



# PIRCHEI *פירכעי*

## Acirema fo Leorsiy Saduga lehcrip

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**דף יומי: כתובות כ"ו - מצות עשה: 4 מצות לא תעשה: 3**  
**משנכנס אדר מרבנים בשמחה! - סירופ וכליירפ א!**



## Perushei Purim

פורים is a time of great joy and it is also a time when people do not take things quite as seriously as they do the rest of the year. It is with this in mind that there used to be a מסורה (מורה מפי מורה) for the young בני בית רבן to sing a complex פזמון on this festive day:



*Hey diddle diddle,  
 The Cat and the fiddle,  
 The Cow jumped over the moon.  
 The little Dog laughed,  
 To see such fun,*



*And the Dish ran away with the Spoon.*

This פזמון needs more באור. It is obvious that it contains many סודות, secrets, since the literal פשט is very difficult to understand. The טעמי ומנהגי שושן asks a few perplexing questions and with his answers he opens up a whole new insight into this פזמון:

- 1) First of all, why did the המבאר start the פזמון with the letter ה, Hey, and what is the meaning of a double דידל, Diddle? 2) Why put the cat and the fiddle together? 3) It would be more מדויק to say that the cow flew over the moon; after all, there is no human or animal that can jump so high. 4) Is it appropriate for a dog to laugh? 5) And finally, why change to a dish when the rest of the פזמון is talking about animals?

In his introduction to this מאמר, the אלטער שידך explains that this פזמון refers to the highlights of גלות מצרים. The opening letter ה is a reference to אברהם and שרה, who both had a ה change in their name;

אברהם was changed to אברהם and שרה was changed to שרה. They were chosen to be the forbearers of ישראל, but physically they could not have children. The גימטריה of דידל is 48 = נוכח and also refers to the 48 קנגני התורה, נוכבים, stars, explaining that their מולד had changed. They will have children who would eventually go through מצרים, become a nation, and be chosen to receive the תורה at הר סיני.

The cat represents Egypt (Ancient Egyptians were enamored by the cat and its symbol is found in all their hieroglyphics) and the fiddle is a reference to יעקב. The turning point of גלות מצרים happened when יעקב went down to מצרים. The cow jumping over the moon is a reference to פרה being read before פרשת החדש, even though in reality the 'sprinkling of the ashes of the פרה אדמה' could happen later. However, this comes to remind us that ד' redeemed ישראל בני even though they were not worthy, but jumped over our עברות and considered us as cleansed to be worthy of גאולה even in the days of מצרים.

The dogs were rewarded because they did not bark during מפת בכורות, and were מקנים the words המצרים - *how I mocked the מצריים*. The dish and spoon are the taking of the gold and silver vessels from the מצריים that were never to be returned. This was a small reference to יצאו ברבש גדול - *after that [the slavery] they will go out with great wealth*. In reality, the wealth referred to קבלת התורה. This is the real wealth that we were מקבל again in the days of אסתר and מרדכי.

Adapted from: Shoe Shine Serenades (with kind permission from the Purim Rebbe (שליטיא))

## זכר סוס לברכה!

קח את הלבוש ואת הסוס... ונעשה כן למרדכי  
 ... take the lking's robe and the horse... and do this for מרדכי

Pictured is the first animal purchased specifically to have the added קדושה of belonging to a ישראל. While there is a common practice to dress up on פורים like a king based on the words למרדכי כן נעשה... ונעשה כן למרדכי, unfortunately, people do not follow the last part of the פסוק - ואת הסוס. It is rare to see people riding horses on פורים, and it is even less common to get dressed up as a horse. It is with this in mind that the חמורים קרוב חמורים chose פורים as the inaugural day to publicize the special מצוה found in the פסוק (ב. ד"ה מיתני לה לקדושה) בכורות ורש"י that an animal bought by a ישראל is a מצוה since it does not work on שבת, and now has added קדושה. The first species chosen by חמורים קרוב, Society for Bringing Donkeys Closer to Holiness, as the חמור, donkey, since there is an additional מצוה of חמור.



## Midrashei Megillah

In these times when there is an increased lack of קדושה in the world, the גדולי תבמות and חוץ לארץ have asked that any person who can, should buy a בע"ח, *gentile's animal*. This is based on the רש"י in (ב. ד"ה מיתני לה לקדושה) בכורות that an animal bought by a ישראל is a מצוה since it does not work on שבת, and now has added קדושה. The first species chosen by חמורים קרוב, Society for Bringing Donkeys Closer to Holiness, as the חמור, donkey, since there is an additional מצוה of חמור.



