

Nageela

Shabbos

SEASON 1, EPISODE 44

A Kid Friendly Torah Magazine by Nageela West Coast

HAVE A

DVAR  
TORAH

How do we know God loves the Jewish people?

- He created candy
- He created Chol Hamoed trips
- He gives us life, air and water
- He gave us Torah and mitzvos
- He rescued us many, many times from all sorts of enemies, foes, antagonists, adversaries, villains and assorted baddies
- He made the sea split
- He made a banana split
- He turned Haman into a three cornered cookie

...and the list goes on

What things might make us doubt God's love?

- He created Red Vines
- He made us genetically predisposed to allergies and gave us a holiday full of plants and staying outdoors
- He designed Jewish noses

□ Nothing

really. It's impossible.

Triple Love  
by Rabbi Dani Locker

Of course, even with the creation of certain questionable confections and cosmetic imperfections, we know how much God loves us. As we see in the first list, God saving us from evil and providing holidays to celebrate them is a fantastic show of God's love. Yet there might be something even greater.

In the kiddush for holidays, you can take a look, you'll find the word 'Be'ahava' - with love more than once. Makes sense. What's a little harder to understand is that that word, 'Be'ahava' appears an extra couple of times in brackets [if you're using an Artscroll publication] or in parenthesis (if you're using a parenthetical publication) because those additions are only said when the holiday coincides with Shabbos. Well, isn't that interesting? Why do we add more expressions of love for Shabbat than for a typical holiday?

Let's answer the question with another question: Why do we celebrate most holidays? Usually it's because (as we mentioned earlier) (see, that was a good use of



Did Jew know that you can sponsor a week of Nageela Shabbos?  
Would YOU consider sponsoring an episode?

parentheses), something awesome happened to the Jewish people. That shows specific love to the Jewish people! It makes sense that these holidays should belong to us exclusively. But do you know why we celebrate Shabbos? Because God created the world. Awesome? Sure! But it should not belong to the Jewish people more than any other nation. They were all created, too. Yet God has given Shabbos to us exclusively. That shows extra love. Giving us a gift that should not naturally be in our purview does more to

love for us to feel and experience.

But wait, there's more!

**Shabbos is a greater show of love than a holiday**

What miracle do we celebrate on this holiday of Shemini Atzeres?

[Crickets]

[Brackets]

(I wonder if brackets sound like crickets when they make noise)



show God's love for us than the 'standard' holiday love. So when a holiday takes place on a Shabbos- WOW, there's so much more

There is no specific thing we celebrate on the holiday of Shemini Atzeres. Rashi tells us the deal. After this whole big international festival of Sukkos (offerings were brought for all the nations of the world, and many of them would come to participate), God just wants to spend time with us. No special reason. Just because we are loved. Now package that together with the extra love we may feel on Shabbos, and we should be absolutely bursting with the affection God feels toward us.

So enjoy the holiday, and send some love back His way, too!

# PICKLE JEWS

## GALACTICALLY SYNDICATED COMIC STRIP

by Dani Locker, 2023

OUR SAGES COMPARE THE HOLIDAY OF SHEMINI ATZERES TO A KING WHO HAS JUST FINISHED A LARGE GATHERING WITH MANY GUESTS. HE ASKS HIS SON TO STAY FOR ONE MORE DAY, SO THEY CAN SPEND TIME TOGETHER, WITHOUT ANYONE ELSE.



My dear son, now that all the guests have gone, please stay for one more day. We'll be able to spend some time, just you and I.

That's great! I'm so happy. I can't wait to spend oodles and oodles of time with you, and my imaginary friends. I know, we can have a tea party! I'll go get the gloves and bats, so we can have a catch. Then we'll do some rollerblading. I'll take the entire library and we'll read book after book after book after book. Then I'll recite the poetry that I've written, while we do yoga in the garden. Oh, speaking of the garden, we can do some gardening together. There are some lovely plants I've been meaning to work with and I'm sure that it will be such fun! I can get the nail polish and we can give each other manicures, and then we can take out the paintbrushes, paints and canvases. There's a lovely view of a stream that we can paint. I find that staring at it for hours really helps me envision it in my head and helps me put the paint on the canvas really well. I'll go to the stream, maybe swim. Or fishing. I can't wait to sit on the river bank for a small nibble. We'll catch tons of fish and then when we get enough fish we can make a bonfire together to cook them. We'll make the fire so big that we'll need to

Well, would you look at the time? I just realized, I'm actually quite busy today! Perhaps another day...

LOCKER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

# STUMP THE RABBI

Stump the Rabbi is a forum where kids can ask ANY Jewish question.

Have a question? Please send it in to [stump@nageelawest.org](mailto:stump@nageelawest.org)

(Most) questions here are real. Names and some wording have been changed.

**Note & Disclaimer:** We call this 'Stump The Rabbi' for fun, but that's not really the point. The goal is to learn something important in an interesting way. The answers here should not be taken as halachic decisions. You should always ask a competent Rabbi personally.

Hi Rabbi,

#250

Beat it!

