שקרא לפניו כהן – That a *kohain* read before him

Overview

רבי יהושע בן לוי was מעלה a person to לויה based on the testimony that he read in the תורה after a כהן. Our תוספות qualifies this ruling.

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פירוש[[1]](#footnote-1) פעם אחת:

The explanation why this proof is valid is because the כהן read only one time; he had only one עליה. If there would be no לוי, the כהן would have read twice (received two עליות).

Summary

If a כהן receives one עליה we can be certain that the following עליה was given to a לוי.

Thinking it over

Why was it necessary for תוספות to tell us that כהן read one time (only) and not twice, when the גמרא clearly states that the עד said שקרא שני בביהכנ"ס; indicating that he received the second עליה; obviously the כהן read only once?!

1. תוספות (by saying פירוש) is seemingly negating פירש"י (בד"ה שקרא לפניו), who maintains that if he was not a לוי they would have called up two כהנים (for the first two עליות). תוספות disagrees for we do not call up two כהנים, but rather the same כהן receives the first two עליות. Therefore תוספות writes 'פעם אחת'; the כהן, preceding this לוי, read only once (he only received the עליה of כהן), indicating that the second עליה was for a לוי. See מהרש"א. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)