a man with a woman, as he had relations with her without the intention of marriage, and in that case she does not require a bill of divorce.

רַב אֲשִׁי אָמַר: לְעֵנָן אִיסוּרָא קַתְנִי וְהֵכִי קֵאָמַר: עָשׂוּ בֵּית דִּין בְּהוֹרָאָתָן – כְּדוּדוֹן אִישׁ בְּאִשָּׁה וּמִיתְסָרָא עַל בַּעֲלָהּ, עַל פִּי עֵדִים – כְּשֶׁגִּגַּת אִישׁ בְּאִשָּׁה וְלֹא מִיתְסָרָא עַל בַּעֲלָהּ.

Rav Ashi said that there is no difficulty here at all, as Rabbi Shimon's statement should be explained differently. In fact, Rabbi Shimon taught his ruling with regard to the prohibition involved, not the issue of a bill of divorce, and this is what he said: If the court acted in accordance with their own instruction, it is as though this was a willful act of a man with a woman, and she is therefore forbidden to her husband like a woman who intentionally engaged in relations with another man. However, if she married based on testimony of witnesses, they considered it as though it was an unwitting act of a man with a woman, and she is not forbidden to her husband.

Perek X
Daf 91 Amud b

רַבִּינָא אָמַר: לְעֵנָן קְרָבָן קַתְנִי, עָשׂוּ בֵּית דִּין בְּהוֹרָאָתָן – כְּדוּדוֹן אִישׁ בְּאִשָּׁה וְלֹא מִתְנִיא קְרָבָן, עַל פִּי עֵדִים – כְּשֶׁגִּגַּת אִישׁ בְּאִשָּׁה וּמִתְנִיא קְרָבָן.

Ravina said that this *baraita* is taught with regard to an offering,^N and it should be explained as follows: If the court acted in accordance with their own instruction, it is as though this was a willful act of a man with a woman, and she therefore does not bring an offering, as an individual who followed the ruling of the court is exempt from bringing an offering (see *Horayot* 2a–b). If she married based on testimony of witnesses, it is considered as though this was an unwitting act of a man with a woman, and therefore she brings an offering.

וְאִיבְעִית אֵימָא: הָא קַמְיִיתָא רַבָּנָן הִיא, וְתַרְיֵץ הֵכִי: חוּץ מֵאִשְׁתְּ אִישׁ וְשִׁנְסַת עַל פִּי בֵּית דִּין.

And if you wish, say and refute Rav Sheshet's difficulty in the following manner: **This first *baraita***, which exempts forbidden women from a bill of divorce, is the opinion of the Rabbis, who prohibit a woman in this situation to her husband, even if she had married another based on witnesses. And you should answer the difficulty by reading the relevant clause of the *baraita* as follows: **Apart from a married woman** who married on the basis of witness testimony, and this includes one who married by permission of the court, as she too requires a bill of divorce.

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Ravina said it is taught with regard to an offering – רַבִּינָא – אָמַר לְעֵנָן קְרָבָן קַתְנִי because he felt that Rabbi Shimon's statement does not refer to

the relationship between a man and woman at all, including the issue of a bill of divorce. Rather, it concerns her obligations to God, e.g., the requirement to bring an offering (Ritva).

Suitable [hogenet] – הוגנת: Possibly from the Greek *eūgenēs*, *eugenēs*, meaning privileged or wellborn. Other uses of this word may have been influenced by the Greek *eūge*, *euge*, meaning well, right, or proper. Here, however, the word is used in its precise meaning, as an improper kingdom is indeed considered ill-bred or of a lower grade, a description befitting the Roman Empire.

NOTES

A kingdom that is not suitable – מלכות שאינה הוגנת: According to Rashi and other commentaries, this phrase is a derogatory reference to Rome, which was considered an uncultured dominion by the Sages, notwithstanding its immense power (see *Tosafot Yeshanim*). With regard to the *halakha* itself, a document written in one kingdom that was dated by the years of a different realm is invalid, especially if that kingdom had no proper legal authority. Some commentaries add that due to the importance of a bill of divorce the Sages were more particular about it than about regular documents, as the secular authorities would object if an unofficial date was written in a document of this significance (*Tosafot*).

