



Talmud Tales – Session 27 – Apologies

BT Yoma 87a

It is further related that Rav had a grievance against a certain butcher who had insulted him. The butcher did not come before him to apologize.

On Yom Kippur eve, Rav said: “I will go and appease him.” He met his student Rabbi Huna, who said to him: “Where is my Master going?” He replied: “I am going to affect a reconciliation with the butcher.

Rav Huna said: “Abba is going to kill a person.” Rav went and stood by the butcher who was sitting and breaking the bones of an animal. The butcher raised his eyes and saw Rav. He said to him: “Are you Abba? Go away, I have nothing to say to you.” While he was breaking the bones of the head, one of the bones shot out and struck him in the throat and killed him.

BT Sotah 47a

What is the incident of Rabbi Yehoshua b. Perachiah and his student? — When King Yannai was killing our Rabbis, Rabbi Yehoshua b. Perachiah was hidden by his sister, wife of the king. Rabbi Yehoshua b. Perachiah then fled to Alexandria in Egypt.

On the resumption of peace, Simeon ben Shetach sent to him: “From, Jerusalem, the holy city, to you, Alexandria in Egypt, my sister. My master dwells within thee and I am desolate.”

Upon receiving this letter, Rabbi Yehoshua said, “From this I infer that there is peace in Jerusalem.” He left Alexandria to return to Jerusalem.

Along the way, he found himself in a certain inn, where great honor was shown him. He sat and praised the hostess: “How nice is this hostess!” Thereupon, one of his students observed: “Rabbi, her eyes are round/narrow.”

Rabbi Yehoshua rebuked him saying, “Wicked one! Is this with what you occupy yourself?” He sounded four hundred trumpets and excommunicated the student. Every day, the student came before him pleading for Rabbi Yehoshua to forgive him. But he would not receive him.

One day, Rabbi Yehoshua was reciting the Shema when the student came before him. Rabbi Yehoshua intended to receive him and made a sign to him. The student, thinking that the hand motion was to push him away, went, put up a brick, and worshipped it.

Subsequently, Rabbi Yehoshua said to him: “Repent.” He replied: “I have thus learned from you: ‘Whoever sins and causes others to sin is not given the opportunity to repent.’ And a Master has said, “This student practiced magic and led them astray, and caused Israel to sin.”