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In the observant community of Rechasim in the north of Israel, it is not uncommon for people to gather on Shabbat eve in the home of one of their neighbors for a Shalom Zachar to celebrate the birth of a son. But when that is also the eve of Simchat Torah it is not a simple matter for men to arrive after they are exhausted from dancing in the synagogue in honor of the Torah.

It was therefore not too surprising that when this happened some years ago only six neighbors made the very special effort of showing up. Their effort to bring joy to their neighbor and bless him regarding the forthcoming Brit Milah of his son was well rewarded. In that year sons were born to all six of them, to two of them who had waited years for children and to one who previously had eight daughters.

Hints & Answers* **HALACHA CHALLENGE:** The Shulchan Aruch (O.C. 301:3) states: *If a person was walking and reached a stream of water, he can skip and jump over it...but it is forbidden to pass through it, so that he will not come to wring out [the water from his garment].* **RHYMES:** “deed” **FIND:** 1. 7:19, 2. The Raven. On the verse “...and it went out, back and forth...” (Bereishis 8:7) Rashi comments: [The raven was] continually encircling around the ark.” **RIDDLE:** A rainbow. See Mishna Berura 229:1 | *Menucha answers are not to be taken as final decisions in *halacha*.

Halacha Challenge



Rolling Up the Sleeves before Washing Dishes



After the Shabbos day *seuda*, the father went to shul to learn, the mother went to take a nap and the kids went to play with their friends outside.

After playing for a bit, Shmuli went back home. He wanted to surprise his mother by washing the dishes for Shalosh Seudos. He rushed to do it, being afraid that his mother might wake up before he is done. So he didn't even want to waste time rolling up the sleeves.

“My sleeves might get soaked from washing the dishes,” he thought, “But I don't care. They'll dry up eventually when I'll go back to play outside.”

Question: Should Shmuli roll up his sleeves before washing dishes?

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

Dedicated anonymously for yeshuos and refuos to all Klal Yisroel



Parsha Pearls

עֲשֵׂה לָךְ תֵּבַת עֲצֵי גֹפֶר וּגּוֹ'. -- בראשית ו:14

Make for yourself a teiva of gopher wood... -- Bereishis 6:14

Midrash Yalkut teaches that the 50-*ama* wooden beam used for hanging Haman came from Noah's *teiva*. What's the significance of that beam (besides the fascinating fact that the beam remained intact after thousands of years)? Rav Chaim Shmulevitz zt"l explains that through intense toil for 120 years in building the *teiva* for the sake saving the people from the flood* Noach changed the actual material of the *teiva*** . It became a material infused with the incredible strength to save. Hence, a part of the *teiva* was used to save Klal Yisroel in the generation when Haman arose against Klal Yisroel.

Rav Shmulevitz points out that if an object changes its nature when a person toils over it for the sake of doing good, all the more so, the inner nature of children changes when parents toil in raising them in *derech* Hashem.

* As Rashi explains, although Hashem could have saved Noach through other means, He wanted him to be involved in building the *teiva* for 120 years so that the people will observe it, understand the potential threat and do *teshuva*.

** Sichos Musar, Shaar HaChaim 5731-5733, *ma'amar* 3



Ask at Your Shabbos Table

Ask around your Shabbos table: The Torah tells us that all species of birds were saved in Noach's *teiva*. But the verse mentions that it was specifically the birds who could fly that were saved (Bereishis 7:14, per Targum Onkolos) If so, how was the ostrich saved?!

Menucha's Answer: Possibly, back then, ostrich was able to fly.



Rhymes for Kids



Midrash Aggadah (Tanchuma, Noach 9) [states]: "Noach was groaning...because of the heavy burden [of caring for] the farm and wild animals (Rashi to Bereishis 7:24)

The Torah reveals to us why the Generation of the Flood was destroyed: *כי־מלֵאָה הָאָרֶץ הַמָּס מִפְּנֵיהֶם* - *for the earth has become full of robbery because of them*. The world became a place where people did not care for the well being of others! In the eyes of Hashem, such a world lacks its purpose and essence. Therefore, such a world cannot exist.

The "father" of the new generation (Noach) needed to begin building the new world on the basis of *חסד* (kindness). Hence, Noach was given a critical task: for the entire year, day in and day out, he was to be constantly involved in doing *חסד*, namely, feeding the animals. Therefore, *חסד* is the foundation of the world that we live in!

Plant today a special *szed*,

Do today a kind _____!



FIND



1. You can easily find in the Torah השמים but can you find כל השמים in the parsha?
2. Which living creature in the parsha kept on going in circles?



Riddle



When you see me, make a *bracha*. But don't tell you friends that you see me. What am I? [Hint: I am in parshas Noach]