To the building of the Temple – לבנין הבית: Some commentaries note that, notwithstanding this *halakha*, over the course of the generations it was the custom to inscribe the year from Creation in marriage contracts. This was permitted because it was the established manner of writing all other types of documents, and the ruling authorities were not particular about documents meant for the internal use of the Jewish community (*Tosafot Yeshanim*).

Was given in the east – היה במזרח: The commentaries disagree with regard to which person was located in the wrong place. Some claim that this is referring to the husband (Rivan), whereas others maintain that it is referring to the scribe (*Tosafot*). Others also state that it refers to the scribe, explaining that as people recognize the scribe's handwriting they might cast doubt on the validity of the bill of divorce, knowing that this scribe was not in the vicinity of the place in which the document was supposedly written (*Tosefot HaRosh*).

What could she have done – מאי הוה לה למיעבד: The commentaries explain that this question is raised in cases of ascending order of difficulty. In other words, each subsequent case is harder to explain away as something the woman could have avoided by a simple examination (*Tosafot*). Some add that these difficulties were raised by various Sages from different generations. Since each of them must have known about the previous questions, they would not have posed the same question, and therefore *Tosafot* found it necessary to explain that the difficulties are not the same (Maharsha).

She should have waited – איבעי לה לאמתוני: The commentaries state that a woman who turned out to be a sexually underdeveloped woman would have shown some signs of this condition beforehand. Therefore, the rival wife should have waited until her status was fully established (Ritva).

מתיב עולא: מי אמרין מאי הוה לה למיעבד? והתנן: כתב לשים מלכות שאינה הוגנת, לשים מלכות מדי, לשים מלכות יון, לבנין הבית, לחורבן הבית היה במזרח וכתב במערב, במערב וכתב במזרח –

Ulla raised an objection against Rav Sheshet's reasoning: Do we say this justification: What could she have done? Is a woman considered to have acted under duress when she had no way to avoid sin? But didn't we learn in a mishna (*Gittin* 79b): If a man wrote a bill of divorce and dated it according to a kingdom that is not suitable [hogenet],^{LN} i.e., one that does not reign over their place of residence; or according to the kingdom of Media or according to the kingdom of Greece, which are no longer in existence; or if he dated it according to the building of the Temple^N or according to the destruction of the Temple; and similarly if the bill of divorce was given in the east^N and he wrote in it a place in the west, or in the west and he wrote a place in the east, this bill of divorce is invalid.

Consequently, if she married another man she must leave this one and that one, both the one who gave her the bill of divorce and the new husband. And all these matters mentioned in the mishna here, the penalties imposed on a married woman who remarried unlawfully, apply to her. The Gemara asks: But why? Let us say: What could she have done.^N She acted under duress, as she married again only because she thought the bill of divorce was valid. The Gemara answers: This woman did not act under duress, as she should have had the bill of divorce read by a scholar, who would have told her that it was invalid.

Rav Shimi bar Ashi said: Come and hear a different proof. With regard to one who married his *yevama*, and the rival wife of the *yevama* went and married someone else, and this *yevama* was later discovered to be a sexually underdeveloped woman, which means that she was never eligible for levirate marriage and therefore her act of intercourse did not exempt her rival wife from levirate marriage, the rival wife must leave this one and that one, i.e., her husband must give her a bill of divorce and she may not marry the *yavam*, and all these matters apply to her. But why? Again, let us say: What could she have done. The Gemara answers: This is no proof, as she should have waited^N until it was clearly established that the other wife was not a sexually underdeveloped woman.

Abaye said: Come and hear: With regard to all those with whom relations are forbidden, with regard to whom the Sages said that they exempt their rival wives, if these rival wives went and married, and one of these forbidden women was discovered to be a sexually underdeveloped woman, which means that the obligation of levirate marriage did not apply to her at all, and it was the rival wives who should have performed levirate marriage, the rival wife must leave both this and that, and all these matters apply to her.^H But why? Let us say: What could she have done. The Gemara answers as before: She should have waited.

Rava said: Come and hear: A scribe wrote a bill of divorce for the man^H and a receipt for the woman, so that the man should give the bill of divorce to his wife and she should give him the receipt upon his delivery of the marriage contract. And the scribe erred and gave the bill of divorce to the woman and the receipt to the man, leaving them with the mistaken impression that he had the bill of divorce and she the receipt, and they gave each other the documents, this one to that one and that one to this one.

