

Anger Ruins The House

לא כַּד הָיָה הַמַּעֲשֶׂה בְּבֵית הַכְּנֶסֶת שֶׁל טַבְרִיָּא בְּגֵר שֵׁישׁ בְּרֹאשׁוֹ גְּלוּסְטְרָא, שֶׁנֶּחֱלְקוּ בּוֹ רַבִּי אֶלְעָזָר וְרַבִּי יוֹסִי עַד שֶׁקָּרְעוּ סֵפֶר תּוֹרָה בְּחִמְתָּן. קָרְעוּ סֵלֶקָא דְּעֵתֵיךְ? אֵלֶּא אִימָא שֶׁנִּקְרַע סֵפֶר תּוֹרָה בְּחִמְתָּן. וְהָיָה שֶׁם רַבִּי יוֹסִי בֶּן קִיסְמָא, אָמַר: תִּמְיָה אֲנִי אִם לֹא יִהְיֶה בֵּית הַכְּנֶסֶת זֶה עֲבוּדָה זָרָה, וְכֵן הָיָה.

It happened, did it not, in the synagogue of Tiberias over the issue of a doorstep that had a knob on the top of it! Rabbi Eleazar and Rabbi Yose disagreed to the point where they ripped a Torah scroll in their anger. Do you really think that they ripped it? Rather, say that a Torah scroll got ripped in their anger. Rabbi Yose ben Kisma was there and he said: I would be surprised if this synagogue didn't become a place of idolatry, and so it was. (Yevamot 96b).