I thought I had seen enough strange Jewish customs, but it jsut keeps getting better. What's this about taking sticks and hitting thr ground with them? What? Why? I don't even know where to begin!

Thanks,  
William Lowe

Dear Willowe,

Here are some fake reasons for why we smack willow branches on the ground:

1. Aravah (the Hebrew word for willow) has the same numerical value as Red Vines, and so they deserve to be smashed into the floor.
2. During the second temple era, one janitor forgot to mop, and the floors were gross. In order to avoid embarrassing the poor fellow, we knocked off all the leaves from our willow branches until the floor was covered.
3. How Sh' a know?

The truth is, as opposed to most of the mitzvos of Sukkos which are in the Torah, the custom of banging a bundle of willow branches on the ground on the final day of Sukkos is a later addition, and is a little harder to understand. In order to properly answer, I'm going to borrow a bit from Stump the Rabbi that was featured in Season 3, episode 46, and add some more flavor.

Beating the willow. Now here's an unusual custom. We take a bundle of (usually) five willow branches, on the morning of Hoshana Rabba (the final day of Sukkot) and smash them on the ground.

Weird. This custom is not mentioned anywhere in the Torah, but was instituted by prophets, years later. Among the many explanations, here are a few:

Willows, or Aravot, grow at water sources (usually near rivers). On Sukkot, God determines how much water we will have for the year. Water is massively important,

because, like, nothing would grow without it.

That was probably obvious. Aaaaanyway... now that we are finishing the period of judgment for water, we take this water-based plant and 'retire' it by putting it back on the ground.

Here's another one:

As we mentioned before, the four species all represent different body parts (if we used wheat, it would represent dandruff, i think). Aravot represent the mouth. So what? There are two symbols here. First, in order to ensure that God listens to our prayers, we must 'put our mouth in the dirt' meaning to make sure not to say anything we shouldn't be saying, like Lashon Hara, which comes from our mouths being 'high up.' Also, our prayers (mouth) must come from the ground, meaning, we must be humble for our prayers to work.

Another explanation points out that willow grows naturally wild. We, too,



???

DAYS UNTIL  
CNW GIRLS  
2024

???

DAYS UNTIL  
CNW BOYS  
2024

DATES WILL BE ANNOUNCED IN OCTOBER!

# DEEP THOUGHTS

## SINCE LARGER PEOPLE HAVE MORE SKIN ON THEIR BODY, THAT TECHNICALLY MAKES THEM SKINNIER

have many natural talents and abilities. In order for them to be channeled properly, we must keep them grounded.

One more for today:

We've mentioned in the past that the four species are analogous to four different types of Jews in various stages of Torah knowledge and mitzvah observance, yet all get connected for the good of the entire nation. The aravos (willow) represents the Jew who unfortunately isn't knowledgeable in Torah and is not connected to the commandments either. The symbolism here is a stark contrast. When this Jew ties himself to Jews with more knowledge and goodness, he will thrive as part of the community. Yet if he bundles himself together with only other Jews who are lacking

in Torah and mitzvos, things don't end well for any of them. No, I'm not making this stuff up.

Like with most symbolic mitzvot, it's really important not to forget about the meaning behind the symbols. We focus on joyfully celebrating the wonderful blessings God has given us, and pray that God continues to shower us (literally- it's about rain) with blessings in the year ahead of us.

Have a Nageela Shabbos,

*The Rabbi*

SCOTTSDALE

# SCAVENGER HUNT

at the JCC

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 18TH ~ 2:30-4:00PM  
**FREE! DRINKS AND SNACKS**  
**WIN A \$50 GIFT CARD!**

5TH-8TH GRADERS  
 RSVP FOR A PRIZE  
 917-613-1537 OR INSTAGRAM  
 @JEUNIOR\_NCSY

Jew Junior NCSY

A MONTHLY JEWISH THING

# THE JEUNIOR CHALLENGE

FOR AWESOMETASTIC 4-8 GRADERS

Jewish Calendar

# Kahoot!

Watch the video, play the kahoot, get a chance to win...

Apple AirPods Pro

VIDEO

KAHOOT

# LOLZ

I USED TO HAVE PICTURES OF THE SEVEN SPECIES IN MY SUKKAH. BUT I TOOK THEM DOWN, BECAUSE I WANTED HIGH QUALITY IMAGES AND TWO OF THEM WERE GRAINY.

THINK YOU CAN DO BETTER? YOU'RE PROBABLY RIGHT. SEND YOUR JOKES IN TO [DLOCKER@NAGEELANEST.ORG](mailto:DLOCKER@NAGEELANEST.ORG)

# HBD

Happy Birthday wishes to the following Nageela family members:

Lian Bega  
 Ahmi Montoya  
 Hannah Bernstein  
 Ayden Arya  
 David Elmaleh

Ethan Kenwood  
 Isabella Kenwood  
 Reece O'Brien  
 Shaye Jaget



Nageela Shabbos is a weekly publication of Nageela West Coast, Joyfully Jewish Experiences.  
[www.nageelawest.org](http://www.nageelawest.org)  
 801-613-1539