

# Stories

A chassid visited his Rebbe before Pesach. The Rebbe noticed that the chassid was sad. "What's wrong?" the Rebbe asked. The chassid told the Rebbe that to bake matzos he had set aside wheat which had been watched from the time of the harvest, and it had completely disappeared. Now he would only be able to prepare matzos from wheat which had not been watched from the time of its harvest.

The Rebbe answered, "I understand that you want to fulfill the mitzva of matzah in the best way, but don't forget - the mitzvah of *simcha* during the *chag* is also a mitzva from the Torah!"

**Hints & Answers\*** **HALACHA CHALLENGE:** "...before the fifth hour (on a Shabbos that fell on erev Pesach) one should rinse his mouth thoroughly to remove any remaining chometz. A dry toothbrush [toothpick or pre-cut dental floss] may be used to dislodge any particles of chometz between the teeth. The toothbrush must then be put away with chometz vessels. Mouthwash may be used. Toothpaste (to smear on the teeth) or a wet toothbrush, however, may not be used on Shabbos." [Halachos of Pesach by Rav Shimon D. Eider, ch. 36, D, 5.]\*. **TRIVIA: 1.** Maggid, Matza, Marror, Four Cups, Hallel. **2.** Spilling a drop of wine from the cup. **3.** Yes. It's *mitzva min hamuvchar* to eat the Afikoman while a person still has a little bit of appetite. If he does not have any more appetite, he can still eat the Afikoman. But if a person is so full that he cannot eat anymore, and he has to force himself to eat the Afikoman, he is not *yotze* the mitzva of eating Afikoman [Mishna Berura 477:6]. **4.** After the *bracha* of *HaMotzi*, we let go of the bottom matza before we make the *bracha* of *Al Achilas Matza*. **5.** At Kadesh, we fulfill the mitzva of Kiddush and drinking the 1st cup of the *Arba Kosos*. On *motzei* Shabbos, we also fulfill *Havdala* at that time. **6.** Yes - this Shabbos! After the 5th hour, chametz will be *muktza*, and also the matza that one set aside for the Seder will also be *muktza*. **7.** The *malachim* who visited Avraham (Vayeira). Lot baked matzos and they ate them. **8.** Toldos. Rivka instructed Yaakov to take two goats. One of them was to be used for Korban Pesach [Rashi to Bereishis 27:9] **9.** When one will make the *bracha* on wine at Kadesh, he will exempt the water that's on the table, so that people can drink it if they get thirsty during Maggid (which is permissible to do - see Mishna Berura 473:16). **10.** It tasted like *mann!* [Rashi to Yehoshua 5:11] **11.** The 2nd day of Pesach [Yehoshua 5:11]. | \*Note: Menucha's answers 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

בס"ד  
A Shabbos table companion  
for the whole family

לע"נ ר' ברוך חיים בן שלמון ז"ל

Volume 14, Issue 24

Tzav / Pesach

5785

## Halacha Challenge Using a Toothbrush to Brush Away the Chometz

Special  
Erev Pesach Edition



Shabbos morning. Erev Pesach. 9:45 AM. At the Shmukler's home it was quiet. Everyone at the table was silently chewing the last bits of the pita bread that they used for the *lechem mishne*.

By 10:50 everyone looked at each other with a smile. All of the chometz was eaten up.

"Look at that!" said Abba as he looked at the clock, "we finished eating chometz 11 minutes before *sof zman achilas chometz!*"

"I think that's a record for us!" exclaimed Shmuli.

Yehuda looked at everyone and said, "But I still feel bits of chometz between my teeth!"

"Me too," said his brother Binyamin.

"Oh, well in that case, you should brush your teeth," said Levi, "Don't worry, you still have 10 minutes to do that."

"Brush teeth?!" wondered Yehuda, "But today is Shabbos!"

"Oh, you're right," replied Levi. "Hmm...not sure what to tell you."

**Question:** What would you advise them to do?

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

### DEDICATIONS

◆ Chag Kosher vSameyach to all Menucha readers

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In his blessing, Bila'am praised Hashem saying אֶל-מוֹצִיאָם מִמִּצְרַיִם - *G-d who is taking them out of Mitzrayim* (Bamidbar 23:22).

**Q. Why did Bila'am choose a verb for Yetzias Mitzrayim in a present tense (מוֹצִיאָם)?**

**A.** The Ohr HaChaim HaKadosh answers that this verse is a reflection of the teaching in the Mishna (Pesachim 10:5): "A person is obligated to see himself (during the night of the Seder) as if he himself left Mitzrayim" - *yetzias* Mitzrayim occurs in the present - every single year at the Pesach seder.

The Ohr HaChaim explains that it happens on a spiritual level: The power of *kedusha* is released from its shell and connects to Bnei Yisroel.

The Haggadah tells us that a person is praiseworthy if he talks a lot about יציאת מצרים during the *sefer*.

It's obvious that the more one praises Hashem, the more praiseworthy he is. After all, that is what we were created for, as the verse in the *Novi* tells us:

עֲשׂוּ יִצְרָתִי לִי תְהִלָּתִי וְסַפְרוּ.

"This nation I created for Myself; they shall tell about My praise." (Yeshayahu 43:44)

**Q. Why does the Haggadah put a special emphasis on being "מרבנה" specifically now, at the Seder?**

**A.** The *Nesivos Shalom* explains that relating the story of יציאת מצרים during the 1st night of Pesach charges a person with *emunah* for the entire year.

Therefore, the more a person gets involved in the *mitzvah* of סיפור יציאת מצרים, the more *emunah* he will have this year.

We drink the 4 cups of wine at the seder to celebrate the four levels of *geula* that we experienced at *Yetzias Mitzrayim*.

**Q. What is the 4th level of *geula* (ולקחת) referring to?**

**A.** The Ramban teaches that the 4th expression of redemption is referring to the giving of the Torah - the guide of how to serve Hashem. Hence, with the final cup at the *sefer*, which celebrates the fulfillment of "And I will take you", we praise Hashem for making us *avdei* Hashem - His beloved, loyal partners in building this world.

It is taught\* in the name of the Chofetz Chaim, who himself heard from a great Rav, that a person should imagine that he is the only person whom Hashem commanded to keep the Torah (hence, the world depends on him), and that he has but one day to live.

\*[The Triumph of the Spirit, p. 23]

1. The Seder (nowadays) has five mitzvos. Can you name all five of them? [Hint: 2 of them are Torah commandments, and 3 of them are Rabbinic mitzvos]
2. At any other Yom Tov *seuda* we don't do this activity even once, but on the 1st night of Pesach we do it 16 times. What is it?
3. In general, one should be cognizant of how much he eats at any *seuda*. But should one be extra cognizant of how much he eats at the Pesach Seder?
4. On Succos we pick up the Arba Minim and then make a bracha, but at the Pesach Seder we will drop "it" before we make the *bracha*. What is "it"?
5. We typically avoid combining mitzvos into one action. But what is something that we will do at the Pesach Seder where with one action we do two mitzvos, and this year, three?!
6. Is it possible that, at some point, both chometz and matzah are muktza?
7. Who is/are the first one(s) recorded in the Torah that ate matzah?
8. In which parsha is the Torah's first mention - through a *remez* - of the Korban Pesach?
9. Why is it advisable to have a pitcher of water on the table during "Kadesh"?
10. What will your matza taste like at the Seder? Like a crunchy, crisp, delicious cracker. But what was the taste of the matza that we baked from the unrisen dough which we took out of Mitzrayim?
11. After entering Eretz Yisroel, what was the 1st day that we switched from eating *mann* to eating the produce of the Land?