

Just a Story...

A Prize Peck of Peppers

by Rabbi Mendel Weinbach zt"l



A non-observant pepper farmer in the south of Israel developed an interest in the Torah command to refrain from agricultural labor during the Shemitah year. Although they were not Sabbath observant he and his family could take some time on the Day of Rest to read some passages from the Torah. When they came across the promise given by G-d to bless those who take a seventh year "Sabbatical" from agricultural labor with a bumper crop in the sixth year, they were intrigued. The farmer's wife is a mathematician and she quickly decided to make a calculation of their sixth year harvest as compared to previous years. To the surprise of all, their fields had yielded twice as much that year than usual.

Thus reassured, the farmer planned to come to Jerusalem and consult with rabbinical authorities on how to properly observe the Shemitah laws. Then came the next surprise. The main market for his pepper is Spain and he faces stiff competition from another pepper exporter for this choice market. No sooner had the decision been made to observe Shemitah then our farmer got a telephone call from the Spanish importer.

"Send me all the peppers you have," he said. "Your competitor's pepper crop was ruined by a dangerous insecticide and since you are my only source I am willing to pay you five times the regular price if you let me have your entire crop."

[Source: Ohr Somayach Institutions www.ohr.edu . Printed with permission]

Hints & Answers* SHMIRAS SHABBOS: Sefer *Shemiras Shabbos Kehilchosa* (33:4) writes: "It is permitted to crush a pill on Shabbos and dissolve it in water (e.g., to dissolve the crushed pill inside a cup of water). Nevertheless, one may not dissolve the pill in a small amount of water (i.e., which would produce a mixture of thick consistency.) Rather, [the pill should be dissolved in a significant amount of water], so that a mixture of liquid consistency will be produced." **RHYME:** "butter" **RIDDLE:** A king. Regarding a Jewish king, the Torah says, "so that his heart does not become haughty over his brethren" [Devorim 17:20] An incredible lesson in humility. If a king is not suppose to look down at anyone, then all the more so everyone else. **SHMITTAH:** D. [source: *Kitzur Hilchos Shemitta* 7:1] *Note: The answers are based only on the sources quoted and might not reflect opinions of other halachic authorities. As such, Menucha's answer are not to be taken as final decisions in halacha, but rather as a springboard for discussions, questions to a Moreh Hora'ah, and further study.

Special thanks to Menucha supporters!



Menucha

A Shabbos table companion
for the whole family

לע"נ ר' ברוך חיים בן שלמון ז"ל

בס"ד

Volume 10, Issue 46

Shoftim

5781

Shmiras Shabbos

Crushing a Pill



On erev Shabbos the door bell rang at the Cohen's home. Sarah opened the door and was happy to see that it was Zeidy! "I am so happy you that you came to spend Shabbos with us," said Sarah as she embraced Zeidy.

On Friday night, Zeidy remembered that he needed to take medicine that his doctor prescribed to take daily. "My doctor cautioned me to take this medicine even on Shabbos," explained Zeidy to the kids as he took out the pill from his bag.

"I wish I would have crushed it before Shabbos," sighed Zeidy as he looked at the large pill.

"Why don't you crush it now, Zeidy" asked Avromy?

"How could I, my dear Avromy?" asked Zeidy. "Wouldn't that be the *melacha* of *Tochein*?"

Question: May Zeidy crush the pill now?

(The "Hints & Answers" section is on page 4)

DEDICATIONS

♦ for *refuah sheleima* to those who need it

Special thanks to the
kehilla of Heritage
HERITAGE
The Jewish Home of the Future

תמים תהיה עם ה' אלקיך. -- דברים יח:יג

You should be pure with Hashem, your G-d. [Devorim 18:13]

Rashi explains one of the messages of this verse in the following way: “...**כל מה שיבא עליך קבל בתמימות**...*Rather, accept with pure [emunah] everything that will come upon you...* “

Q. Why is the word **קבל** (accept) in Rashi's comment above in present tense, while the word **שיבא** (that will come) in the future tense?

A. The message is: Accept now that whatever will happen, will be all good, since it will come from your loving Father in Shamayim.

The custom is to blow shofar after Shacharis throughout the month of Elul.



Q. What should I think about when I hear the sound of shofar in Elul?

A. Once a bachur came to HaRav Nosson Tzvi Finkel zt”l before Rosh Hashana, and asked him what should he think about when he hears the sound of shofar on Rosh Hashana. The Rosh Yeshiva answered the bachur, “You should think about other people.”



Rhymes for Kids



“Don't waste food,”
is a lesson I learned from my father.
So I don't put a lot on my plate,
not even extra _____!

“...*you shall not destroy its trees...*” (parshas Shoftim, Devorim 20:19)

“*Is the tree of the field perhaps a man who is to go into the siege by you ...Why should you destroy it?*” -- Rashi's commentary



Riddles



I am very significant. Yet the Torah in this week's parsha requires me not to feel that I am more special than others! Who am I?



Shmittah Trivia



Watering a strong fruit tree (that can survive from just the rainfall) during Shmittah is

(A) Always permitted (B) Never permitted (C) Permitted, if all of the fruits of that year will be lost if it will not get watered (D) Permitted, if more than 50% of the fruits of that year will be lost if it will not get watered.