

מסכת

סוֹפָה

דף נג

DAF YOMI⁴
KIDS

Inside the Daf

We have learned that no party compared to the השואֶבָה, the Celebration of the Water-Drawing and from the גְמָרָא it is easy to see why.

רבי יהושע בן חנניָה said he wouldn't sleep for the en-

tire festival because the nightly שמחת השואֶבָה would keep him up all night! (Instead he would doze off every so often).

רבוֹן שְׁמֵעוֹן בֶּן גַּמְלִיאֵל would juggle eight flaming torches at the Celebration and the pious men and men of good deeds would sing songs and praise Hashem. The pious men were distinguished for having led exemplary lives even in their youth when most people are immature. Sometimes, one's misspent youth can act as an embarrassment in one's old age. גְמָרָא tells us the pious men would say:

*How praiseworthy is our youth
For it hasn't shamed our old age*

But those who had misspent their youth, but turned their lives around would say:

*How praiseworthy is our old age
Which has atoned for our youth!*

הלל הזקן (Hillel, the Elder) would say:



*If I am here
Everyone is here
But if I am not here
Who is here?*

This means if Hashem is here in the בֵּית הַמִּקְדָּשׁ (Holy Temple) then it will continue to e-

xist and the Jewish people will continue to throng to it to celebrate. If, however, the Jewish people sin and cause Hashem's Presence to leave the Temple, it will be destroyed and no one will be able to come anymore to celebrate.

As the night of celebration came to an end, the arrival of dawn was announced and two כְּהֹנִים would blow trumpets. It was now time to draw the water from the Shiloah spring for the water-pouring ceremony.

When they reached the eastern gate they would turn around to face the Temple Sanctuary westward and say, "Our forefathers who were in this place faced east and bowed toward the sun, but our eyes look to Hashem!" (This refers to some of the Jews who lived during the First Temple era who worshipped the sun)

Not the End of the World

The גמרא tells us the story of the שִׁתְיָן , the cavities beneath the Altar (see page 48).

When דָּוִד הַמֶּלֶךְ (King David) dug open these pits, the waters of the deep came up threatening to flood the world.

"Does anyone know if it is allowed to write Hashem's Name on a pottery shard and cast it down into the pit to calm the waters?" King David knew that Hashem's Name has the power to calm the flood, but it would be erased when it thrown into the pit.

No one answered the king.

Finally, the king's mentor, אֶחָיִיתוֹפֵל, proved to him that throwing the shard would be permitted. Surely to save the world it would be permissible to destroy Hashem's Name since the Torah allows His Name to be erased for far lesser causes.

King David wrote Hashem's Name on the shard, cast it into the pit, and saw the waters subside. The king wrote fifteen chapters of the Book of תְּהִלִּים (Psalms) at this occasion.

A מְדוּת Moment

Mr. Pomenkranz couldn't believe his eyes. The downstairs of the synagogue was a complete disaster with food, tables and chairs strewn all over the place. More embarrassing was the fact that his son, and a few other boys, were responsible for the mess.

He took his son aside for a little talk.

"You know, one day you're going to look back at what you did and be very embarrassed of yourself," Mr. Pomenkrantz said.

"Oh go easy on them, they're just kids," said the father of another boy responsible for the debacle.

"They may be just kids, but unlike most people, we don't believe that youth is a time for frolicking about wildly and creating mischief," Mr. Pemenkranz said. "That's why during the שְׂמֵחַת בַּיִת הַשּׁוֹאֵבָה, the Celebration of the Water-Drawing, the pious men would boast that their youth was not misspent and doesn't embarrass them in their old age. You won't be young forever, but what you do when you are young can follow you for the rest of your life!"



Did You Know...

When Hillel the Elder saw the skull of a well-known murderer floating in the water he said, "Because you drowned others, you yourself were drowned! And the one who drowned you will also be drowned."

WORDS OF THE DAY:

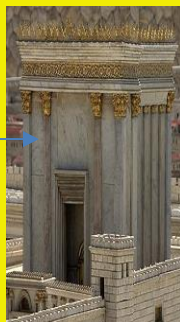
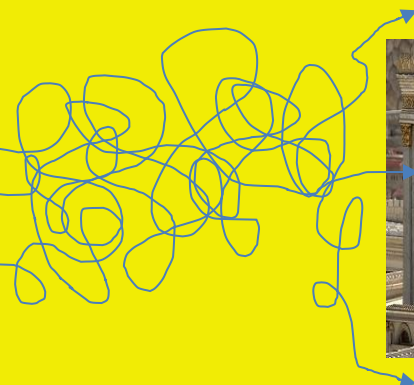
הָא וְהָא

"THIS AND THAT"

Games

Crazy Arrows

Find the arrow that gets the juggler to the Temple



Review Questions – סוכה דף נ"ג

1. What did רַבֵּן שְׁמַעוֹן בֶּן גַּמְלִיאֵל use to do at the שְׂמֵחַת בַּיִת הַשּׁוֹאֵבָה, (Celebration of Water Drawing)?

2. What did King David want to throw into the depths to stop the flood?

3. According to Hillel the Elder, why was the murderer's skull floating in the water?