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לעיני ה' ישעיהו דוב ע"ה בן יבלחטי"א יצחק צבי נ"י

# Living with the Torah

The altar shall be holy of holies. (שְׁמוֹת כ"ט: לו.)

... והיה המזבוח קדש קדשים ...

R' Moshe Feinstein זצ"ל notes that the **outer מִזְבֵּחַ** is described as holy of holies, while the **inner מִזְבֵּחַ** (40:10), which is the holier of the two, and was in the inner chambers, is described merely as holy. Why?

R' Moshe explains that this teaches us two ethical lessons. (a) A תלמיד חכם who 'lives' in the **בית המדרש** must be careful to be even more holy when he is **outside** among ordinary people. He must be so strongly influenced by his תורה study that his behavior, worthy of emulation, will impress others. (b) One who is considered holy in the company of fellow scholars is considered to be holy of holies by **outsiders**, in the sense that his behavior is scrutinized carefully and critically.



The late hour worried R' Chaim Kahan, a bearded Orthodox Jew, but he had no choice. If he wanted to get home for שְׁבֵת he would be forced to take the flight that arrived in Denver from San Francisco a mere two hours before שְׁבֵת. His friend, R' Yehudah Lefkovitz, would pick him up at the airport and they hoped there would be no delays.

The flight departed on time and R' Chaim's worry about being delayed for שְׁבֵת dissipated. All seemed to be going fine as the weather appeared to be pleasant and the pilot announced that the planned arrival would be a few moments earlier than scheduled.

Suddenly everything changed. With about a half-hour left to the flight the captain announced, "Ladies and gentlemen, this is your captain speaking. Please listen carefully. I regret to inform you that the hydraulic system has failed. That means that we have no way to stop the plane. We need you to follow our instructions for your own safety. Remove all sharp objects from your pockets and lean forward. Place your head between your legs and brace for a crash landing. Oh, and one more thing – please pray." At first no one moved or spoke. Then suddenly everyone began to cry softly. R' Chaim could not believe this was happening. He followed the instructions and began to reflect

# An Unforgettable Flight

on his own life. He thought about his life's accomplishments. Had he really done all he could? He was young, but he had learned what one should do during one's last moments on this world. And so, softly, tearfully, quietly, he began reciting וידי. Afterwards, he tried to remain calm and began saying those chapters of תהלים he knew by heart. The words came forth from his heart as he prepared to meet his Creator.

An hour after the first announcement had been issued, the plane began its final descent. But it did not descend the way a plane normally does. Instead it descended like a helicopter. And it touched the ground gently with just a slight bump.

Disbelievingly, the passengers sat up straight again and looked out the windows to convince themselves that they were indeed alive. Afterwards, when they saw the many emergency vehicles rushing toward the plane, they realized that indeed a miracle had taken place. In a brilliant move, the pilot had exhausted the fuel supply and the plane had been able to float to the ground safely. Cries of relief filled the cabin and cheers erupted from the thankful passengers.

R' Chaim glanced at his watch and realized that it was now less than an hour until שְׁבֵת. He unfastened his seatbelt, opened the overhead bin, removed his attaché case and rushed toward the exit door. But just as he reached the door he was stopped by the steward and stewardess. "Rabbi, do you have a minute?"

R' Chaim looked up at them and wondered what they could possibly want from him after the harrowing flight they had been through. "We want you to know something. During the entire last hour of the flight when we thought we were going to die, the passengers looked to us for strength. And, Rabbi, we all looked to you!"

R' Chaim recounted this story a few months later when he spoke at a dinner. He felt that the entire ordeal had happened because הקבי"ה wants us to realize that the world is watching us and looking at how we behave. We must not let them down.

Adapted from: Touched by a Story (ArtScroll)

## Ad D'lo Yada Moment

ספר ח"ח הלכות לשון הרע כולל ?! סעיף!

two royal servants of King אחשורוש, תרש and בגתן, stood near the palace gates, conspiring to assassinate the king. מרדכי, a סניגורין member, was standing nearby. Unaware that מרדכי was fluent in all of the 70 languages, בגתן and תרש spoke freely in their native tongue. As a loyal servant of the king, מרדכי reported the information he overheard to the king in מרדכי's name. In turn, מרדכי reported the matter to the king in אסתר's name. Upon verification of the report, בגתן and תרש were hanged.

**Why was מרדכי required to tell אסתר about the plot of תרש and בגתן?**

\*Stories adapted from Guard Your Tongue, A Daily Companion, A Lesson a Day and various real-life situations.

**Answer:** We have a rule: מרדכי שמע שתרש וּבגתן יצאו להרוג את המלך. This is because the added name of the second would take away from the first מרדכי. If מרדכי would have allowed himself to be compromised, אסתר would have been compromised.

