



## Talmud Tales – Session 21 – Returning Home

### **BT Ketubot 62b**

Rabbi Chama bar Bar Bisa went away [from home] and spent twelve years at the House of Study. When he returned he said, “I will not act as did Ben Chachinai (*see next page*).”

He therefore entered the [local] House of Study and sent word to his house.

Meanwhile, his son, Rabbi Oshaia, entered and sat down before him. R. Oshaia addressed to him a question concerning the law.

He saw how well verse he was in his studies.

He became very depressed.

He said to himself, “Had I been here, I also could have had such a child.”

He entered his house. His son came after him.

R. Chama rose before him, thinking that he wished to ask him some further legal questions.

His wife said to him, “What kind of man stands up before his son?”

*Background on Ben Chachinai – Bereshit Rabbah 95*

R. Chanina b. Chachinai and R. Simeon b. Yochai went to study Torah at R. Akiba's college at B'nei Berak, and stayed there for thirteen years. R. Simeon b. Yochai used to send home [for news] and knew what was happening at his house. R. Chanina did not send and did not know what was happening at his house.

His wife sent him word and told him, "Your daughter is marriageable, come and get her married." [He said nothing to his master.]. Nevertheless, R. Akiva saw it by means of the Holy Spirit and he said to him, "If anyone has a marriageable daughter he may go and get her married."

R. Chanina understood what he meant, so he rose, took leave, and went. He sought to enter into his house, but found its appearance had been changed [and so did not recognize it].

What did he do? He went and sat down at the place where the women drew water and heard the voices of the little girls saying, "Daughter of Chanina, fill your vessel and go."

What did he do? He followed her until she entered his house. He went in after her suddenly. No sooner did his wife see him then her soul departed.

Said he to God, "Sovereign of the Universe! Is that the reward of this poor woman, after thirteen years of waiting?" Thereupon her soul returned to her body.