

Just a Story...

Rebbi Meir Baal Haness was a talmid of Rebbi Akiva, Rebbi Yishmael, and Elisha ben Avuyah. His father was a descendant of the Roman Emperor Nero who had converted to Judaism. There are 335 halachos that are mentioned in the Mishnah with Rebbi Meir's explanations. His wife was the famous wise woman, Beruriah. In one encounter, when neighboring wicked people disturbed him, she advised him wisely to pray for their teshuva instead of their destruction. Rebbi Meir followed her advice and his prayers were answered (Berachos 10a).

Rebbi Meir was given a title of Baal HaNess (the master of miracles) for the many miracle stories that were told about him. The most famous one is the following. Once Rebbi Meir's sister-in-law was captured and held by the Romans. Rebbi Meir took a bag of gold coins, disguised as a Roman horseman, and set off to free his sister-in-law. Rebbi Meir approached the guard and offered him the bribe. He explained to the guard that half the money could be used to bribe his supervisors, while the other half was his to keep. When questioned by the worried guard what will happen when the money will run out, Rebbi Meir told him to say "G-d of Meir - answer me!" and that would save him in any situation. To prove his point, Rebbi Meir threw a clump of dirt at the jail watch dogs. The dogs came running towards him. As soon as the dogs came near, Rebbi Meir said "G-d of Meir-answer me!" and the dogs retreated. Convinced by what he had just seen, the guard released Rebbi Meir's sister-in-law. Eventually, the guard was convicted by the Roman government for that act and was sentenced to death. When they attempted to hang him, he uttered: "G-d of Meir-answer me", the rope around his neck tore and he managed to run away.

Answers: *Shemiras Shabbos Kehilchosa* (16:24, new edition) writes: "On Shabbos, one should not place next to each other magnetic letters or picture puzzle pieces on a board that is designated for such purpose or on a refrigerator door." **RIDDLES:** 1. ...an animal (sheep, goat, calf) can be offered as a korban (Vayikra 22:27). 2. *Lechem HaPanim*. The bread symbolizes the physical world. 12 breads correspond to the 12 months of the lunar year (i.e. the 12 *mazalos*). The total volume of flour was 24 *esronim*, which corresponds to the 24 hours in a day. Each *ma'aracha* of the *Shulchan* had 6 breads, which correspond to the 6 days of creation. And the lesson is that the entire physical world is sustained through the merit of Bnei Yisroel who serve Hashem, Who created it all. [*peirush* Ba'al HaTurim] | *Note: Menucha's answer are not to be taken as final decisions in halacha, but rather as a springboard for discussions, questions to a *moreh hora'ah*.

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Menucha

בס"ד
A Shabbos table companion
for the whole family

לע"נ ר' ברוך חיים בן שלמון ז"ל

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Halacha Challenge



Writing with Magnetic Letters



Mrs. Smith was so excited to find magnetic letters at the *shekel* store. "These are great," she exclaimed. "I've been wanting Moshe to work on his English!"

When the letters arrived to the Smith house, all of the kids got busy making words out of the letters, especially

Sarale, who really loved English. She enjoyed making all different kinds of creative phrases.

The children were playing with the letters on Shabbos morning, when Abba walked in the kitchen. "Wait, kids, I think this is not permissible on Shabbos."

"But Abba," said Moshe, "What is the problem? We quickly change the words. It's not permanent."

Sarale, also added, "It's soooooo much fun, and gives us so much *oneg* Shabbos!"

Question: Who's right, Abba or the kids?

The ANSWER is on P.4

DEDICATIONS

♦ In honor of Yona Nissim's *siyum* of Mishnayos Eruvin!

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Parsha Pearl

This week's parsha teaches us the mitzva of Kiddush Hashem, as the verse says **"...And I shall be sanctified among Bnei Yisroel..."** (Vayikra 22:32)

The Rosh in his commentaries on Brachos (ch. 7, *siman* 20) writes: *Our sages have taught in a Braisa (Berachos 47b): "Once, Rabbi Eliezer entered a shul and did not find a minyan there (i.e., there were only 9 men). R. Eliezer then freed his slave and he completed the minyan." But how could he have done that?! Rav Yehuda has taught that someone who frees his slave transgresses a commandment, as it says, "You should enslave them forever"! The answer is that a communal mitzva is different! [Meaning to say] that a communal mitzva is significant, as it says, "And I shall be sanctified among Bnei Yisroel." (Vayikra 22:32) - the positive mitzva of Kiddush Hashem, and even if there is only a rabbinic ordinance such as listening to Kedusha and Borchu.*

The Mishna Berura (125:4) also writes: *One needs to have intent especially during Kedusha to sanctify Hashem's name. And in that merit, Hashem will rest upon him a spirit of holiness from Above. And he should have in mind to fulfill the verse, "And I shall be sanctified among Bnei Yisroel." The Arizal was very careful about this.*



Discuss at Your Shabbos Table

Our parsha describes the mitzva of *Lechem HaPanim*. When the Beis HaMikdash was standing, the blessing of *parnassa* flowed to the world through a channel of *kedusha*. Namely, the *Shulchan* with *Lechem HaPanim* on it (see Sefas Emes on Torah, Emor 5652)

Ask around your Shabbos table: Since we don't have the *Shulchan* of the Beis HaMikdash today, what can provide a channel of *kedusha* for the blessing of *parnassa* nowadays?

Answer: Your dining room table! When words of Torah are spoken at any meal (Shabbos or weekday), the table at which the meal is eaten receives to some degree a status of the *Shulchan* in the Beis HaMikdash! This is based on the Mishna in *Pirkei Avos* (3:3) and the verse that the mishna quotes from the prophet Yechezkel (see Sefas Emes *ibid.*)



Riddles



1. On the 8th day of his life, a baby boy gets a *bris mila*. In this week's parsha, on the 8th day of its life, *(Can you finish the sentence?)*
2. There are 24 hours in the day, 6 days in a week, and 12 months in a year. Which mitzva in parshas Emor has all these numbers? [And yes, that mitzva has these numbers because there are 24 hours in a day, 6 days in a week, and 12 months in a year!]

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



DID YOU KNOW THAT...



You probably knew that from the words קדוש יהיה לך of this week's parsha (Emor) we learn that we need to act with honor towards Kohanim. But did you know that if let's say there are 21 men in the shul, and 20 of them are Kohanim, and one is Yisroel, the Yisroel is the one who receives the 1st Aliya!? [See Shulchan Aruch OC 135:12, with the commentaries of the Mishna Berura there]