## Questions of the weekend

- How many times was מרדכי exiled from ישראל (אגילת אסתר ב:ו) ישראל?
- What is the connection between הער and the powerful kingdom of אַחַמֶּזְדָּרָה?
- How many of the 26 "mistakes" can you find in this week issue?

## Halacha Corner

עניני דיומא:  
הלכות מילה ועוד

- At night, the proper time for קריאת מגלה is after צאת הכוכבים (when three stars are visible) until זלות השחר (dawn). During the day, the מגלה may be read from זא (sunrise) until שקיעה (sunset).
- Although there is an ענין to eat a small סעודה at night, one may not drink anything that is מְשָׁר. The main חייב is at the daytime סעודה.

\*Since we only discuss 1-3 הלכות, it is important to consider these הלכות in the context of the bigger picture. Use them as a starting point for further in-depth study.

# Focus on Lomdus

**D**ear זכר שישן פורים Rebbe, זכר לציאת מצרים, once told a משל of a man who worked for the Post Office whose job it was to process all the mail that had illegible addresses. One day, a letter came addressed in a shaky handwriting to ז' with no actual address or zip code. The letter read:

Dear ז',

I am an 83-year-old widower, living on a very small pension. Yesterday, someone stole my purse. It had \$100 in it, which was all the money I had until my next pension payment. Next week is my birthday, and I had invited two of my friends over for dinner. I have nothing to buy food with, have no family to turn to, and You are my only hope.

Please help me!

Sincerely, Nosson (נתן)

The postal worker was touched. He showed the letter to all his co-workers. Each one dug into their wallet and, together, they came up with \$96. They put it into an envelope and sent it to the man. The rest of the day, all the workers felt a warm glow as they thought of Nosson and the dinner he would be able to share

with his friends. A few days later, another letter came, addressed to ז', in the same hand. All the workers gathered around while the letter was opened. It read:

Dear ז',

How can I ever thank You enough for what You did for me? I was able to have a glorious dinner with my friends. We had a very nice day and I told my friends of Your wonderful gift. By the way, there was \$4 missing. I think it might have been those גנבים at the post office.

Sincerely, Nosson (נתן)

My dear רבי! Nosson (נתן) understood the story from his viewpoint. Similar to his name, which is a palindrome, a word that can be read both ways, he saw the same picture, whichever way he looked. We think we have the 'real' story, but, often, it is really **הוא הנהמוך הוא!**

א פריילכן פורים!

בשמחה רבה,

Your special תלמיד

(Based on the תנחות of R' Akiva Eiger, 28 פאה)

# Scholarly Shmoozings

**T**he Purim Rov שליט"א asked his captivated audience, "Besides the 1st ברכה in עשרה, where do we find a זידע and his איניקל in one ברכה?" Like a caring father, he rebuked the silent עולם and replied, "נו: די ברכה אתה חונג האט", [אתה חונג לאדם... ומלמד לאנוש] אין זידע אדם או זמן איניקל אנוש! אין וונדערט זידע - אנוש אתה חונג ברכה איר דאווענט דריי מאל א טאג או אויפמערקט - I'm surprised! אויף איך! - זידע גישט! - you daven 3 times a day and don't notice!"

Sauce: Stretched by a Story (without permission of SmartScroll)

# Understanding Davening

Remember זכור...

An edited selection of יוצרות לפקשת זכור - Part I

**Remember** עשו, who caused אברהם to die early before עשו openly murdered, stole and committed adultery. עשו frightened אברהם with his bad behavior and stole five years from אברהם's life.

**Remember** the one who laughed at יעקב for being kind to his bereaved father יצחק who hated his brother for showing the last kindness to אברהם, his grandfather. עשו acted like someone who cannot allow a kindness to be performed between friends.

**Remember** the one whose ear does not like to hear anything about אבא, who threw away the birthright for a cup that is drunk by mourners. עשו openly threw away the yoke of ז', and he even tried to hide the fact that he ever had a ברית.

לעיני ר' משה צבי בן הרי טוביה הלוי זצ"ל



# This Week in History

## The שובנים Program and more...

טוב to Avrohom Zonana, Grade 4, Yeshivas Orchos Chaim, Lakewood, NJ, and to everyone who joined the First Pirchei Newsletter International שובנים program - נאקד תרנום! On top of the grand prize, we will send your ישיבה your name and custom pens to be given to the ברוכים who entered the program. Although the program officially ended last week, we still received faxes this week from ברוכים who wanted to share that they will be continuing to review the פרשה. Keep it up! It is a סגולה for יראת שמים and אריכות ימים!

