



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. Whether or not this is so, 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* HALACHA CHALLENGE: *Chazal* teach that one of the requirements of *kos shel bracha* (e.g., a kiddush cup) is that it should be “מלא” (full). Thus, the *Rema* writes: “וכוס של ברכה ימלאנו שיהא מלא על כל גדותיו” *One should fill up the kos shel bracha all the way to the top* (OC 183:2). The Mishna Berura (183:9) comments that filling up a cup in such fashion is permissible even though it’s common for the wine to spill a bit when it is so full (i.e., it’s not considered as wasting). Then, the Mishna Berura (ibid.) writes, “ויש שאין ממלאין אותו כ”כ מטעם זה ואפ”ה שם מלא עליי” *Some have a custom not to fill it up so much because of this reason (i.e., since filling it to the top causes the wine to be spilled out a bit), and (according to those who have this custom) the cup filled up in such way is nevertheless considered as “full”.* **RHYME:** “heart”.

PARSHA RIDDLE: I am challah. *Hafrashas challah* was not done. Today is Shabbos. If dough was kneaded in Eretz Yisroel, and one realizes on *Shabbos* that he did not do *hafrashas challah*, it’s not going to be possible to eat that challah on that Shabbos. However, if the dough was kneaded in *chutz la’aretz*, it’s possible to eat that challah on that Shabbos (A Rav should be consulted to get instructions of what to do in such a case). *Menucha answers are not to be taken as final decisions in halacha.



Halacha Challenge



Filling Up to the Rim



It was a real treat to have Zeidy over for the Friday night *seuda*. Abba gave Zeidy the honor to make kiddush for everyone. So the kids waited with excitement to hear Zeidy’s kiddush that he always made with a sweet *niggun*.

After Zeidy poured the wine in the kiddush cup, Levi whispered to his brother Yudi, “Look! Zeidy didn’t

pour the wine all the way to the top!” Yudi looked at the cup and then asked Levi with a perplexed look on his face, “So what?”

In astonishment, Levi replied: “What do you mean!? Abba always pours the wine to the very top of the kiddush cup!”

“Yeah, Levi is right,” whispered Akiva who overheard the conversation. The brothers started debating if they should let Zeidy know about this or not. Levi felt that it was necessary to inform Zeidy about the matter. Yudi held that everyone should be quiet and just let Zeidy carry on with his kiddush. Finally, Akiva had an idea, “Levi, why don’t you ask Zeidy a question, while I’ll secretly pour the wine into Zeidy’s cup to fill it up to the rim!”

Question: Who had the best idea - Levi, Yudi or Akiva?

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

Dedicated anonymously for yeshuos and refuos to all Klal Yisroel





Parsha Pearls

אלה שמות האנשים אשר-שלח משה לתור את-הארץ ויקרא משה להושע בן-נון יהושע.

These are the names...And Moshe called Hoshea bin Nun - Yehoshua.

Chazal teach us that students are called children. To Moshe, Yehoshua was like his son -i.e., very beloved...

Based on Midrash Rabba, Rashi explains why Moshe changed Yehoshua's name:

התפלל עליו, י-ה יושיעך מעצת מרגלים (במ"ר טז, ט. יח, כא): (רש"י)

Moshe prayed for Yehoshua – "HaShem should save you from the plan of the spies."

If Moshe needed to pray for Yehoshua to be saved from the influence of others, all the more so we should pray continuously for our children to be saved from negative influences of the society.



Ask Around Your Shabbos Table

ומה הארץ אשר-היא ישב בה הטובה הוא אמר-... [במדבר יג:ט]

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?!

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



...ועשו להם ציצת... *And they should make for themselves tzitzis strings*
-- Parshas Shelach, Bamidbar 15:38

I am doing a mitzva
from the day's very start!
I look at my tzitzis,
and it cheers up my ____!



Parsha Riddle



Once upon a time, the mitzva that's mentioned in this week's parsha was not done with me. If you made me in Eretz Yisroel, you won't be able to eat me today. But if you made me in *chutz la'aretz*, you'll be able to eat me today! *What am I? What mitzva was not done? What day is today?*



DID YOU KNOW THAT ?



You probably know that in this week's parsha there is verse that talks about Hashem's presence in our world: 'ומלא כבוד-ה' את-פליהארץ

But did you know that Mishna Berura speaks about it in the 1st *siman*?! Commenting on the Rama's words in the 1st *siman* of the *Shulchan Aruch*, the *Mishna Berura* writes:

דהיינו 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 Yisborach, because HaKadosh Boruch Hu's glory fills the entire world." (Mishna Berura 1:4)