

# have a Nageela Shabbos

A KID FRIENDLY WEEKLY PUBLICATION OF NAGEELA WEST COAST JOYFULLY JEWISH EXPERIENCES

CANDLE  
LIGHTING:

SCOTTSDALE 7:03  
HENDERSON 7:21  
LAS VEGAS 7:23  
SAN DIEGO 7:22  
IRVINE 7:27  
LOS ANGELES 7:30  
RENO/ TAHOE 7:49

SEASON 4  
EPISODE 23

## WATER YOU DOING? BY RABBI DANI LOCKER



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How low can you flow... or, "Water you doing?"

Have you ever tried fitting an ice cube into a water bottle? Unless you have specially shaped, narrow cubes (in which case they wouldn't technically be cubes at all, but convex hexahedrons), you're not gonna have much luck. Ice cubes have their own shape, and won't sink down to your level. Pull out a blowdryer, and you have a completely different story. In its liquid form, there's nothing that holds water back from following gravity. It will continue to move until it finds the absolute lowest place it can.

Many early sources use this example to explain why Torah can be compared to water. Just as water seeks the lowest place, so too, Torah keeps best in people who are humble, and don't hold themselves too high. Believe it or not, I've got an even better example for you.

Four travelers are lost in the hot, dry desert, and they're desperate for water. Eventually, they come across a spring that has a small trickle of water dripping from a cliff. Wanting to gather all the water they can carry, they pull out a large blanket, strong enough to hold the water. Each one of the travelers holds one corner of the blanket, and they position it under the drip. Yet after a few minutes of collecting water, one of the travelers figures out that there really isn't enough water for them all. He decides to try and get more water than his fellow travelers by putting his corner of the blanket closer to the drip. He lifts up his corner just a few inches higher than everyone else's... What do you think happens? That's right. The higher he lifts, the less water he gets. Torah runs far away from people who

try to lift themselves above others! It is those willing to mold themselves into whatever shape necessary, those who aren't stiff and upright, those who yield... they receive the life sustaining wealth of Torah.

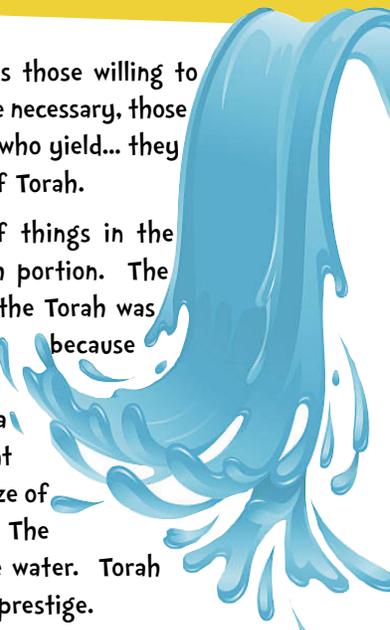
This helps explain a number of things in the beginning of this week's Torah portion. The parsha begins by mentioning that the Torah was given on Mount Sinai. This is stressed, because Mount Sinai is not impressively tall. At less than 7,500 feet above sea level, it's shorter than Nevada's Mount Charleston, and less than half the size of some other mountains in the region. The lesson of Sinai is the lesson of the water. Torah does not follow size nor power nor prestige.

One of the beginning concepts in the parsha is that of Shemitah. Amazingly, every seventh year, the entire country of Israel is supposed to stop farming, planting, plowing and harvesting their crops. It is a nearly complete economic shutdown. Every seven years. Do you have any idea how difficult it is for a poor farmer to abandon his work when he might really need that money? Yet keeping shemitah faithfully is a massive statement of trust in God. It's saying loud and clear, "I am not in charge." Once again, we are reminded of the importance of recognizing our own limitations and God's perfection.

So Water YOU doing? I'm going with the flow.

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# Birth Pangs

Hi Rabbi,

I've been hearing people say that Corona means that Mashiach is coming. First of all, is it true? Secondly, what does one have to do with another?

Thanks,

Moshe Yachnes



**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)*

*Questions here are real. Names and some wording have been changed.*

Dear Mosheyach,

I would say, "Hold your horses," but Mashiach is supposed to come on a donkey, so hold your donkeys!

A little background for our readers: The eternal home of the Jewish people is the land of Israel. Not just the land itself- the dirt and trees and large, ferocious cats... the spiritual existence of the Jewish people in Israel is linked to our holy temple- the Beis Hamikdash. Twice we've lived in peace, on our land, with our temple. Twice we've been driven out of our land, smacked down, temple destroyed and Jewish people crippled. For the past (nearly) two thousand years, we've been wandering without a permanent home. Even though we Jews now have control of the physical land of Israel, which is AWESOME, the exile isn't over so long as we have no temple, and the majority of the Jewish people don't really care.

