

The spiritual needs of the Jewish people were met by the tribe of Levi- including the Kohanim. It was a small group of people who were trained in the fine art of the Temple service, the offerings, the prayers and many other rituals. It was because of this that the entire tribe of Levi was excluded from the division of land in Israel. That means that as the Jews entered Israel and Josh-

ua split it up among all the families of the Jewish people, the entire tribe of Levi comes down to it, you've got no ancestral homeland. They did got to know your main job. get a number of cities to live in, but they were spread out. There was no 'portion of the tribe of Levi." The Torah explains, in our very own portion, that this is in order to keep them focused on their job as the spiritual guides of the Jewish people and the temple functionaries. Surely, if a Kohein had to worry about planting season, plowing season, harvesting season, football season or tax season, it would detract from their ability to focus on the Temple service.

Yet, a Kohein's job was hardly full time. In fact, do you know how long each Kohein was on duty in the temple every year? Just two weeks!

Two weeks!

I mean, even members of Congress work at least 120 days a year. 2 weeks!

Why can't a Kohein tend his ranch, plant his

BIG ANSWERS. AT YOUR SCHOOL IN SOCAL.

millet, spelt, emmer and einkorn, sorghum, amaranth, kamut and fonio, then take a two week vacation to Jerusalem, trade in his straw hat for a linen turban, and serve as the spiritual leader he's meant to be?

> When it comes down to it, what is your main job? You've got to have clarity, because you will never put as much effort into your side hustle as into your primary occupation. If you do,

then it's no longer your side hustle.

When it

God prevented the Levites from owning permanent land in Israel because He didn't want the Temple service and the spiritual needs of our nation to become a side hustle. True, a kohein might not be on duty for more than a couple of weeks, but when he's on, he's got to be ON. He can't be checking the weather app to see if his crops need to be on a different watering schedule, or texting his farmhand to remember to feed the lamas.

The same can be applied to our lives. As Jews, we might not spend all our time in synagogues or study halls. We have jobs, schoolwork and hobbies. Yet we should try to keep in mind what our priorities are and what are the side gigs.

QUESTION OF THE **WEEK**

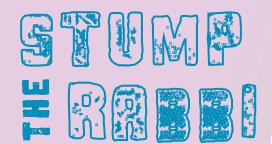
WHERE IN THIS WEEK'S PORTION ARE THE NUMBERS 1, 2 AND 3 FOUND IN THE SAME VERSE? NO CHEATING **ANSWER ON PAGE 4**











Stump the Rabbi 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,

#244

The Lonnnng Game

Why do bad things happen to good people? If it's true that there is a God and, God is good, and God controls everything, why wouldn't he make it so that good people have great lives? Also, if we are God's people and we have stood up through history for morality and goodness, why do the Jews have so much trouble?

Thanks,

Percy Cuted

Dear Percy,

drum.

Last week we discussed the national suffering of the Jewish people, and how God pushes us to become the greatest nation we can. Today, I'd like to give spme perspective on the individual aspect of the question. If you look at the world, you won't see that the best people have the best lives. It simply isn't the case. There are some pretty lousy people who seem to have it great, and there are some truly wonderful people who seem to suffer. Your excellent question is one that has been asked for, literally, thousands of years. I am not, in a one page, kid-friendly magazine, going

Here's a thought though.

to fully answer this age- old conun-

Who do you think enjoys school more, those who take it seriously, or those who don't? Let's look at colleges as an example. Some schools are known as 'party colleges' where students have loads of fun, party and enjoy their lives. Then there are schools known for preparing their students for serious careers.

I'm sure there are some exceptions, but it is logical to assume that students who party a lot don't have as successful a career afterwards. Students who take college very seriously, work hard, rarely party and put a ton of effort into their work, might not enjoy their college experience as much (although for many, their sense of accomplishment they gain is better than any party would have been), but they surely will end up being more successful.

The same thing can be said for athletes who train hard, chefs who take the time to do things right, construction workers who use screws instead of school glue, or people who practice healthy diets. Putting in effort and sometimes experiencing discomfort is often a price paid for a worthy goal.

If our existence was limited to the 80 or 100 years we live here on Earth, then the results would be very depressing. But if our existence is forever (as we Jews DO belive), and our consciousness will live for

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DAYS UNTIL CNVV GIRLS 2024



DAYS UNTIL CNVV BOYS 2024

HTHOU HGHTS

HEAT, PRESSURE, AND TIME. THE THREE THINGS THAT MAKE A DIAMOND ARE ALSO THE THREE THINGS THAT MAKE A WAFFLE.

many, many thousands of years (yes, I know forever is longer than thousands of years, but it's a hard concept to grasp), then whatever happens in a century or less of life on Earth is small change. It's like getting one shot to prevent a lifetime of diseases, or flying in the middle seat on Spirit to get to an amazing destination.

Here's where it gets a little more complicated:

Every person, no matter how good or bad, has done some good in their lives and some

wrong in their lives. That's just a fact. The worst villain you can imagine has given charity, smiled at the cashier, or prayed. The most wonderful tzadik has gotten angry, or made the wrong blessing or failed to give the benefit of the doubt. Since our consciousness lives forever, God usually doesn't want to give a good person eternal discomfort for their misdeeds. So they get some pain, poverty, illness or other troubles during this short, temporary life. That way, when this temporary life is over, they get to enjoy their forever reward in a forever life, with everlasting pleasure. Hooray!

The flip side is true as well. When a bad person does some good deeds, since God is perfectly just, that person needs to get rewarded for their goodness. So God may give them wealth and success in this temporary world, so that they don't have an eternity of pleasure. Still this doesn't mean that everyone who is successful is bad and everyone who suffers is good. God's got a really complex algorithm. But it works, and we trust that everyone gets what they need to succeed!

Have a Nageela Shabbos,

The Rabbi

We're finally caught up! Happy Birthday wishes to the following:

Zahava Locker
Poppy McGregor
Talia Sharaby
Eitan Goldwasser
Nadav Boskovitz
Michael Torres
Joney Shlasinger
Jaymari Stewart
Nathan Malis
Ellie Piriyeva
Jayson Stewart
Shylee Braner
Sidney Ghenassia
Chaya Leiter

Sponsored by the Streiter family, may their children merit to grow up as Torah learning Jews!

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REGIONAL BOARD FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL-ERS- A FEW SPOTS LEFT!. MOTIVATED 7-8TH GRAD-ERS PLEASE CONTACT US!

KICKOFF

MONDAY, AUGUST 28TH
JEWNIOR NCSY KICKOFF
EVENT IN LAS VEGAS!
STRY TUNED FOR DETRILS!

KICKOFF EVENTS COMING SOON IN: SCOTTSDALE - PARK CITY SAN DIEGO LOS ANGELES - IRVINE

ANSWER OF THE WEEK

QUESTION ON PAGE 2

HEY! STOP! THINK FIRST. NO PEEKING!

IN DISCUSSING THE LAWS OF WITNESSES. The torah Says That One Witness ISN't Good Enough. Only two or Three Witnesses Establishes fact.



WHAT HAPPENS TO A FROG WHO PARKS ILLEGALLY?

HE PROBABLY GETS TOAD.

THINK YOU CAN DO BETTER? YOU'RE PROBABLY RIGHT.
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