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Digest
Mishna Berura
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סימן תרצ"א סעיף ג'-ה'

Halacha Highlight

Writing the names of the ten sons of Haman

Shulchan Aruch Siman 691 Seif 3
עשרת בני המן צריך לכתבה כשירה
The names of the ten sons of Haman must be written as a song

Shulchan Aruch (סעי' ג') writes that the names of the ten sons of Haman must be written in the style of a song. However, it is not written in the style used for most songs where the words are written above empty space; instead the names of Haman's sons are written in two columns of text with a column of empty space between them. In the event that it was not written in this manner the *megilla* is invalid. Some *Poskim* write that one should make an effort to have eleven lines per column in a *megilla* so that one could write the names of Haman's sons with the same size letters that one uses for the remainder of the *megilla*. In the event the scribe wrote more than eleven lines per column and consequently the scribe had to write the names of the ten sons of Haman in larger letters, the *megilla* remains valid. A scribe should also make an effort for the word איש to be written at the top of the column that contains the names of the ten sons of Haman and the word עשרת to be written as the last word of the column (חזון עובדיה פורים עמ' רנ"ו).

Mishnah Berurah (ס"ק י"ז) writes that the empty space should be twice the size of the text (כפלים מן הכתב). Minchas Yitzchok (ח"ג סי' נ"ה) explains that Mishnah Berurah's intent is that the empty space should be double the size of the text of one column and it is not necessary for it to be double the size of the text on the two sides combined. In other words, the empty space should be twice the size of the word ואת that appears in the left column or twice the size of the names that appear in the right column. He adds that this requirement is only *l'chatchila* and he notes that many scribes are not particular about this matter. Rav Yosef Shalom Elyashiv (קבוץ לשכת הקודש גליון ב' עמ' רס"ז), on the other hand, contends that the empty space must be double the size of the text on the two sides.

Overview

Siman 691 Seif 3:

The ten sons of Haman must be written in the style of a song but not like other songs that are written with blank space over the text, rather the blank space is left between two columns of text and if one did not do so, the *megilla* is invalid.

- The blank space is twice as wide as the text. (M.B. 17)

Siman 691 Seif 4:

The "ו" of the word ויזתא must be long (when written and some maintain even when read). **The word איש must be at the beginning of a column and the word ואת at the end of a column.**

- One must pull up the bent head so that it appears to be hanging to indicate that they were hung at once. (M.B. 18)
- Meaning, it should not be snatched. (M.B. 19)
- In other words, it should be at the end of a line but the end of the column should have the word עשרת written. There is a dispute whether a *megilla* is valid if one wrote additional lines after the word עשרת. Sha'ar Ephraim writes that if another valid *megilla* is available one should not use this one to read publicly but if obtaining another one will involve a delay they may read from it. (M.B. 20)

Siman 691 Seif 5:

If it was sewn with linen threads it is invalid.