We have a long standing promise from God that a leader will arise to lead us out of our darkness, rebuild the holy temple, and restore Torah knowledge, Jewish pride and peace to the world. We've been waiting, literally

for millennia for him to come!

We also have the well documented tradition that it won't be all rainbows and unicorns (how

did we get from donkeys to unicorns?). Many sources predict times of terrible trouble and suffering before Mashiach comes to make it all good. They compare it to a woman in labor. It's the second most painful experience on earth (right behind stepping on Lego barefoot), and the end result is wonderful. One possible reason for this is that God hurried us out of our Egyptian slavery early, so we need to 'pay back' the suffering that we avoided. Others explain that it's simply because people don't appreciate anything that comes easy. Mashiach, like everything else of value in the world, must come through some sacrifice.

Is Corona the pirthpain of Mashiach? Maybe. The truth is nobody knows. Over the past two thousand years, Rabbis, experts, authors and leaders have made many predictions. Exile has been tough for us, and we keep looking for hope wherever we can find it! Many predicted that Mashiach would come in the year 1637, which

ended up being a time of great Jewish suffering during the Cossack revolt. It even helped encourage a false Mashiach called Shabtai Tzvi. His life story is for a different time, but a large portion of the Jews at the time believed he was the redeemer (he's the second most famous false Mashiach. The number 1 was born just about 2020 years ago).



Exile has been  
tough for us,  
and we keep  
looking for hope

**JOIN RABBI  
LOCKER +  
GUESTS  
THIS TUES!**

**Ncsp+**

**GAMES + HANG WITH FRIENDS + AWESOMELY FUNNY PRIZES + LOCKER + Jew+er**

**EVERY TUESDAY AT 5**

continued from previous page

Many more sages believed that the events surrounding World War 2 and the establishment of the modern state of Israel was the beginning of Mashiach. They may have been right. How long do these birth pains last? Nobody knows that. It

is possible that Corona is a part of the final pains leading up to world enlightenment and peace. And it's possible that it's just a nasty virus with no specific link to the end of days (of course everything fits into God's master plan somehow).

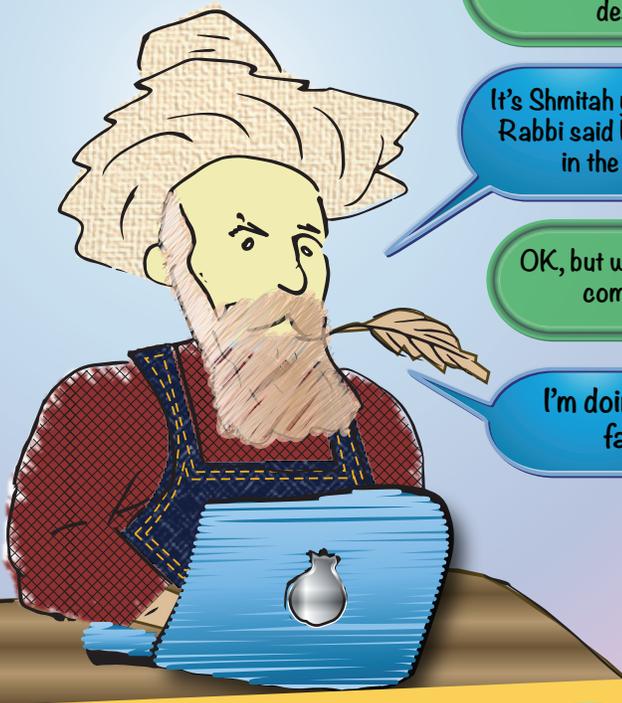
Have a Nageela Shabbos,  
*the Rabbi.*

# PICKLE JEWS

## GALACTICALLY SYNDICATED COMIC STRIP



**TO nageela CAMPER ARI POLONSKY WHO PUT ON TEFILIN FOR THE FIRST TIME THIS WEEK!**



Farmer Joe, what are you doing sitting at a desk?

It's Shmitah year and the Rabbi said I can't work in the fields

OK, but what's with the computer?

I'm doing ZOOM farming

Dr

## Question of the Week

Most mitzvos come along with a blessing: Eating matzah, lighting Shabbos candles, wearing a tallis. Generally the rule is 1 mitzvah = 1 blessing.

