



Inside the Daf

We take for granted that one of the four species is the of the four species is the אֶתְרוֹג, or citron fruit. The Torah calls this fruit "פְּרָי עֵץ הָדָר", "fruit of a beautiful tree" (ויקרא כג,מ, Lev. 23,40). How do we know that these words mean an אֵתְרוֹג?

The words "פְּרִי עֵץ" can also mean "tree-fruit" meaning, the tree tastes like fruit. An אֶתְרוֹג comes from a tree that tastes like its fruit.

"הָדָר", "beautiful" is similar to the word "הָדָּיר", "the barn", meaning the fruit's tree must be like a barn. Just like a barn houses young animals along with the older ones, so too the tree must bear new fruit while older fruit is still there. An אֶתְרוֹג can be left to grow on a tree for years so that fruits in their second year of growth are still on the tree when the new ones sprout.

יהָדָר" (beautiful) is similar to the word "הָדָר", meaning "that dwells." The fruit we use must be one that "dwells" on a tree from year to year. This is the אַתְרוֹג

קּדֶר" (beautiful) sounds like the Greek, "הָדֶר", meaning, "water." This means the fruit must come from a tree that relies on irrigation and rainfall. This is an אֶתְרוֹג.

A חודף Moment

Bobby was elated after his bar mitzvah. All the money he received as gifts had been put in his bank account as was really adding up. He couldn't help but share his excitement during recess with his friend, Yissachar.

"...And I'm going to buy a new basketball net, and a full set of baseball cards, and I'll still have a lot of money left over for other things..."

Just then Bobby and Yissachar's teacher, Rabbi Citron, came to wish Bobby mazel tov.

"Mazel Tov Bobby," said Rabbi Citron, "I hope you continue to grow in all the ways of the Torah."

"Thanks, rabbi," said Bobby.
"That's really what I care about
most. All the money and stuff
doesn't really matter," Bobby
concluded self-satisfied that he
had said "the right thing."

"Very true, Bobby," Rabbi
Citron agreed. "You know, the sages say an אֶתְרוֹג represents the heart. Also, the אָתְרוֹג fruit tastes the same as the tree that it grows on. This teaches that our heart should be the same as our actions and words. We shouldn't be insincere with our words. You shouldn't talk about how having the best toys isn't important but then do everything you can to make sure you have the best toys and things."

(מקור חיים)

A Blemished אָתְרוֹג

The גְּמָרָא teaches us about some marks that make an חָנוֹיִית not valid. One of these marks is a חֲנֵיִית, or "wart". If this blemish appears in an area of the אֶּתְרוֹג known as the פָּטוּל (not valid). The פָּטוּל is toward the top of אֶתְרוֹג where it begins to slope upwards.

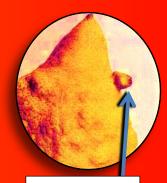
A אֶתְרוֹג even if it is not in the אֶתְרוֹג even if it is not in the מבם area. רב חִסְדָּא quotes his teacher ב as saying that if אֶתְרוֹג warts appear on two or three parts of the אֶתְרוֹג, the אֶתְרוֹג may not be used.

A well-known אֶתְרוֹג blemish is a missing פִּיטָם, the stem at the top of the אֶתְרוֹג. (רשייי בשם רי יעקב)

If the outer glossy peel of the אֶתְרוֹג has been skinned off completely, causing the אֶתְרוֹג to turn red, the אֶתְרוֹג is יָטִיר (valid). If the peel has been removed in a few places but not all over the אֶתְרוֹג, this may cause the אֶתְרוֹג to turn red where the peel had been. The אֶתְרוֹג will then appear to be spotted like a leopard ("מְנוּמָר") which makes it invalid.



According to רַבִּי חִיָּיא בַּר אָבִין, an אֶתְרוֹג (citron) that cannot be eaten because it is not פָשֵׁר cannot be used as part of the four species.



רַזְזִית ("wart") מֲזָזִית

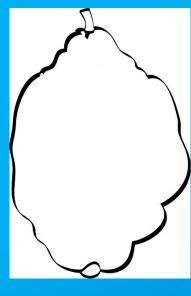


Missing פּיטָם ("stem")



מנומר ("spotted")

Games



Read "A Blemished אָתְרוֹג שׁ again. Make the אַתְרוֹג on the left have as many blemishes as possible.

Oוּכָּה דַּף ל"ה – Review Questions

- 1. What 3 words does the Torah use to describe an אֶתְרוֹג?
- 2. Give an example of a blemish that makes an אֶתְרוֹג not valid for use.
- 3. According to רָבִּי חֵיָּיא בַּר אָבִין, what sort of אָתְרוֹג may not be used?