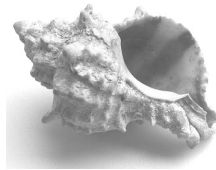




The end of parshas Shelach discusses the mitzva of tzitzis. There, the verse says, "...And they shall place upon the tzitzis of each corner a thread dyed with *techeles*." Gemorah teaches that *techeles* dye comes from a creature called chilazon. Some identify chilazon as the Murex snail, more specifically, Murex Trunculus. Let's learn about this fascinating creature.

The dye made from the secretion of the Murex snail is purplish. But when it is exposed to direct sunlight, the color changes to a shade of blue! This snail has a broadly conical shell about 4 to 10 cm long. It has a high spire with seven angulated whorls. The shell is formed similar to the shape of a fish. The shell is variable in sculpture and coloring with dark banding, in four varieties. The ribs sometimes develop thickenings or spines and give the shell a rough appearance. The shell is often covered in algae, which camouflages it, making it appear very similar to the seabed.



Interestingly, remnants of many dye-producing factories were found along the Mediterranean coastline, in the territory of Zevulun, with piles of shells from the Murex snail!

**Hints & Answers\*** **SHMIRAS SHABBOS:** The Shulchan Aruch (OC 8:7) writes the following *halacha* in the laws of ציצית: *One needs to separate the strings of ציצית from each other.* Commenting on this part of the Shulchan Aruch, the *Sha'arei Teshuva* teaches that on Shabbos, one may not separate strings of ציצית that became entangled with each other. *Shemiras Shabbos Kehilchosa* (ch. 15, note 281) explains that separating strings of ציצית is prohibited since it is considered as כלי תיקון כלי. **RHYMES:** "Hashem" **RIDDLES:** 1. Tzitzis. Rashi explains that the four corners of tzitzis are referred to by the Torah as "wings" because they correspond to the wings on which Hashem took us out of Mitzrayim. 2. אולם טי-אני ויפלא כבוד הי את-פל-הארץ (Bamidbar 14:21) **CHALLAH TRIVIA:** Question 1: A. (source: shiur by Rav Moshe Heinemann of Star-K); Question 2: A. (source: ibid.); Question 3: B. (source: ibid.); Question 4: B. (source: ibid.); Question 5: A. (source: ibid.) \*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, further study, and questions to a *posek*, etc.



## Shmiras Shabbos

### Untangling Tzitzis strings on Shabbos



At the end of this week's parsha, the Torah teaches about the mitzva of ציצית. Let's explore a halachic question regarding Shabbos, related to ציצית.

After the Shabbos day *seuda* at his yeshiva, Yosi went to his dorm room and took a pleasant and refreshing Shabbos nap. After he woke up and washed his hands, he went to the

Beis Midrash to learn.

At some point during his learning, Yosi happened to touch the strings of his ציצית and realized that they became entangled with each other. "It must have happened when I was taking my nap," said Yosi.

He was about to separate the entangled strings of his ציצית, but he stopped himself and asked: "Is this permitted to do on Shabbos? Maybe that's called כלי תיקון..."

**Question:** May Yosi separate the entangled strings of his ציצית?

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

#### DEDICATIONS

◆ For *refuah sheleima* to those who need it

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Parsha Pearls

In the beginning of parshas Shelach, Moshe instructs the spies to look at the Land that they will explore. Ten of the twelve spies looked at the Land and saw negative things. In the end of the parsha, Hashem instructs us to look at the *techeles* string of tzitzis. Based on the teaching of Chazal, we learn that the blue *techeles* should remind a person of the blue sea, and the blue sea should remind a person of the blue sky, and the blue sky should remind a person of Hashem's Thrown of Glory (see Menachos 43b).

The word **וַיִּרְאוּ** “*you should look*” – appears only two times in Chumash, and both are in parshas Shelach! The first time, it is used when Moshe told the spies to look at the Land, and the second time, it is used when Hashem instructed us to look at the *techeles* string. This is clearly teaching us a powerful life lesson. You have the free choice to let your eye interpret what it sees. And HaKadosh Boruch Hu does not just want us to look at something great and see the greatness in it – the way Yehoshua and Kalev looked at the Land, Hashem wants us to look even at simple things – like a string hanging from the corner of your four-corner garment – and see in it wondrous things that bring you joy and inspiration.

If you take this lesson to heart, you will spend the days of your life looking at everything with an *ayin tova* – an eye that sees purpose, blessings, greatness and splendor. Train your eye to remind yourself of this lesson every time you look at the strings of tzitzis.



Ask Around Your Shabbos Table

*Ask Around Your Table:* Since already back in Mitzrayim, Hashem told to Moshe that Eretz Yisroel is a good Land, why did Moshe ask the spies to see if the land is good (Bamidbar 13:19)?

*Answer:* The Ramban answers that Moshe wanted the spies to pay attention to the quality of the Land and bring back a report that will gladden Bnei Yisroel. Why did Moshe want to do that? The Ramban answers that Moshe wanted Bnei Yisroel to enter Eretz Yisroel with joy! We can learn from Moshe Rabbeinu to always “spy” and find a way to do each mitzva *b’simcha!*



Rhymes for Kids



“*And they should make for themselves tzitzis...*” (parshas Shelach)

My tzitzis is on me wherever I go.  
 I swear about them I actually know:  
 They are simple, made from the wool of a lamb.  
 But they whisper to me: “You’re an *eved* \_\_\_\_\_!”



Parsha Trivia & Riddles



- Which mitzva that is done daily reminds us of Hashem's great love for Bnei Yisroel, as was demonstrated by Him carrying us on “the wings of eagles” when we left Mitzrayim?
- Commenting on the Rama's words in the 1st *siman* of the *Shulchan Aruch*, the *Mishna Berura* writes:

היינו שיצייר בנפשו תמיד איך שהוא עומד לפני השם יתברך, כי הקב"ה מלא כל הארץ כבודו.

“*One should always picture in his mind how he is standing in front of HaShem Yisroel, because HaKadosh Boruch Hu's glory fills the entire world.*” (Mishna Berura 1:4)

Where in the parsha is there a proof that HaShem's glory fills the entire world?



CHALLA TRIVIA



**ראשית עֲרֹסְתֵכֶם חֶלֶה תְּרִימוּ תְּרוּמָה** - *The first portion of your dough, separate challah as terumah...* (Bamidbar 15:20)

- When doing *hafroschas* challah, one should separate:  
 (A) a portion of the batch of his dough. (B) the entire batch of his dough (C) A or B
- When doing *hafroschas* challah, the custom is to separate:  
 (A) a *k'zayis* of dough. (B) a *k'beitza* of dough. (C) a baseball size of dough.
- A left handed person should be *mafrish* challah:  
 (A) with his right hand. (B) with his left hand. (C) with both of his hands
- If a liquidy batter is prepared (e.g. for chocolate cakes), one should perform the *hafraша*:  
 (A) before the product is baked. (B) after the product is baked. (C) A or B.
- One may perform *hafraша* even before the dough rises:  
 (A) True. (B) False.