

DAF YOMI⁴
Kids

Inside the Daf

Sometimes, someone can do something good for the wrong reasons.

For example, if someone converts to Judaism just to marry someone they love who is Jewish. Or, if one converts so that a Jewish king would supply him with food. Or, if someone converted in the days of שְׁלֹמֹה המֶלֶךְ (King Solomon) to become one of his servants (who were very powerful). In all of these cases, רַבִּי נְחֻמְיָה says their conversion is invalid and they do not become Jewish since they converted for the wrong reasons.

רַבִּי נְחֻמְיָה says, a convert to Judaism is only excepted if he or she converted at a time like nowadays when the Jews don't enjoy any extraordinary power. That way, we may know for near certain that they did not convert for any improper reason.

There were cases in Jewish history when large numbers of non-Jews converted for less than proper reasons. For example, the כּוּתִּיּוֹת (Cutheans) converted out of fear after Hashem sent a plague of lions against them. Following the miracle in the days of מֶרְדֳּכָי (Mordecai) and אֶסְתֵּר (Esther), many non-Jews converted "for fear the Jews had fallen on them" (see אֶסְתֵּר ח, יז, Es. 8,17).

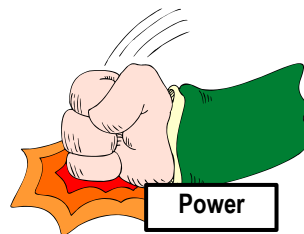
The Sages disagree with רַבִּי נְחֻמְיָה and say that even converts who come to Judaism for improper reasons are still valid converts.

WORD OF THE DAY:

הַלְכָּתָא

"THE LAW"

IMPROPER REASONS FOR CONVERTING



Which Brother?

If a man dies childless, his brother either performs **יבום** (levirate marriage) or **חליצה** (taking off a shoe) with the dead brother's widow.

What if there are two living brothers? Which one performs the levirate marriage?

The **משנה** rules that it is the oldest brother who performs **יבום**. Even so, if the younger one performed **יבום**, it is valid. If the oldest brother does not wish to perform **יבום**, we ask the younger brother if he would like to perform **יבום**. If the younger brother refuses, the **בית דין** (Jewish court) forces the older brother to perform either **יבום** or **חליצה**.

How do we know that the oldest brother is the one who performs **יבום**? In the Torah portion of **יבום**, the Torah commands, "וְהָיָה הַבְּכוֹר" "and it shall be the firstborn," who performs **יבום**. Here, "firstborn" really means "the oldest born."



A Moment - מְדוּת

"Mel, that was really nice of you to give Jason your extra snack," said Yves.

"I only did it so Jason will give me *his* snack next time," said Mel. "I wasn't really doing it to be nice."

"You know, in *daf yomi* we see the importance of doing good things for the right reason. **רבי נחמיה** says we may not accept a convert if he or she converted for impure reasons, like getting rich. Even if the convert would keep all of the commandments perfectly, **רבי נחמיה** says the conversion is still no good. We see how important proper intentions are!"



Did You Know...

In the days of **דוד** and **שלמה** (David and Solomon), converts were not accepted.

Games

Review Questions – יבמות דף כ"ד

1 According to **רבי נחמיה**, give an example of an improper reason for converting.

2. Which brother should perform **יבום**?

3. At what time in Jewish history were converts not accepted?

WORD MORPH

Can you turn LION into FOOD by changing one letter at a time? Follow the clues for help.

L	I	O	N
F	O	O	D

(bird)

(not sun)

(feelings)