

Beha'aloscha 5782
June 10th 2022



a kid friendly publication of Nageela West Coast Joyfully Jewish Experiences



Bearly Edible

by Rabbi Dani Locker

As a kid, there were some questions that deeply bothered me somewhere deep down, but I never thought of actually asking them. One such was about bears. When I wake up from a nap, I'm hungry. If I get a full night's sleep (hypothetically), I'm famished. Yet bears- these large meaty mammals- can sleep for months at a time. Without food? How? There was definitely a point in my childhood when I assumed they must get up every few hours for a munch. Or an IV drip. Something! Yet the bear, and many other of Earth's creatures can go for an extremely long time between meals. The Galapagos Tortoise can go a year without eating, and I've heard of some teenage humans that can survive minutes in between bites!

Have you ever wondered, if God is capable of creating animals with such convenient features, why not

humans? The Talmud actually asks this question about the Manna. For a little background, after our ancestors left Egypt (y'know, the Passover thing), they spent 40 years out in the desert, where no food grows, and all the 7-11s were under construction (which incidentally, is the only reason most 7-11s have locks on their doors). How do you feed a nation of a few million people in the desert?

Miraculously, a unique 'bread' fell daily from the sky. In Hebrew it's called 'man' but for some reason it's usually written as 'manna' in English. Weird. It was delicious and nutritious, and for the duration of their stay in the desert, they never had to worry about food (for more on

this, see this week's Stump the Rabbi). Anyway, the Talmud wants to know



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

Have a question? Please send it in to stump@nageelawest.org

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

Note: 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.

Stump the Rabbi

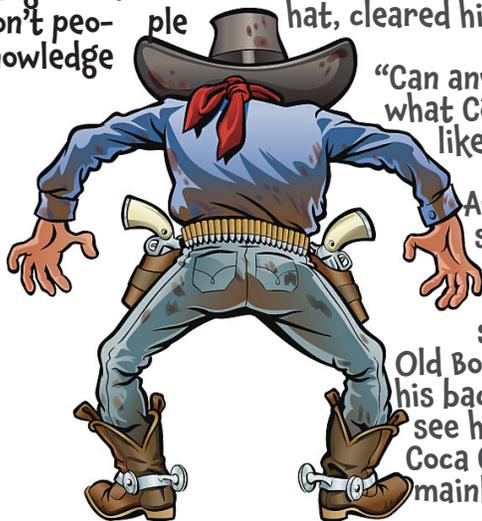


#208 Answers Aren't Enough

Hi Rabbi,

I love to read and learn, and I enjoy the answers given to the Stump the Rabbi questions. I try sharing these lessons as much as I can with my friends, but it doesn't seem to be doing anything. They read and they listen and they nod. But for some reason, all the answers don't seem to convince them to make any changes in their lives. Why don't people act on the knowledge they have?

Thanks
Lester Sonne



Dear Lesson,

The tall man walked into the dusty saloon, spurs clacking on the wooden floor. The music stopped, the bartender paused in his fastidious polishing of the bottles, and several cigarettes dropped out of open mouths. The tall man was a legend in these parts. He came with a question, seeking answers that nobody had. The tall man advanced farther until he was standing dead center of the dimly lit room, raised his broad brimmed hat, cleared his throat and said,

"Can anyone explain to me what Coca Cola tastes like?"

At first there was silence. Some shuffled feet, and a couple of snuffles, and the Old Bob straightened his back and said, "Well, see here young man. Coca Cola tastes like, mainly vanilla, some

cinnamon, with a hint of nutmeg, citrus, coriander and lavender notes, with acidity from phosphoric acid. It has an oaky bouquet that bursts upon the palette and slight effervescence hinting to helium."

The tall man stared at Old Bob until the elderly patron shuffled away, defeated.

"ANYONE?" He nearly roared.

There was a sudden rush for the swinging double doors, as nobody had an answer and nobody wanted to face the tall man's temper.

Then there was a sharp sound. The sound of a can opening. The bartender poured a stream of coke over an ice-filled cup and slid it down the length of the counter to the tall man.

"You want to know how coke tastes?" Asked the bartender. "Then taste it."

A collective gasp.

But he did it. The tall man tasted the Coca Cola and a broad smile broke out upon his face. "Now I

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know what Coca Cola tastes like. Thank you, bartender.”

I get questions from people all the time. That’s why we have Stump The Rabbi. It’s really important that questions get answered. It’s important that the questioners know that there are good answers to their questions, too. Sometimes the answers aren’t enough, and sometimes the questions are too much. Are we overthinking it? Like you, plenty of people gain information from answers, but it doesn’t necessarily satisfy them. What do I mean?

Explaining how God works, where the soul is, the reasons for mitzvos or proving the historic truth of the Torah- it’s a bit like trying to explain how coke tastes to someone who hasn’t tried it yet. It might make some sense, but it’ll make a ton more sense once you’ve tasted it. My advice for those who ask is this: Try it. Taste the Torah. Taste the Mitzvos. Make them a part of your life and then you’ll be able to much better understand the answers to all questions.

Just like when you try to learn a new board game; reading instructions will only get you so far, until you actually start to play it.

Have a Nageela Shabbos,

the Rabbi

ASK MORE QUESTIONS AT STUMP@NAGEELAWEST.ORG

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



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Where do sailors go when they get sea sick?

The dock.

OUCH! GROAN!
Why do bad jokes happen to good people? Find a better joke. Send it to dlocker@nageelawest.org

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