

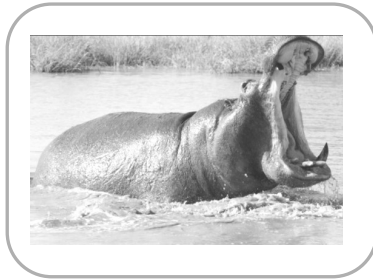
Wonders of Creation

Hippopotamus

In ancient Egypt, one had be careful if he decided take a swim in the Nile river, because back then, the Nile swarmed with hippos. It was one of the most feared animals in Egypt. Interestingly, the name Hippopotamus comes from the Ancient Greek and it means ‘a River Horse’.

Although hippos love water, they breath air. Therefore, they need to resurface every three to five minutes to breathe. But then how do they sleep? Fascinatingly, Hashem with His kindness gave them an ability to surface and breath air while sleeping!

The giant fangs and enormous mouth will make one ponder what they love to hunt for. The irony is that a hippo is a vegetarian! Hippo’s gigantic fangs and mouth are just for the show - to scare away his enemies. And when necessary, a hippo will not be shy to use these powerful tools to eliminate his threatening opponent. Even very large animals should stay away from an angry hippo, because Hashem fashioned hippos with extremely powerful jaws, making it possible for a hippo to literally bite a crocodile in half. Even elephants stay away from them. It’s good we’re not in Egypt any more.



Hints & Answers* **HALACHA CHALLENGE:** Sefer *Pele Yoetz* (ערך מונה) writes: “The prohibition of counting Jews and what has happened to king David a”h is known. It’s not good what people who lack knowledge do. Namely, when they want to know if there are 10 men for a *minyan* to pray and they want to be careful not count Jews, they count them using *Aleph, Beis, Gimmel, Daled*, etc. But they are not wise in doing that, because they did not achieve a permissible method with this adjustment. They should only count them visually and in thought.” **RHYME:** “skies”. **RIDDLE:** Tzipora, Gershom and Eliezer (see Shemos 18:2,3 and Rashi’s commentaries there). **SHMITTA:** False. [source: “A Guide to the Halachos of Shmittah” by Rav A. Wiesenfeld] | *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.



Menucha

A Shabbos table companion
for the whole family

לע"נ ר' ברוך חיים בן שלמון ז"ל

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SHEMOS

5782

Halacha Challenge

Counting Yidden



All those who descended from Yaakov were seventy souls...(Shemos 1:5)

At the end of the Friday night *seuda*, everyone waited patiently for dessert. “Does anyone *not* want ice cream?” asked Shoshana as she took the ice cream container out of the freezer. The room was silent.

“I guess everyone is having ice cream!” said Shoshana and proceeded to count the people at the table to know how many bowls of ice cream she should bring to the dining room, “One, two...”

“Stop!” screamed out her brother Yonnanan, “You can’t count people!”

“Oh, you’re right, Yonnanan! I completely forgot that we can’t count Yidden,” said Shoshana. Then she thought for a moment and started counting everyone again: “*Aleph, Beis, Gimmel...*”

“One second!” said Yonnanan. “I am not so sure if counting using letters is okay either!”

Question: May Shoshana count the people at the table using letters?

(The “Hints & Answers” section is on page 4)

DEDICATIONS

לעילוי נשמת שלמה ישראל בן משה אהרן ז"ל, ישראל בן משה ז"ל
for *refuah sheleima* to those who need it



...וְרָאָה וְשִׂמְחָה בְּלִבּוֹ

“...and he will see you and he will rejoice in his heart.” (Shemos 4:14)

Rashi explains that by saying these words, *HaShem* was saying the following to Moshe about Aharon: *“Not as you (Moshe) think, that Aharon will resent your attaining a high position. [In contrary! He will rejoice for you!]”*

Midrash Tanchuma says an incredible insight about this verse: *“The heart that rejoiced over his brother’s greatness will wear the Urim vTumim”*.

Q. What is the connection between Aharon’s happy heart and Urim vTumim?

A. The Maharal [*Nesivos Olam, Lev Tov*] explains that Aharon achieved the most esteemed character trait that one can ever have (as per Avos 2:9), namely, having “a good heart”. A good heart, says the Maharal, is a heart that wants his fellow Jew to receive the blessing, and also, such heart rejoices when he sees he fellow Jew receiving the blessing. [Urim vTumim was a sign that Aharon has a good heart.]

Since Aharon was rewarded with the privilege of wearing Urim vTumim, it must be that “a good heart” is something that he achieved in his lifetime. Otherwise, if Aharon was ‘born with it’, why did he deserve a reward for it?! Hence, it must be that through much effort in his life’s situations, he formed “a good heart” within himself.

Of course, the Torah wants us to learn a lesson from here: Your heart can be developed into “a good heart”. Aharon HaKohen is a role model for us. Everyone of us can follow in the footsteps of Aharon and develop “a good heart”. You just need to put your heart into it.



Rhymes for Kids



To the 49th level of *Tumah*,
The Yidden in Mitzrayim submerged.
Yet Hashem said *“Bni Bechori Yisroel”*
The truth of His love emerged!
Thank you Hashem for telling us
How we’re always special in Your eyes
With joy this makes my heart shine
Like a bright star in the _____.

“And you shall say to Pharaoh, ‘So said HaShem, “My firstborn son is Yisrael.” (Shemos 4:22) Rashi explains: “My firstborn son: [Firstborn is] an expression of greatness. An example [of such usage of the word is in the verse] “I, too, shall make him a firstborn” (Tehillim 89:28)”



Riddle



All three of us are mentioned in the Torah. All three of us are Jews. All three of us were alive at the time of Yetzias Mitzrayim. None of us went out of Mitzrayim during Yetzias Mitzrayim. What are our names?



Shmittah Shaila



True or False? In a case where after frying latkes in *kedushas shviis* oil, the oil became no longer fit for frying, the leftover oil may be thrown away.
True / False