

Inside_the_Daf

"קריעה" is the tearing of one's clothes performed when a close relative dies. But there are times when קריעה is done even when the person who died is not a close relative.

One must tear one's clothes if one was standing by a dead person at the time his (or her) soul left the body. רבי שמעון בן אָלְעָזָר says that the death of a Jew is similar to a Torah scroll being burned. Just as one must tear one's clothing if

one saw a Jewish person die.

Rashi explains why a Jew is compared to a Torah scroll. It is written about Torah, " כִּי נֵר מִצְוָה וְתוֹרָה אור," "A commandment is a candle and Torah is a light" (משלי ו,כג, Pr. 6,23). Regarding a soul it is written, "נֶר ה׳ נִשְׁמֵת אֲדֵם", "Man's soul is a **candle** of

Hashem" (שם כ,כז, ibid. 20,27). Since both the soul and the Torah are called "a candle" it follows that the extinguishing of one is like the extinguishing of the other.

The גמרא also says that one must tear one's clothes over the death of any proper person. In fact, a בְּרֵיְתָא says who cries and anyone mourns over the death of a proper person will have all of his (or her) sins forgiven.

A ATTO Moment

Yoni was very discouraged. He had failed his third Talmud test in a row and was beginning to think he would never improve. His teacher tried to encourage him.

"Just keep at it, Yoni," said his teacher. "You'll get better. Just don't give up and keep trying."

"Forget it! I'm hopeless!" said Yoni.

"I'm sure you have heard that a Jew is compared to a Torah scroll. Have you ever thought why?" asked Yoni's teacher. "It's because long as a Jew is alive he can always learn more and improve. That's a great lesson. Think of yourself as a Torah scroll with so much potential...you just have to be unlocked!"

(based on שייד סימן שייד)

Did You Know...

One

tear

must

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time his (or her) soul left

the body.

would בּר אבין say to cry for the mourners and not for the soul of the departed. After all, the soul will go to peace after death but the mourners suffer the loss of the dead person!

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אנא ב<u>ז</u>'s Funeral

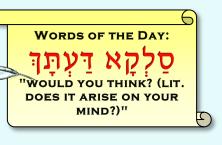
When the great sage, רב הונָא, passed away, they wanted to place a Torah scroll on his burial bed, as if to say, רב הונָא kept everything that is written in the Torah.

לב חְסָדָא did not think this was appropriate since רב חסָדָא was very careful all his life to never sit on the same bed as a Torah scroll. It didn't seem proper now to place the great sage on the same bed as a Torah.

עב הוּנָא had lived in Babylonia but was taken to the Land of Israel to be buried. When he arrived there, the sages of Israel wondered where to bury him. They decided on the crypt of רְבִי חִיָיא since both he and רְב הוֹנָא worked hard to spread Torah study.

volunteered to bring רָב הוּנָא body into the

crypt. His scholarship and piety made him worthy of bringing the great sage to his resting place.



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Review Questions – מוֹעֵד קָטָן דַף כ"ה

1. What is קְרִיעָה?

2. What did they want to put on יַרַב הוּנָא's burial bed?

3. According to בָר אָבִין, why should we not cry for the soul of the departed?



- 1. I was taken for burial from Babylonia to Israel
- 2. I volunteered to bring רֵב הוּנָא in for burial
- **3.** I am also buried in רֵב הוּנָא's crypt
- **4.** We wondered where to bury רַב הוּנָא
- I didn't think רֵב הוּנָא should be buried with a Torah scroll