

65a

Mishnah: Omer procedure, and countering<sup>1</sup> the Boethusians<sup>2</sup>

Gemara: The defeat of the Boethusians regarding the start date of the Omer count

- Megilas Taanis – Celebrating the victory regarding the Tamid and Shavuos
- May an individual donate the korban tamid?
- Do we start counting the omer on the day after Yom Tov or the day after the ensuing Shabbos?
  - First they argued from ממחרת השבת, and R' Yochanan ben Zakkai rebutted this (Maharsha)
  - Then they argued that Moshe gave us back-to-back oneg
  - Response #1 – R' Yochanan ben Zakkai
    - (65b) Then why did we spend 40 yrs in midbar?! It should have been an 11 day trip!<sup>3</sup>
    - The Torah says (a) Count 50 days, and (b) Count 7 weeks; sometimes (a), sometimes (b).<sup>4</sup>
  - #2 – R' Eliezer – תספור לך – It's beis din, which isn't needed for שבת בראשית<sup>6</sup>
  - #3 – R' Yehoshua – The Torah says<sup>5</sup> to count עומר & חדש; both are recognizable close to their ביאה<sup>6</sup>
  - #4 – R' Yishmael – עומר and שתי הלהם are connected – both are on רגל, and at start of רגל
  - #5 – R' Yehoshua<sup>7</sup> ben Beseirah – It says שבת here and for ב' הלהם, both are רגל and start of רגל
  - #6 – R' Yosi bar Yehudah
    - Tanna Kama – וספרתם לכם – You count, each of you<sup>8</sup>
    - R' Yosi bar Yehudah – We don't want a varying number of days from Pesach to Shavuos
  - (66a) #2 – R' Yehudah ben Beseirah – תספור לך – Like R' Eliezer above in #2.
  - #7 – R' Yosi – שבת בראשית could be any שבת of the year. Further, like #5.

---

<sup>1</sup> With raised voices and longer answers? (Rashi, Rashash)

<sup>2</sup> Generally assumed to be a sub-set of Sadducees. Interesting reading: *Rabbinic Perceptions of the Boethusians* (Harari, dissertation), *The Name of the Boethusians* (Schremer, Journal of Jewish Studies), *The attraction of aristocratic women to Pharisaism during the Second Temple period* (Tal, Harvard Theological Review)

<sup>3</sup> And even the 11 days needed only 3 days (Tosafot)

<sup>4</sup> But we never actually count 50 days! (Tosafot, Shitah Mekubetzet)

<sup>5</sup> Really? (Tosafot)

<sup>6</sup> For Chodesh and Omer, count from last molad (Rashi); For Chodesh and Shavuos, look at the moon (Rabbeinu Tam); For Chodesh and Shavuos, count from last cycle (Tosafot)

<sup>7</sup> This may be R' Yehudah ben Beseirah; the later one may not be R' Yehudah ben Beseirah, or may be a different person (Tosafot)

<sup>8</sup> With a berachah for Yovel and for Omer, but not for Zavah (Tosafot)