HALAKHA

צרת יבמה – The rival wife of a *yevama* who married in error – כתב סופר גט לאיש ושובר לאשה, וטעה ונתן גט לאשה ושובר לאיש, ונתנו זה לזה וזה לזה: If a man had two wives, one of whom was forbidden to his brother, both wives are exempt from levirate marriage upon the death of their husband. If the other wife proceeded to marry another man, and it was subsequently discovered that the one who was forbidden was a sexually underdeveloped woman, who does not exempt her rival wife, the rival wife must leave her husband with a bill of divorce, and she requires *halitza* from the *yavam* to permit her to a different man (*Shulhan Arukh, Even HaEzer* 173:10).

כתב סופר – A scribe wrote a bill of divorce for the man, etc. – גט לאיש וכו': A scribe wrote a bill of divorce and a receipt for the marriage contract and accidentally gave the receipt to the man and the bill of divorce to the woman, and they failed to notice and simply exchanged the documents. If the woman remarried under the mistaken impression that she was divorced, she must leave both men and all the penalties imposed by the Sages apply to her (*Shulhan Arukh, Even HaEzer* 151:1).

If he changed his name or his wife's name – שינה שמו – וְשָׂמָה: In a bill of divorce, if a man changed his name or his wife's name, or his town or her town, or even if he added the phrase: Any name he has and any name she has, the bill of divorce is invalid. According to some authorities, this bill of divorce is invalid by Torah law, and therefore all the penalties stated in the mishna apply to her (Rambam). Others maintain that the bill of divorce is invalid by rabbinic law, which means that if she married another man their child is fit to enter the congregation (*Tosafot*). The wording of the *Shulhan Arukh* does not offer conclusive proof for either ruling (*Beit Shmuel*; Rambam *Sefer Nashim, Hilkhot Geirushin* 3:14, 10:4; *Shulhan Arukh, Even HaEzer* 129:3, 150:1).

וְלֵאחֶר זְמַן הָרִי הִגֵּט יוֹצֵא מִתַּחַת יָדֵי הָאִשָּׁה, וְשׁוֹבֵר מִתַּחַת יָדֵי הָאִשָּׁה – תֵּצֵא מִזֶּה וּמִזֶּה וְכָל הַדְּרוֹכִים הָאֵלוּ בָּהּ. וְאִמָּאִי? נִמָּא מֵאֵי הָהּ לָהּ לְמִיעֶבֶד? אִיבְעִי לָהּ לְאַקְרוּי לְגִיטָא.

אָמַר רַב אֲשִׁי: תָּא שְׁמַע, שִׁינָה שְׁמוֹ וְשָׂמָה, שֵׁם עִירוֹ וְשֵׁם עִירָה – תֵּצֵא מִזֶּה וּמִזֶּה וְכָל הַדְּרוֹכִים הָאֵלוּ בָּהּ. וְאִמָּאִי? נִמָּא מֵאֵי הָהּ לָהּ לְמִיעֶבֶד? אִיבְעִי לָהּ לְאַקְרוּי לְגִיטָא.

אָמַר רַבִּינָא: תָּא שְׁמַע, בְּנִסָּה בְּגִט קָרַח – תֵּצֵא מִזֶּה וּמִזֶּה כּו'. אִיבְעִי לָהּ לְאַקְרוּי לְגִיטָא.

רַב פַּפָּא סָבַר לְמִיעֶבֶד עוֹבְדָא בְּמֵאֵי הָהּ לָהּ לְמִיעֶבֶד, אָמַר לִיהּ רַב הוּנָא בְּרִיהּ דְּרַב יְהוֹשֻׁעַ דְּרַב פַּפָּא: וְהִתְנָא כָּל הַנִּי מִתְנִיָּתָא!

אָמַר לִיהּ: וְלָאוּ שְׁנִינְהוּ? אָמַר לִיהּ: וְאִשְׁנִינְוִי לִיקוּ וְלִיִּסְמוּךְ? (וּפְסָק).

