



Several years ago a rabbi from out-of-state accepted a call to a community in Houston, Texas. Some weeks after he arrived he had an occasion to ride the bus from his home to the downtown area. When he sat down he discovered that the driver had accidentally given him a quarter too much change. As he considered what to do he thought to himself, "You'd better give the quarter back. It would be wrong to keep it."

Then he thought, "Oh, forget it, it's only a quarter. Who would worry about this little amount? Anyway, the bus company charges too much fare; they will never miss it. Accept it as 'a gift from Hashem' and keep quiet."

When his stop came, he paused momentarily at the door, and then he handed the quarter to the driver and said, "Here, you gave me too much change."

The driver, with a smile, replied, "Aren't you the new rabbi in town?"

"Yes," he replied.

"Well, I have been thinking a lot lately about going somewhere to pray. I just wanted to see what you would do if I gave you too much change. I'll see you in Shul on Shabbos."

When the rabbi stepped off the bus, he literally grabbed the nearest light pole, held on, and said, "Oh, Ribbono Shel Olam, I almost sold a Jew for a quarter!"

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Hints & Answers* **HALACHA CHALLENGE:** *Shemiras Shabbos Kehilchosa* (16:31) teaches that one should not tell children to make soap bubbles on Shabbos. **RHYME:** "fall", "be" **RIDDLE:** In Yaakov's blessing to Binyomin (see Rashi's commentaries there). | *Note: The answers are based only on the sources quoted and might not reflect opinions of other halachic authorities. As such, Menucha's answer are not to be taken as final decisions in halacha, but rather as a springboard for discussions and further study.

The Ness Center
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Halacha Challenge

Making Soap Bubbles on Shabbos



"Imma, I am bored," said Leah on a Shabbos afternoon.

"Do you want to go to the park?" asked Imma.

"It's too cold for me outside," replied Leah.

"Hmm...well, let's see...do you want me to read you a book?" asked Imma.

Leah shook her head to show that she was not interested in a book.

Then, Imma remembered that Leah loves making soap bubbles with the special bubble-making stick that she got as present.

But as Imma was about to propose to Leah this idea, she thought to herself, "Maybe, making soap bubbles on Shabbos is not allowed."

Question: Should Imma suggest to Leah to play the "make soap bubbles" game?

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

DEDICATIONS

♦ Dedicated anonymously for *yeshuos* and *refuos* to all Klal Yisroel

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Parsha Pearls

In this week's parsha, Yaakov Avinu gives the following *bracha* to Naftoli: נַפְתָּלִי אֵילָה שְׁלֹחַהּ הַנָּתַן אִמְרֵי שֹׁפָר *Naftoli is a deer that was sent to run; he delivers words of beauty.* (Bereishis 49:21). What are these “words of beauty”? Targum Onkolos translates this verse in the following way: “*Naftali - in a good land his lot fell; and his inheritance will produce fruits; they will thank and bless [Hashem] for them.*” Hence, Naftoli's “words of beauty” are the blessings on fruits.

What a *beautiful* lesson the Torah is teaching us here! When we make *brachos* on food, they are “words of beauty” in the eyes of HaKadosh Boruch Hu! If so, let's make sure to say our *brachos* in such a way that they will truly deserve that title.



Ask Around Your Shabbos Table

In this week's parsha, Yaakov Avinu blesses Dan with the strength of a snake, יְהִי דָן נָחֵשׁ עָלֶיךָ דָּרָךְ.

Ask around your Shabbos table: What is the unique strength of a snake?

An Answer: A snake “sneaks up” on its prey. How does it do it? When a snake moves from one place to another, it does not move its entire body at the same time. Rather, it moves one part of its body, then the next part, and so on. There is always something moving in its body, and that's how he slowly but surely progresses forward.

Were we also blessed with this strength of a snake? If we do have this strength, then we can use the tactic of “sneaking up” in Avodas Hashem. Rashi tells us that since the Torah says regarding Yaakov Avinu's blessings: אִישׁ אֲשֶׁר כִּבְרַכְתּוֹ בֵּרַךְ אֹתָם (ibid., 49:28) “...each man, according to his blessing, he blessed them” even though the verse should have said “...each man, according to his blessing, he blessed him” we learn that Yaakov Avinu included all the *shevatim* in each blessing. Consequently, all of us possess the strength of a snake, a lion, a wolf etc., which Yaakov Avinu blessed us with.



Rhymes for Kids



“...פָּחַז כַּמַּיִם אֶל-תּוֹמַר [Reuven], you acted in haste like rushing waters. Therefore, you will not have the extra portions...” (parshas Vayechi, Bereishis 49:4)

When you're upset, rushing to answer is not good at all!

In fact, this type of haste is what made Reuven ____.

An important lesson the Torah teaches us in parshas Vayechi:

Being calm is what you always need to ____!

“[You have] the restlessness of water: The restlessness and the haste with which you hastened to display your anger, similar to water which hastens on its course. Therefore, you shall not have superiority...” (Peirush Rashi to Bereishis 49:4)



Trivia & Riddles



Now that we just finished celebrating Chanuka, let's begin thinking about Purim. Where is Purim hinted to in this week's parsha?!



DID YOU KNOW THAT ?

You probably know that it is praiseworthy to say *brachos* slowly. **But did you know** that this is actually codified in the *Mishna Berura*? Here is what the *Mishna Berura* (5:1) writes:

כְּמוֹ שֶׁאָמְרוּ לְ[בִרְכוֹת מ"ז] שֶׁלֹּא יִזְרוֹק הַבְּרָכָה מִפִּי אֶלָּא יִכוּיֵן בְּעַת הָאֲמִירָה וְיִבְרַךְ בְּנֶחֱמָה

“...as our sages of blessed memory said that one should not throw a *bracha* out of his mouth. Rather, he should direct his heart at the time of saying it, and he should make the *bracha* slowly.”