

Just a Story...

Blank Notes



Rav Chaim Brim, z'tl was once invited to speak at an event. The speaker who preceded R' Chaim at the event used notes that he referred to as he spoke. Rav Chaim was then called up to speak, and he also referred to his notes as he spoke. When he finished speaking and left the podium, he forgot to take his notes with him.

When the event was over, someone straightened up the room and he found the notes which R' Chaim Brim had left at the podium. To his puzzlement, he saw that the "notes" was a blank piece of paper. After a few minutes of thought, he realized what had occurred. Rav Chaim was known for his exquisite sensitivity to the feelings of others. When he had observed that the first speaker had referred to notes as he spoke, he had feared that he would embarrass him if he then spoke without notes. Therefore, he decided to refer to his "notes" as he spoke as well.

Hints & Answers* **HALACHA CHALLENGE:** *Shemiras Shabbos Kehilchosa* (15:92, new edition) teaches: "It is permitted to step on a wet rug, such as a door mat." **RHYME:** "stronger". **RIDDLE:** Moshe. He said that the plague of the firstborn will be כחצות (around midnight) instead of saying that it will be בחצות (exactly at midnight). In explanation of Moshe's reasoning, Gemorah Brachos (4a) tells us that a person should train his tongue to say "I don't know". | *Note: Menucha's answer are not to be taken as final decisions in halacha, but rather as a springboard for discussions, and further study.

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Menucha

A Shabbos table companion
for the whole family

לע"נ ר' ברוך חיים בן שלמון ז"ל

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Halacha Challenge

Stepping on a Wet Door Mat



Abba and Benny walked home quickly this Friday night because it was raining. When they reached the front door, Abba took hold of Benny's arm and said, "Wait! The door mat is wet."

"Ok. So what?" asked Benny.

"If we'll step on it, we'll be squeezing out the water from it, which is a melacha of *melaben!*" explained Abba.

"Alright, so what should we do?" asked Benny, "The mat is so big. We cannot reach the door unless we step on it. And we cannot jump over it, because it's right near the door."

Abba thought for a moment and came up with a plan: "We should scream out to Imma, and she'll open the door, and we'll jump over the mat."

"Ok...I guess...", said Benny, "But, Abba, everyone's door mat is wet now. I don't hear people shouting so that someone will open the door for them. Maybe it's fine to just walk on the mat now."

Question: Can they walk on the wet door mat?

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

DEDICATIONS

◆ In honor of the Vladimisky and Stavnitser engagement

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Parsha Pearls

Moshe left Pharaoh and entreated Hashem [to remove the locust] (Shemos 10:18). Where would Moshe pray to Hashem to stop a plague? Somewhere outside the city, as the verse in last week's parsha says: **וַיֹּאמֶר אֵלָיו מֹשֶׁה קַצְאֵתִי אֶת־הָעִיר אֶפְרַשׁ אֶת־כַּפֵּי אֵל ה' - *And Moshe said to him, "When I leave the city, I will lift my hands to Hashem..."*** (Shemos 9:29). And Rashi explains why Moshe needed to leave the city: "Within the city he did not pray, because it was full of idols."

Interestingly, this is reflected in *halacha* nowadays as well! Whenever possible, one should not pray in a non-Jewish inn that has idolatrous items there (see O.C. 94:8, *Rama* and *Mishna Berura* 94:29 & 94:30). The *Mishna Berura* (94:29) explains that since our prayers are words of קדושה (sanctity), one should not pray in a place that's filled with idols - i.e., things that counter קדושה.

A fundamental lesson is learned from here: **Tefilla needs to come from a place of purity.** And if the outer place where a Jew offers his tefilla needs to be pure, then, certainly, the inner place from where his tefilla emerges, namely, his heart and lips need to be pure as well. [If you feel that you have spoken inappropriate words (such as loshon horah, deceit, lye, and hurtful words), do teshuva before you daven. The Chofetz Chaim teaches that a way to keep impurity from entering one's heart is by not transgressing the sin of *sinas chinam* (*Kuntres Ahavas Yisroel*, ch.1). Hence, one of the "items" on the list to check for before you step into Shemoneh Esrei is the presence of Ahavas Yisroel towards every Jew in your heart.]



Rhymes for Kids



During these weeks, we read Shemos, Vaeira, Bo, Beshalach, Yisro, Mishpotim, whose *roshei teivos* spell out שׁוֹבְבִים. And this period of time is special since the light of these parshios shine during these weeks and therefore, this is a very opportune time for a person to work on growing in his *Emunah*, *Bitachon* and dedication to Torah, since these are the themes in these parshios.

*Shovevim weeks are finally here.
It's a really great time in the year!
My times of pondering on emunah are longer,
And with Hashem my connection grows ____.*



Riddle



I don't know much, but I do know that in this week's parsha he taught me to say "I don't know". Who is he?

Kids Ask, Zeidy Answers



Zeidy – everyone despises the spiders. They look scary and they add to dirt in a house. But is there anything good that we can learn from spiders?



Absolutely, kids! Shlomo HaMelech told us in his *sefer Mishlei* [30:28] the lesson that we are supposed to learn from spiders:

שְׁמִימִית בְּיָדָיו תִּתְפַּשׁ, וְהִיא בְּהִיכָלִי מְלֶכֶךְ. -- משלי ל:כח

A spider captures with its hands, and it [lives] in kings' palaces. -- Mishlei 30:28

What does the Mishlei mean by saying that a spider is "in kings' palaces?" It teaches us that even though a spider that crawls on a floor of a king's palace can find many goodies from the delicacies that fell on a floor from a king's table, it does not want to partake in them. It prefers to toil for its food with its own strength and skills that Hashem granted to it - to create a web and catch flies. [based on the commentary of the Metzuda on Mishlei]