אָמַר רַב אֲשִׁי: וְלִקְלָא לָא חִיִּי שִׁנְיָ הֵי קְלָא? אִילִימָא קְלָא דְּבִתְרַי נְשׁוּאִין – הָא אָמְרָה רַב אֲשִׁי חֲדָא וְיִמְנָא, דְּאָמַר רַב אֲשִׁי:

And after a while it became clear that the bill of divorce is in the man's possession and the receipt in the woman's possession, and no act of divorce had been performed at all. If the woman had married someone else in the meantime she must leave both this one and that one, and all these matters apply to her. But why? Let us say: What could she have done. The Gemara answers: Here too, she should have had the bill of divorce read by an expert.

Rav Ashi said: Come and hear: If a man changed his name, or his wife's name,⁴ or the name of his city, or the name of her city, and she remarried, she must leave both this one and that one, and all these matters apply to her. But why? Let us say: What could she have done. The Gemara answers: Once again, she should have had the bill of divorce read by a scholar.

Ravina said: Come and hear: A man married a woman on the basis that she was divorced. However, she had actually received a bare bill of divorce, i.e., missing a signature.⁵ This is referring to a special type of bill of divorce, one that was folded and sewn up. It requires as many witnesses as the number of lines it contains. If a bill of divorce of this kind does not have enough witnesses, it is invalid. In the case of the *baraita*, if this woman married another man after receiving this bill of divorce, she must leave both this one and this one, and all these penalties apply to her. Again, the question is: What could she have done? The Gemara answers, as before: She should have had the bill of divorce read by someone who could have told her it was invalid.

The Gemara relates: Rav Pappa thought to take action and permit a woman to return to her husband based on the rationale: What could she have done. In a case where she had no means of clarifying the matter, he ruled that she should be considered to have acted under duress. Rav Huna, son of Rav Yehoshua, said to Rav Pappa: But isn't it taught repeatedly in all these *mishnayot* that this argument is not accepted?

Rav Pappa said to Rav Huna, son of Rav Yehoshua: And did we not resolve these *mishnayot*, by explaining that in those particular cases she did have the option of clarifying the matter? He said to him: And shall we stand and rely on answers?⁶ Admittedly, we found some way of resolving these questions, but the accumulation of difficulties indicates that the rationale: What could she have done, is unacceptable. And indeed, Rav Pappa ceased to follow his original intention and did not issue a lenient ruling.

S The Gemara discusses the case of the mishna from another perspective. Rav Ashi said: And we are not concerned about a rumor. In other words, if there was an unsubstantiated rumor that the husband was alive, the court takes no notice of it. The Gemara asks: Which kind of rumor does he mean? If we say that this is referring to a rumor that spread after the marriage of this woman to another man, Rav Ashi has already said this once, as Rav Ashi said:

BACKGROUND

גִּט קָרַח – This uniquely bound bill of divorce was originally established by the Sages to discourage priests from divorcing their wives, as a priest cannot marry a divorcée, even a woman that he himself divorced. Therefore, the Sages were concerned that a priest might divorce his wife in haste, due to momentary anger, and be unable to remarry her. To prevent this occurrence they instituted a bound bill of divorce. Since a bound bill of divorce is complicated to

prepare and requires many witnesses, this process provides time for the husband to change his mind before the divorce is finalized. Most commentaries maintain that this document involves interspersing written and blank lines, as each written line was folded over a blank line and sewn together. The witnesses would sign on the reverse, exposed side of the bill of divorce, between the rows. If witnesses neglected to sign one line on this document, it lacks the requisite number of signatures and is invalid.

NOTES

וְאִשְׁנִינְוִי לִיקוּ וְלִיִּסְמוּךְ – And shall we stand and rely on answers – This refers to answers that are somewhat far-fetched solutions, which prove that other explanations are available but hardly offer convincing alternatives. Consequently, the Gemara will occasionally say: The answer we answered is an answer, i.e., the response given is not a mere rejoinder but a reliable claim of

substance. In this particular case, the accumulation of difficulties from various *mishnayot*, all of which appear to reject the principle: What could she have done, lead to the conclusion that this principle is not accepted, despite the fact that none of the contradictions are decisive in of themselves (see Rabbi Avraham min HaHar).