

מסכת
סוּפָה
דף לה

DAF YOMI 4 KIDS

Inside the Daf

Some מצוות (commandments) we perform while others we have to say. For example, reciting the הלל (praise giving) prayer on festive days is a commandment we say.

What happens if one cannot say this prayer? What happens, for example, if someone is not able to read? The משנה rules that in such a case anyone – even a non-Jewish slave, a woman or a child who are not commanded to recite הלל – can read the prayer and the listener can repeat word-for-word what the reader is saying. By doing so, the listener is able to fulfill his commandment to recite הלל (this rule applies not just for הלל but for anything that needs to be recited).

The גמרא asks what happens if the listener doesn't repeat the words after the reader? Can he still fulfill his requirement to recite הלל?

אבא says, yes. As long as he hears the words it is as if the listener said them himself.

The proof for this comes from an incident that happened with King יאשיהו (Josiah). In ספר מלכים ב' (Book of Kings II) we are told that שפן (Shaphan) the scribe read from the Torah in front of the king. But just a few verses later we are told that King יאשיהו himself read from the scroll! Rather, King יאשיהו listened to the scroll being read and it is considered as if he himself read it. In fact, later יאשיהו is praised for hearing the words of the Torah scroll.



Did You Know...

When רב אחא בר יעקב shook the four species back and forth he would say, "This is an arrow in the eye of the שטן (evil inclination)." רש"י explains this is because the evil inclination can now see that he cannot prevent the Jewish people from performing a מצוה (commandment)!

WORD OF THE DAY:

דאורייטא

"FROM THE TORAH"

Interrupting Meals

Nobody likes to interrupt their meal, but sometimes you have to in order to do a מצוה.

The משנה talks about someone who arrives from a journey late during the סוכות holiday and has not yet performed the daily מצוה of taking the four species. As רב ספרא explains, if there would be no time left in the day to take the four species after eating a meal, he must take the four species before beginning to eat. In fact, he would even have to interrupt his meal in order to perform his מצוה duty.

On the other hand, if there would be time left in the day after the meal to perform the commandment of taking the four species, he may eat first and perform the מצוה after.



A Moment

"Dad!" said David as he barged into his house. "I'm going over to Jake's house now. He told me to ask you if I could play a video game he has there: Mad Mobsters."

"Absolutely not!" David's father said emphatically. "There's no way you're playing that video game. It has too much violence and bad language."

"But Daaad," whined David, "you know I don't use bad language. And you know I'm not rough. What harm can there be if I play it?"

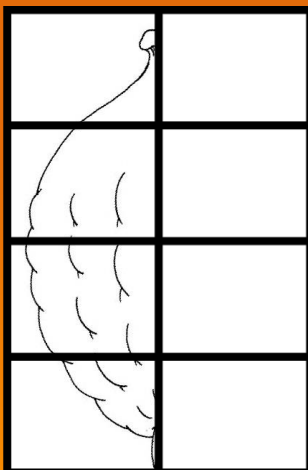
"David," his father said, "Listening to foul language or watching bad behaviour has an impact on how you behave...whether you realize it or not. The more bad behaviour you witness, the more it seeps into you. That's why רבי יוסי בר אבין prayed to be protected from the bad "dews." Dew lands so gently you can hardly even feel when it's coming down. That's just like being exposed to bad behavior... it lands on you gently without you even noticing it. רבי יוסי בר אבין was praying not to be affected by bad influences he may not even know about."

"It's true," admitted David. "Also, even if I don't use the bad language or act violently I start to think those things aren't such a big deal. I'll tell Jake. I bet we could find something even more fun to do!"

(פרי צדיק, דברים לשמחת תורה, מו)

Games

FINISH IT OFF!



Review Questions - סוכה דף ל"ח

1. What are the shakings with the four species called?

2. When would one have to interrupt his (or her) meal to perform a מצוה?

3. What did רב אחא בר יעקב say as he shook the four species?
