

**nageela**

**Shabbos**

SEASON 1, EPISODE 30

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Have A

A Kid Friendly Torah Magazine by Nageela West Coast

OUR 272<sup>nd</sup> EPISODE

# DVAR TORAH

## Shake it up! by Rabbi Dani Locker

What is the first mitzvah the Jewish people observed upon entering the land of Israel?

- (a) The mitzvah of walking in the Land of Israel
- (b) The mitzvah of driving aggressively
- (c) The mitzvah of waving some barley in the air
- (d) The mitzvah of not wearing wool and linen together
- (e) The mitzvah of buying wholesale
- (f) The mitzvah of spitting in a shoe

Technically, if you gave answer A, you're probably correct. Although perhaps the mitzvahs of believing in and loving God came first. If they were thinking about God as they entered the land and not, "Ooo, that part of the river bank is muddy, I better be careful not to step there." It's funny how we can sometimes miss the opportunities in the most profound moments because of something silly. But that's not what today's Dvar Torah is about, so please don't let me distract you. Now I'm making silly faces. I told you not to be distracted... why won't you listen?

The Midrash actually

lists the Korban Omer as the first mitzvah the Jews fulfilled when they entered Israel (they must not have worn tefillin on chol hamoed). The Omer was a barley offering that was gathered and waved about on the second day of Passover, thanking God for the produce that had grown. The Midrash continues by telling us that it was this Omer offering, brought upon entry to Israel that actually earned us the right to enter Israel. It is the reason, the Midrash explains, that Israel was promised to Abraham. It couldn't be the mitzvah of circumcision, because many Jews had already done that in Egypt. It also couldn't have been the mitzvah of celebrating Passover, because that, too, was done in Egypt. The Omer offering was never done before, and was a new Israel-based mitzvah. When I read this Midrash, it occurred to me how strange it sounded. If you had asked me, I'd have told you that we earned the right to Israel because of a mitzvah we had done. That's the way things work, isn't it? You do something good, you get a reward. If you do something right, you earn the next posi-

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tive incentive. Right? Well, that's not how God works. It's not a game of action and reward. God wanted us to earn Israel by what we were going to do WITH it, not by what we'd done beforehand. So the mitzvah they were GOING to do in Israel is a much better reason than mitzvahs we had already done. I'll illustrate this with some grammar. If you hate grammar, close your ears. Of course, since you're reading this with your eyes, closing your ears won't help much. Oh well. I tried to save you. One of the Hebrew words for 'why' is Lama (not the animal). If you break down the word, it is l'mah- for what- for what end purpose. A reason for something shouldn't be based on what happened in the past, but on what will happen, in the future, because of this. Living in the future is a much better investment than living in the past.

Life is BETTER at the lake

WESLEY & JSU

LAKE AND LAGOON WEEKEND

**QUESTION OF THE WEEK**

SCENARIO: THERE IS A KOHEN IN SHUL AS THE TORAH READING BEGINS. HE'S NOT IN MIDDLE OF PRAYING, NOR IS HE DISQUALIFIED FOR ANY OTHER REASON. YET, A YISRAEL IS CALLED UP FOR THE FIRST ALIYAH. WHY???

**NO CHEATING**

ANSWER ON PAGE 4

# PICKLE JEWS

**GALACTICALLY SYNDICATED COMIC STRIP**  
by Dani Locker, 2023

Panel 1: A man says, "My Rabbi is super holy! He's so great, he fasts every day except Shabbos!" The other man replies, "UMMM..."

Panel 2: The man is shown eating a sandwich at a table. A speech bubble says, "...isn't that your Rabbi sitting there eating a sandwich?"

Panel 3: The man explains, "My Rabbi is so humble, he always eats so that people don't know he's fasting!"



# DEEP THOUGHTS

## IF A TREE FALLS IN THE FOREST, DOES IT MAKE A SOUND, OR JUST A BUNCH OF TWEETS?

levels of angels, and several planes of existence. Plus, there are all kinds of other pseudo spiritual beings which we won't go into. Maybe someday you'll spend the time to think about and try to understand what all those things mean. Today is not that day.

Our sages tell us that angels can only do one job. That's because the definition of an angel is a force of God's will. So if God's will is for someone to heal, then that 'angel' can't do something else. If an angel's job is to control the weather, that means it's supposed to do exactly the opposite of the forecast. "But hey!" you might ask. "There are stories of angels with physical forms, like the ones who visited Abraham and Jacob! There are stories of angels defying God's command! How does that fit with what you just said, Rabbi?" I told you this stuff is hard to understand! But seriously, good question, and we'll continue this conversation next week. Or not. We'll see how brave I'm feeling. For now, let's just leave with the understanding that 'angels' are spiritual forces with no bodies, whose sole existence is to function as God's agents. By the way, do you know how angels light a candle? With a match made in heaven.

Have a Nageela Shabbos,

*The Rabbi*

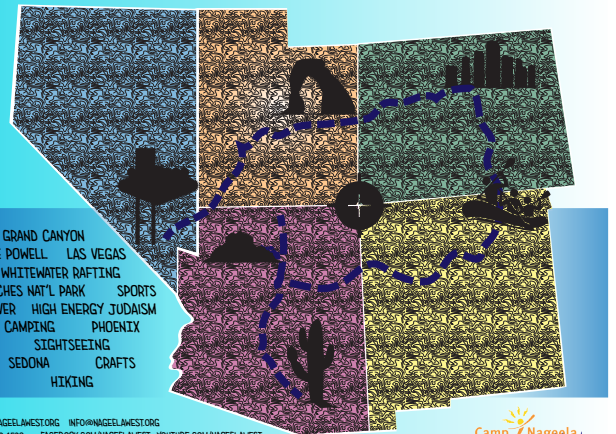
# CAMP NAGEELA WEST 2023



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DAVID KALEN  
TAHEL SIMCHON  
ASHER DUBOWSKY  
ASHER FANEBUST  
JADEN BERNAL  
CLARA SWIBEL



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## ANSWER OF THE WEEK

QUESTION ON PAGE 2

HEY! STOP! THINK FIRST. NO PEEKING!

THE MINYAN IS POPULATED BY ALL KOHANIM, AND ONLY ONE YISRAEL. IN THAT SCENARIO, THE YISRAEL GETS THE FIRST ALIYAH.

# LITZ

DID YOU KNOW THE SUN NEVER WENT TO COLLEGE?

YET IT STILL HAS LIKE A MILLION DEGREES.

THINK YOU CAN DO BETTER? YOU'RE PROBABLY RIGHT. SEND YOUR JOKES IN TO DLOCKER@NAGEELAWEST.ORG



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