

Question: How do we know ARM tefillin is put on before HEAD tefillin?

TALMUD: (Deut. 6:8): "You shall bind them as a sign upon your hand (and then) and they shall be frontlets between your eyes." Whenever they're 'between your eyes' they should be two.

SIFRI: (Deut. 6:8): "You shall bind them as a sign upon your arm and (then) they shall be frontlets between your eyes." Put the arm first, then the head.

MECHILTA: (Exodus 13:9): "It shall be to a sign upon your arm & (then) frontlets between your eyes." The Mitzvah of Tefillin must be in order, arm before head.

Let us understand the differences:

1. Different verses are used in Talmud/Sifri vs. Mechilta. Why not derive from 1st verse in Torah (Exodus)?
2. Different logic is used in Talmud vs. Sifri (even though verse is same)
3. Sifri emphasizes: Put arm first; remove head first.
4. Mechilta emphasizes: Mitzvah of Tefillin must be...

	TALMUD	SIFRI	MECHILTA
Source:	Deut. “Bind on arm & they shall Be frontlets between eyes”	Deut. “Bind on arm & they shall be frontlets between eyes”	Exodus “It shall be sign on arm & reminder between eyes”
Derivation:	“they shall be”	order in verse	order in verse
Language:		“put arm/remove head”	“mitzvah of tefillin”

General approach to Tefillin:

Relevance - Donned before morning:

Mitzvah Action (Gavra)

Must remove & redon

Mitzvah Result (Cheftza)

OK

Prefacing arm to head:

OK to place both together?

If donned head first, OK or remove?

Example:

Perfects head mitzvah

YES

OK

Obligation of Practitioner

NO

Mitzvah detail: Binding or not?

Washing with cup: binding
Bracha on handwashing: non-binding

Requirement of Mitzvah

NO

REMOVE

Integral detail (e.g. black/square)

Head & Arm Tefillin:

Example:

Relevance – can only do one

2 mitzvahs

Tallis & Tefillin

OK

2 mitzvahs

Tallis & Tefillin

OK

1 mitzvah

4 Kinds on Sukkos

Not OK

Lessons in Spiritual Service: Arm: Heart/Humility – **Commitment** Head: Torah Study - **Connection** to Above

LESSON 2

Basic commitment perfects
Connection

LESSON 1

Basic commitment pre-condition
to Connection

LESSON 3

Basic commitment greater than
Connection. And both are one