



Rav Yitzchak Elchonon Spector was the Rav in the city of Kovna and because of this he was called the Kovna Rav. One time, Rav Yitzchak Elchonon was in a room, helping two men who were having an argument. At the same time, Rav was waiting to hear if his talmid Yaacov would have to go to the Russian army.

Suddenly, the Rav heard a knock on the door. "Come in, please," he said. A talmid came in and said, "Rabbi, we just found out that Yaacov does not have to go in the army!" Rav was thrilled and replied, "Such good news! Thank you for telling me."

A few minutes later another boy came in and said "Rabbi, Yaacov does not have to go to the army." Rav Yitzchak Elchonon did not want to tell him that he already knew, because he wanted the boy to be happy, so he said, "Boruch Hashem! What good news! Thank you for telling me." For the next 30 minutes it happened again and again. Each time Rav Yitzchak Elchonon interrupted himself to show how happy he was even though he already heard the news.

Special thanks to The Daily Vort for the story

Hints & Answers* **LAWS of SHABBOS:** *Shemiras Shabbos Kehilchosa* (11:41) writes: "One should not fold paper napkins on Shabbos to form special shapes from them, (as is customary to do in honor of guests). But a simple fold is permitted." **RHYMES:** "dear". **SHAVUOS CHALLENGE:** 1. Sefer Torah needs to be in one binding, and it has to have two poles. At least 3 verses must be read during each aliya. The Torah is divided into 5 books. Each page of the Sefer Torah has 42 lines. There are 54 parshios in the Torah. In the Sefer Torah there are 5845 verses, 79,976 words and 304,805 letters. 2. Regarding *avoda zara* and regarding being nice to a convert the Torah cautioned us more than 40 times [see *Baba Metzia* 59b and *Baal HaTurim* to Devorim 1:1]. 3. Out of all the letters in the Torah, the letter ם appears most frequent. | *Note: The answers are based only on the sources quoted and might not reflect opinions of other halachic sources.

Shmiras Shabbos

Folding a Paper Napkin



"Imma, when is Abba coming home from shul?" asked Shira on a Shabbos morning.

"In about half an hour," replied Imma.

"Perfect! I have time. I've learned in a *chug* this week how to fold paper napkins into flower shapes," said Shira as she placed a stack of napkins on a table.

Emunah overheard Shira, walked over to the table and placed her hand on the stack of napkins. "Not so fast!" said Emunah .

"What's the matter?" wondered Shira.

"Are you joking?!" asked Emunah, "You're planning to make flowers out of these napkins?! It's Shabbos! If we cannot draw flowers on Shabbos, so all the more so we cannot fold napkins to make them look like flowers."

"Oh common, Emunah. It's just paper that we'll throw away later," said Shaina and gently moved Bracha's hand from the napkins.

Question: Can Shira fold the napkins into flower shapes?

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♦ Dedicated anonymously for yeshuos and refuos to all Klal Yisroel

Shavuos is less than 48 hours away... *HaShem's* Torah is described as “a flame”, as the verse at the beginning of parshas *V'zos HaBracha* says: מִיְמֵינוּ אֵשׁ דָּת לָמוֹ... *from His right hand He presented to them the Flame of Law.*

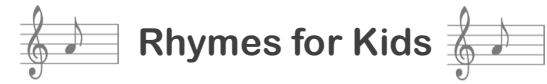
Fire is also an important element in the *Avoda* of the Mishkan. Our sages, of blessed memory, tell us that a Heavenly fire would descend upon the *mizbe'ach* of the Mishkan (Yuma 21b). *Nefesh HaChaim* teaches that a person is a miniature Mishkan. Hence, just as that Divine flame burned on the *mizbe'ach*, it also burns inside each Jewish heart.

What is that fire that burns inside a Jewish heart? *Shem MiShmuel* (Tzav, 5676) teaches that the fire inside a Jew (which corresponds to the Heavenly fire on the *mizbe'ach*) is אֵשׁ דָּת (that same “Flame of Law” that *HaShem* presented to us at *Matan Torah*). What shape does that flame take inside the heart of a Jewish person? It forms into an intense Divine flame of enthusiasm for joy for *Avodas HaShem* (based on *Shem MiShmuel*, *ibid*).

Now, the Gemorah teaches regarding the fire on the *mizbe'ach*: אֵף עַל פִּי שָׂאשׁוּרִים יֵרֵד מִן הַשָּׁמַיִם, מִצְוָה לְהֵבִיא מִן הַהַדְיוֹט שָׂאשׁוּרִים יֵרֵד מִן הַשָּׁמַיִם - *Even though the fire descends from Heaven, it's a mitzva for a human to bring his fire to the alter* (Yuma, *ibid*). Based on this, we can say that according to the level that one ignites his personal inner flame for *Avodas HaShem*, *HaKadosh Boruch Hu* ignites His Divine flame inside the person's heart. And this “unity of the flames” is what awakens inside of him the immense enthusiasm and joy for Torah and mitzvos.*

Shavuos is less than 48 hours away. On Shavuos, *HaShem* will present to His beloved children the אֵשׁ דָּת once again. Provided that we will ignite our personal “flame” for Torah and mitzvos, the renewal of אֵשׁ דָּת inside of our hearts will begin a year of new enthusiasm and joy for our sacred *Avoda*.

*[See also Sefer HaChinuch, 132; Ramban to Shemos 25:1]



Rhymes for Kids

A question you can ask that's, in fact, really nice:
 “Why Hashem counts us so many times?”
 Rashi gives an answer that's simple and clear:
 To our Abba in Shamayim we are very ____.

מתוך חיבתך לפניו מונה אותם כל שעה - Because they are dear to Him, He counts them all the time [Rashi's commentary to the 1st verse of Sefer.]

Therefore, the very first message of Sefer Bamidbar is: Hashem loves Bnei Yisroel. If you read the numbers in the parsha, remembering that this is how Hashem relates His love to us, you will be very happy to read even those plain numbers.



Shavuos Challenge



1. For each of the numbers below, find its association to a Sefer Torah (in regards to the structure of its text, or in the way it's fashioned or read)

1
2
3
5
42
54
5845
79,976
304,805



2. Regarding which two things the Torah cautioned us more than 40 times.

3. Which letter appears most frequent in the Torah?