

views proper speech?

DVAR TORAH

"John, you probably shouldn't eat that." John's father chided. "It can get you really sick. Studies

show this food can cause Jalophethane disease!" inform "Oh, don't worry dad. I'll be fine, I'm sure." "But what if you do get sick?" "These lifts of the source of the sou

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"But what if you do get sick?" "Then I'll take medicine. I'm sure it won't be too bad. How bad could it possibly be?"

OK, John, let me show medicine for Jalopheth-John's father shows dle with barbs on ish fluid oozing medicine you'll get this sickness gross stuff. of that?" you the ane dis- ease..." him a 9 foot long neeit, and a sickly greenfrom it. "This is the have to take if you from eating this What do you think

I'll have some pizza instead. With a needle like that, the sickness must be pretty serious. They don't puncture your spleen for a common cold."

9 Foot Needle by Rabbi Dani Locker

The disease called tzara'as features quite prominently in this week's Torah portion(s). I don't actually know if tzara'as was painful or not, whether it caused coughing, sneezing, uncontrollable giggles or milk mustaches. The Torah gives us loads of

information about what it looked like,

but not much about how it felt. So was tzara'as a serious disease, or a minor annoyance? CNN and Fox News disagree on that point. But let's look at the steps needed to cure tzara'as . No simple

antibiotics or deep nasal swabs here. The cure for this disease was serious! First a week or more of quarantine outside the city. Then an elaborate offering involving two lambs, two birds, cedar wood, grass, oil and water was brought, his clothing went swimming, he went swimming, and oh, did I mention shaving off all his hair?

What caused tzara'as? Well, a number of possibilities are discussed, but it's pretty well accepted that the main cause of tzara'as is speaking negatively about other people. Now let's put it all together. If the disease is caused by gossip, and the cure is soooooo intense, what does that tell you about how seriously God takes proper speech?

Many thanks to Hashem for sponsoring this week's episode! Would you consider sponsoring an episode?

DID JEW KNOW?



ICE CREAM & ULTIMATE

MONDAY, APR 24

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DR. JEFF HOFFMAN, A NASA ASTRONAUT WHO NOW IS A PROFESSOR AT MIT, HAS BEEN IN SPACE 5 TIMES. ON HIS FINAL TRIP, HE BROUGHT A SMALL TO-RAH SCROLL AND ACTUALLY READ FROM THE TORAH ON SHABBAT! WHAT PORTION DID HE READ? THE CREATION OF HEAVEN AND EARTH!

Questions? Contact Rabbi Locker at 917-613-1037

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

WHICH NON- KOSHER ANIMAL IS MENTIONED 18 TIMES IN ONE TOPIC., NOT IN THE CONTEXT OF KOSHER?

> NO CHEATING Answer on page 4

ITINERARY REVEALED. INFO. QUESTIONS ANSWERED









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,

One of my favorite parts of being a Jewish girl is making challah with my mom. I always thought this was just a girls thing, but is it? Any why would it be? Basically, what I'm asking is what is special about challah to begin with, can men do it too, and ahy does it deem to be a special women's mitzvah?

Braid Masters

#237

Thanks Holly Braid

Dear Holly,

I could make several terrible Challah puns right now. But I will rise to the challenge and control myself. The Midrash relates an interesting anecdote. During the lifetime of Sarah, the matriarch of the Jewish people, three miracles occurred. There was a holy cloud above their tent, the Shabbos candles remained lit for the entire week (frustrating the electric company who couldn't figure out why their lighting bill was zero) and there

was 'blessing' in the bread. Some sau that blessing means that the bread stayed fresh all week. Maybe she just used preservatives. or maube it means that her leftover-challah-French- toast came out extra delicious. Since then. shabbos candles and challah have both become mitzvos that are special to women, even though they're not only done by women. Perhaps another week we'll discuss shabbos candles again. For now, let's focus on the doughy braids we love so much. The actual mitzvah of challah is usuallu misunderstood. It has



times of our Holy Temples, there were a number of 'taxes' that made sure our spiritual leaders had enough to eat (since they were busy being all spiritual and didn't do things like farming or playing professional football). Whenever a farmer would harvest their lima beans (or some less depressing food), a portion would be set aside for certain donations. Similarly, whenever a Jewish person would bake bread, a small

portion would be set aside to give to a kohen. This 'bread tax' isn't a women's thing. If the baker is a man or a potato head, they would still donate this challah. However, it has become a symbol for women. Why? **One explanation is that** a woman's job is to take the everyday aspects of the world (like bread) and infuse holiness into them (like by supporting spiritual leaders). A woman separating this challah, as Sarah did to perfection, is

nothing to do with making braided loaves for Shabbos. In fact it has nothing to do with Shabbos at all! Challah is a baking tax. During the the epitome of elevating worldy things. On a more practical level, since in most homes, for most of history, the women were the

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DAYS UNTIL CNW GIRLS 2023



DAYS UNTIL CNW BOYS 2023

A STORE THAT NEVER CLOSES ISN'T 24/7. IT'S 24 X 7. 24/7 IS 3.43. THAT'S NOT A LOT OF HOURS.

ones who were responsible for food preparation, they took upon themselves the mitzvah of challah. This has therefore evolved into a Shabbos- themed activity.

The Mishna Berura (written by the same man who wrote Chofetz Chaim- referenced last week) strongly encourages women to make challah for Shabbos, rather than buying from a bakery, because the whole point of the custom of Shabbos challah is for the sole purpose of doing the mitzvah of separating the 'challah tax,' which you can't do on bakery bread.

As a side note, in our current exiled state, with no Holy Temple, the 'challah tax' is not actually given to the Kohen, rather it's separated as holy, not to be eaten. Some people have the custom to burn it, and others to wrap it up and discard it respectfully. But don't make French toast out of that part.

Have a Nageela Shabbos,

The Rabbi



We'd like to wish a happy birthday to:

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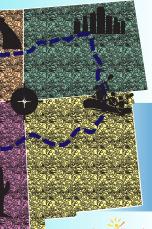




SESSION 1: JUNE 26- JULY 13 [GIRLS] SESSION 2: JULY 17- AUGUST 3 [BOYS]

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ANSWER OF THE WEEK

THE CAMEL IS MENTIONED IS TIMES IN THE STORY OF ELIEZER SEARCHING FOR A BRIDE FOR ISABC. HEAN STOLE IS NUTLE LEADER COESLIDY ON DEADER IS NOT



WHY DID THE RABBIT SKIP SCHOOL?

IT WAS HAVING A BAD HARE DAY!

THINK YOU CAN DO BETTER? YOU'RE PROBABLY RIGHT. Send your jokes in to dlocker@nageelawest.org



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