

HAVE A

NAGEELA SHABBOS

A Kid Friendly Torah Magazine by Nageela West Coast

DVAR TORAH

What made the Mishkan holy?

Yeah, I know it's God's resting place. But what gave it that ability? What was special about it that brought God's presence into it?



You've read Harry Potter, right? I am talking to people, aren't I? In J.K. Rowling's universe, where does the magic come from? If you're like most people, you are probably thinking about magic wands. Yew or willow, phoenix feather or dragon heartstring, magic wands are a big part of what creates the magic of a Hogwarts wizard. But that's not where the magic comes from. If you put a wand into the hand of a muggle, nothing will happen, except them possibly poking someone in the eye. On the other hand, all wizards are capable of some wandless magic. The wand helps focus and properly direct the magic that's already inside. Same thing with the Mishkan. Yup, the holy tabernacle has a magical core. And yes, I will explain what I mean.

Something unique happened when the Mishkan's construction was completed. After Betzalel and his staff completed construction of the Mishkan's components, they could not put it together. It wasn't for a lack of trying. They were simply unable to complete the assembly. They could not find the power button. Before

The Power Button by Rabbi Dani Locker

you the rest of the story, let's examine how the Mishkan was built.

The Midrash tells us that each component of the Mishkan was a parallel to an aspect of heaven. In fact, God showed Moses heavenly versions of each of the Mishkan's parts before he made them. It was made on the template of holiness, and as such, it certainly should have been able to be a conduit for holiness. And in case you were concerned about the builders, lemme tell ya a bit about this man named Betzalel. His name means he was 'in God's shade.' Betzalel was an expert on understanding the spiritual and how it interacts with the physical. I don't want to overly complicate things, but Betzalel understood the 'spiritual source code' of the universe, and was able to manipulate nature using God's holy names. That's some super power! More than that, though, he was able to build the Mishkan in a way that would be the perfect receiver for God's divine presence. In a nutshell, he was super holy, and he used super holy blueprints.

So what happened when he tried to put it together? He couldn't do it. All the king's horses and all the king's rolls of duct tape couldn't put the Mishkan



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continued on two, too.

won from page one

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

The primary requirement to be a Kohen is to be a descendant of Aaron, and that would certainly also apply to being the Kohen Gadol (Chief Kohen, or High Priest)

Can you think of TWO people who were not descendants of Aaron yet served as Kohen Gadol?

Answer is on page 4.
DON'T CHEAT!

up. Till they brought in the big guns. Moses was the only one who actually succeeded in erecting the edifice. If the Mishkan was built in such perfect sync with heaven, why was there such trouble in bringing the holiness down to it? Because the Mishkan, perfect core and all, was just a wand. The true power behind any spiritual endeavor is not the kabbalistic keys, names of God or holy rituals. Not red strings, Hamsas or Humus. It's Torah and Mitzvah observance. That's the magic. The other things help focus and direct that magic, sure, but the true magic is Torah greatness. That's why Moses was the one who had to provide the spark to 'power on' the Mishkan. Not Betzalel, not

any other holy person. Just the greatest Torah scholar of all time.

We often get sidetracked and distracted by spiritual things. Don't get me wrong; they are good things. Whether they're good omens (Segulas), holy objects, or even blessings from great people; these all have tremendous value, like a good wand. We must stay focused, though, and remember that our true success in connecting to God and to our purpose in life comes primarily from our Torah study and Mitzvah observance. Remember, the Mishkan chooses the prophet...