The next Pirchei Newsletter Purim program is designed to make every פורים your most memorable פורים!

The contest: Learn two hours in your ישיבה on פורים night and join the revolutionary idea of sponsoring a בחור learning two hours on פורים night!

The contest rules: BEFORE פורים collect sponsors for your learning two hours in your ישיבה. The money collected must be designated to a צדקה that you would normally be collecting for on פורים night. Please fax in your name, grade and ישיבה, city and state, with your contact and fax numbers, to be entered into another drawing for a beautiful set of מקראות גדולות חומשים! Please fax in your ideas of another contest to (718) 506 9633...stay tuned till next week!



# LEARNING FROM OUR LEADERS

בס"ד  
PIRCHEI AGUDAS YISROEL OF AMERICA

WHEN RAV MEIR CHODOSH WAS SICK, HIS FAMILY AND FRIENDS WOULD CONSTANTLY VISIT HIM IN THE HOSPITAL.

THANK YOU ALL SO MUCH FOR BEING HERE! IT IS VERY COMFORTING TO HAVE FAMILY HERE AND ATTENDING ME. THIS IS THE ULTIMATE MITZVAH OF BIKUR CHOLIM!



ONE DAY A NEW, YOUNG INTERN ENTERED THE ROOM.

HELLO, RABBI. MY NAME IS MICHAEL. I WILL BE YOUR DOCTOR FOR TODAY AND WILL BE DRAWING SOME BLOOD...

UH... PLEASE CAN YOU ALL STEP OUT SO THAT THIS DOCTOR CAN DO HIS WORK...



BUT ARE YOU SURE?... THE DOCTOR DOESN'T SEEM TO MIND. WHY WOULD YOU WANT US TO LEAVE?...

PLEASE, MY CHILDREN... PLEASE JUST STEP OUT ... IT WILL ONLY TAKE A FEW MINUTES.



THE VISITORS HESITATINGLY LEFT, SLIGHTLY PERPLEXED. THIS WAS NOT TYPICAL OF RAV MEIR.

THAT'S UNUSUAL... HE USUALLY APPRECIATES THAT WE STAY WITH HIM DURING PROCEDURES... HE DOESN'T NORMALLY HAVE US LEAVE THE ROOM!

THANK YOU SO MUCH, DOCTOR! YOU DID AN EXCELLENT JOB -- IT DIDN'T EVEN HURT A BIT!... OK, EVERYONE CAN RETURN!



THE INTERN LEFT AND THE VISITORS RETURNED.

I DON'T UNDERSTAND -- DOESN'T REBBI ENJOY WHEN WE MAKE SURE EVERYTHING IS ALL RIGHT DURING PROCEDURES?

OF COURSE... PLEASE FORGIVE ME. I ENJOY YOUR COMPANY AND INTENDED TO EXPLAIN ANYWAY...



FOR ANY DOCTOR IT IS SOMETIMES HARD TO FIND A VEIN IN AN ELDERLY PERSON LIKE MYSELF AND IS EMBARRASSING, ESPECIALLY WHEN MANY PEOPLE ARE STANDING AROUND... FOR A YOUNG INTERN WITH LESS EXPERIENCE, THIS CAN BE TWICE AS EMBARRASSING. I WANTED TO SPARE THIS YOUNG INTERN ANY SHAME... THAT'S WHY I SENT YOU OUT!



RAV MEIR CHODOSH WAS BORN IN PARITCH, LITHUANIA, TO RAV BEN TZION AND MACHLA. AT 10, HE WAS SENT TO LEARN UNDER RAV PESACH PRUSKIN. AT AROUND 13 HE WENT TO SLABODKA YESHIVA. HE BECAME A TALMID MUVHAK OF THE ALTER AND IN 1925 HE ACCOMPANIED THE ALTER TO ERETZ YISRAEL, TO JOIN THE YESHIVA IN CHEVRON. AFTER HIS MARRIAGE IN 1928, HE BECAME A MAGGID SHIUR THERE, ALONGSIDE R' LEIB CHASMAN. AFTER R' CHASMAN'S PETIRAH, R' MEIR WAS APPOINTED MASHGIACH. HE LIVED THROUGH THE ARAB MASSACRE OF CHEVRON'S JEWS. HE FOUNDED YESHIVAS ATERES YISROEL AND YESHIVA OR ELCHONON AND SERVED AS MASHGIACH IN BOTH YESHIVOS. AS A GREAT חכם HE DEVOTEDLY SERVED ISRAEL, AND AS A רבי WITH A WARM PERSONALITY, HE DEEPLY INFLUENCED THE THOUSANDS OF STUDENTS WHO LEARNED UNDER HIM.