*In which scenario would one person make two blessings for a single mitzvah?*

ANSWER ON PAGE 4

# DEEP THOUGHTS



**IF TOMATO SAUCE IS MADE OUT OF TOMATOES, WHAT IS DUCK SAUCE MADE OF?**

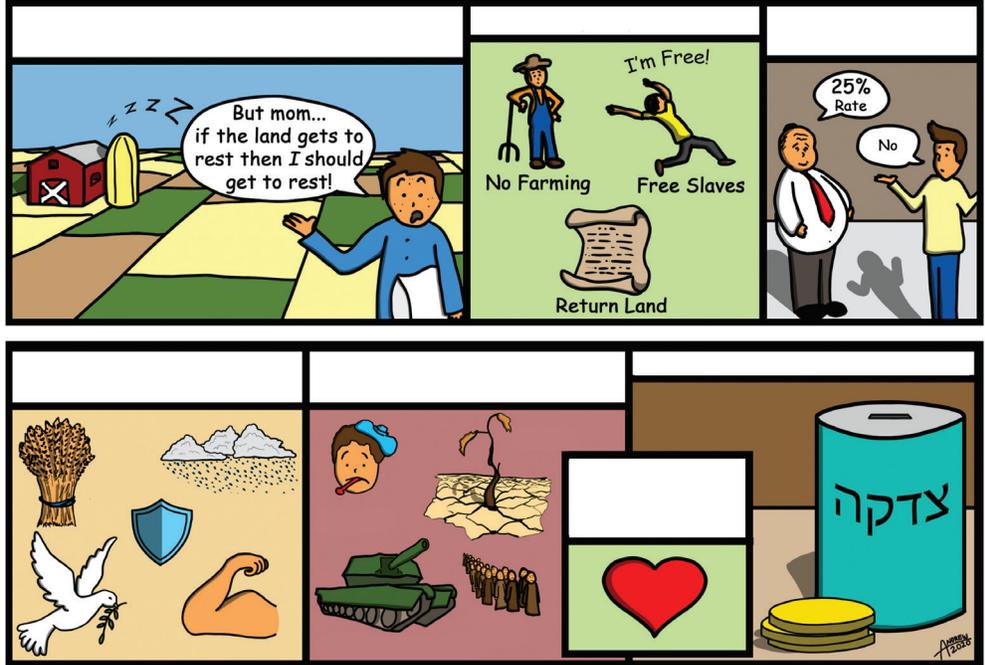
# HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Happy Birthday to family members who have celebrated recently:

Shoshana Schwartz  
Shlomo Leiser  
Shani Kanfi  
Manny Rosen  
Ashley Sellen  
Gabby Rivera

Gabriel Hafter  
Maxim Quint  
Tuvia Reback  
Rina Greenberg  
Shimshon Levin

**Behar - Bechukotai** FILL IN THE BLANK By: Andrew Galitzer



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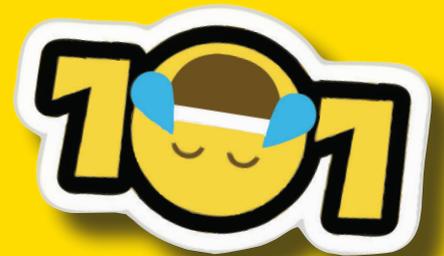
**QUESTION ON PAGE 3**  
**HEY, DON'T PEEK!**  
**THINK FIRST!**

**Answer of the Week**  
 When a father acts as a Mohel at his own son's bris, he makes two blessings: Al Hamilah, and L'hachnissu Tefillin isn't a valid answer because the hand & head tefillin are separate mitzvos.

camp nageela west  
**BIG BEAR**  
**2020**

Girls session: June 23-July 13  
 Boys Session: July 15- Aug 4

Registration is open now  
[nageelawest.org/apply](http://nageelawest.org/apply)



Mr. Oxygen and Mrs. Pottasium got married.

The wedding was OK. I know, science puns aren't really my thing, but I do enjoy them periodically.

**OUCH! GROAN!**  
 got a better joke?  
 Email it to [dlocker@nageelawest.org](mailto:dlocker@nageelawest.org)



DAYS TO CAMP NAGEELA WEST GIRLS SESSION

DAYS TO CAMP NAGEELA WEST BOYS SESSION

Find out about our Grand Tour 2020 and see photos from GT2019 at [nageelawest.org](http://nageelawest.org)



Nageela West breaks the mold of old school Jewish outreach by providing out-of-the-box social and educational programs for Jewish children across the west coast. Through

afterschool activities, weekend retreats and our signature summer camp, we engage elementary and middle school children in a fun and meaningful experience.

Our "questions encouraged" mindset makes Nageela a comfortable learning and growing environment for Jewish children of all backgrounds.