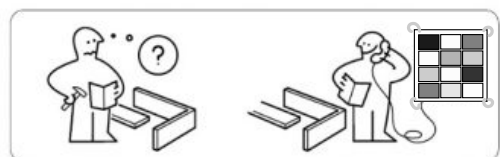
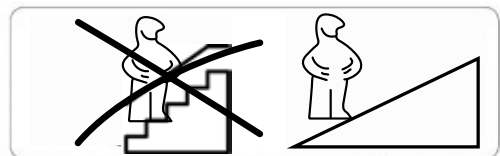
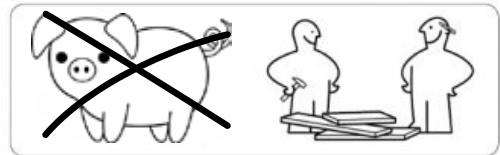
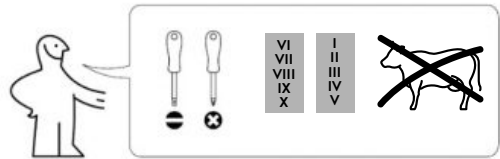
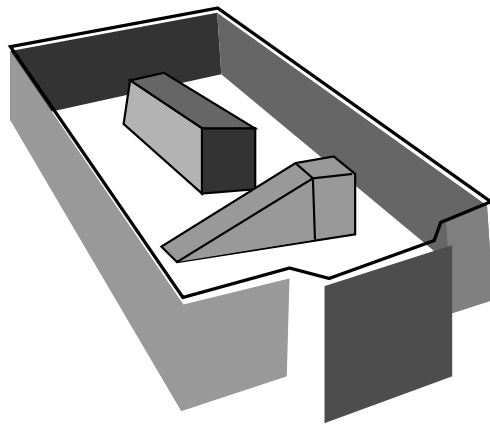
PICKLE JEWS

by Dani Lecker, 2024

GALACTICALLY SYNDICATED COMIC STRIP

MISHKÄN

ASSEMBLY INSTRUCTIONS



102

DAYS UNTIL
CNW GIRLS
2024

124

DAYS UNTIL
CNW BOYS
2024

#260 Where's Waldo



**stump the
rabbi**

StumpTheRabbi

is a forum where kids can

ask ANY Jewish question.

Have a question? Please send it in to 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,

How can I have a relationship with a God who I've never met? I pray, but He doesn't reply, which is hard for me to relate to.

Thanks

Dori Wall

Dear Wall, Do,

What a profound question! You've touched upon a challenge that humans have faced since forever. Indeed it can be frustrating to try and connect with someone or something that does not seem to return your efforts. Imagine trying to have a conversation with someone who then ignores you. Like, if you've ever tried to have a conversation with a teenager who owns a phone, you'll know what I'm talking about. At best it's like you're talking to an NPC. So here are a couple of strategies that you can use to help relate:

A small child and his father are shipwrecked in a plane crash on an abandoned desert tropical jungle island planet (I think I've covered every possible scenario). As they're climbing over a river- mountain- cliff- volcano, the son falls and sprains his ankle. If that wasn't bad enough, they hear snarls coming through the foliage. Autocorrect wants me to say they hear snails coming through the foliage. I imagine that would not be nearly as terrifying as snarls, unless they were really, really big snails. So hey, why not. They hear the snarls of giant, man- eating underwater desert snails. They try to run, but the son's ankle just isn't up to it. His father lifts him onto his shoulders and begins running in a mad dash through the trees, pyramids and orange construction cones, keeping his distance from the not-so-sluggish snails. The son, petrified, calls out to his father. "Dad! Will we be OK?" His father (either because he's preoccupied, or because he doesn't know English) doesn't answer him. "Daaaad!" No answer.

No verbal answer, but his father grasps his son's hand a bit tighter as he continues running.

Does this son doubt that his father loves him? Of course not. His father is showing his love in very

real and meaningful methods, albeit not with words.

We speak to God when we pray. God does not (usually) send us direct verbal communication. Yet God communicates with us rather clearly. Each morning when you open your eyes and are able to get up from your bed, God is hugging you. When you successfully metabolize food, using the nutrients to give you energy and expelling the parts you don't need, God is carrying you on His shoulders. Whenever we are protected from harm, when Israel survives yet another attack, or when someone recovers from an illness; these are God's arm around our shoulders. It might be challenging- no, it IS challenging to think about this all the time. Yet spending just a minute each day thinking about the amazing blessings we have in life, can be a powerful tool to build this realization and help encourage us to feel warmly toward our Creator. In particular, there are two things I recommend. The prayer "Modeh Ani" is super short and is said right when we wake up. It's a quick thank you to God for giving us a new day of life. The second thing is blessings over food. We eat often. I eat really, really often. If we train ourselves to thank God each time we eat, we'll have a much easier time feeling His hugs.

Have a Nageela Shabbos,

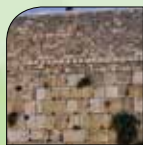
The Rabbi

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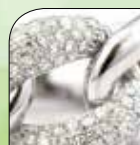
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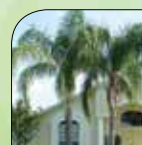
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