



A man's credibility to cost his kallah her ketubah of a betulah

- Rav Yehudah/Shemuel: Saying there were no betulim is sufficient to cost her the ketubah of a betulah^{1 2}
- ...
- (10a) Is the ketubah biblical or rabbinic?³
 - View 1: Rav Nachman – It's rabbinic, and we believe him, as Rava explains, because we have a chazakah that he wouldn't work for the wedding meal and then ruin everything...
 - View 2: Rabban Shimon ben Gamliel – It's biblical
- Rav Nachman had a fellow whipped with spiky palm branches when he claimed there were no betulim⁴
 - Q: But Rav Nachman said he is believed!
 - A1: Yes – believe him, but whip him for how he learned to tell whether there are betulim
 - A2 from Rav Achai: We believe a man who has been married before.
- A man claimed before Rabban Gamliel that he had not found betulim
 - Rabban Gamliel raised the possibility of relations that shift the betulim aside,⁵ accidentally or intentionally
- A man claimed before Rabban Gamliel bar Rebbe⁶ that there had been no blood
 - Rabban Gamliel bar Rebbe found blood by laundering the sheet
 - Huna Mar breih d'Rava MiPrizkiya asked Rav Ashi about laundering, but Rav Ashi said their laundering wouldn't be strong enough to do this, and their stonewashing would eliminate the blood
 - (10b) Rabban Gamliel responded to a claim of no blood with the barrel test⁷
 - He first tested it on maids who were known to be betulah and non-betulah, as he was not confident in its implementation⁸
 - And he did not want to degrade *bnot Yisrael*⁹

רא"ש כתובות א:ט

וראיתי מפרשים דאפילו הרגילו לכתוב "דחזו ליכי מדאורייתא" מודו דכתובת אשה דרבנן, וחכמים תקנו "חמשים כסף מדאורייתא" פ"י משקלים האמורים בתורה, משום שלא תהא קלה בעיניו להוציאה, ואסמכוה אקרא ד'כמוהר הבתולות'. משום הכי נהיגי למיכתב "דחזו ליכי מדאורייתא" שלא יטעה אדם לומר כיון דמדרבנן היא לא תגבה אלא נ' סלע מדינה. ודברים של טעם הם. והכותב "כסף זוזי מאתן דחזו ליכי" לא הפסיד:

The line of the Nasi Hillel; Rabban Gamliel HaZaken (I); Rabban Shimon ben Gamliel the Martyr; Rabban Gamliel בריבי (II, the most famous to us); Rabban Shimon ben Gamliel (of the Mishnah); Rabbi Yehudah HaNasi (Rebbe), Rabban Gamliel בר רבי (III)

¹ As well as to prohibit them to each other (Tosafot)

² But why, if there is no evidence? (Rashi, based on Rava 10a; and Tosafot למיתב א)

³ If it is the latter, what is the point of the ketubah?

⁴ He must have been with zonot (Rashi); He is lying (Tosafot)

⁵ This is consistent with observed biology – see <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6547601/>

⁶ This is the great-grandson of the usual Rabban Gamliel (II). For good sources on this, see R' Aharon Heiman's אמוראים וטולדות תנאים at <https://www.hebrewbooks.org/pdfpager.aspx?req=43956>

⁷ I saw a fascinating explanation for the biology of this test: <https://www.toraland.org.il/%d7%a9%d7%90%d7%9c%d7%95%d7%aa-%d7%95%d7%aa%d7%a9%d7%95%d7%91%d7%95%d7%aa/%d7%a8%d7%a4%d7%95%d7%90%d7%94-%d7%95%d7%94%d7%9c%d7%9b%d7%94/%d7%9c%d7%a4%d7%a0%d7%99-%d7%9e%d7%99%d7%95%d7%9f/%d7%a8%d7%a4%d7%95%d7%90%d7%94-%d7%95%d7%94%d7%9c%d7%9b%d7%94/%d7%91%d7%93%d7%99%d7%a7%d7%aa-%d7%91%d7%aa%d7%95%d7%9c%d7%99%d7%9d-%d7%a9%d7%9c-%d7%a8%d7%91%d7%9f-%d7%92%d7%9e%d7%9c%d7%99%d7%90%d7%9c-%d7%9c%d7%90%d7%95%d7%a8-%d7%94%d7%99%d7%93%d7%a2-%d7%94%d7%a8%d7%a4%d7%95%d7%90%d7%99/>

⁸ This makes sense; as per Ketuvot 36b, the test could not be run on a בוגרת, as the betulim deteriorate naturally over time.

⁹ In the initial trial run (Talmidei Rabbeinu Yonah); In running the actual test on the kallah without a trial run (Chavruta)