

מסכת לבמות דף נט

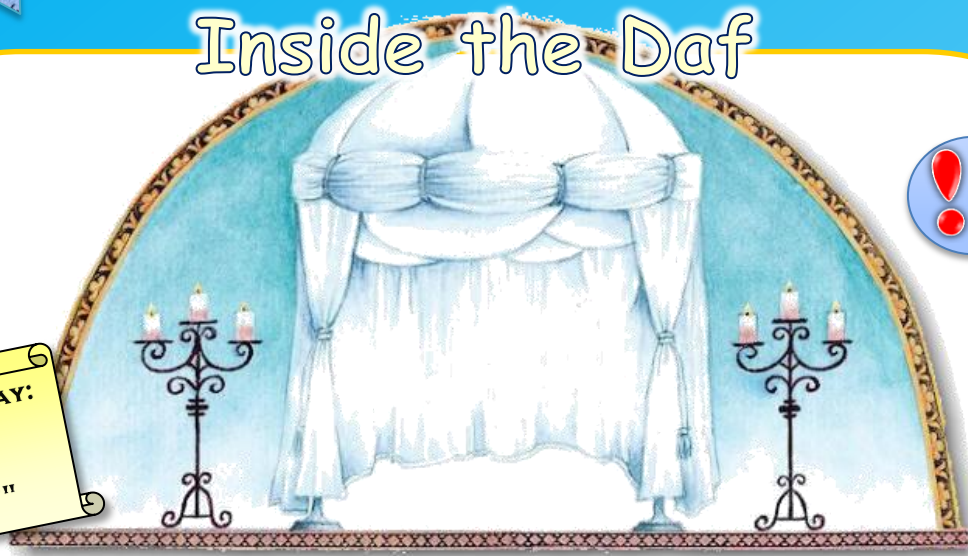
DAF YOMI4 Kids

Inside the Daf

WORD OF THE DAY:

מהו

"WHAT IS IT?"



Did You Know...

רבי יהודה
הנשיא,
compiler
of the
משנה,
lived
after the
destruction
of the
Second
Temple
when
there
was no
longer a
כהן גדול.

The Torah says that a כהן גדול (Chief) may not marry a widow (see ויקרא כ"א, י"ד, Lev. 21,14). But what does "a widow" mean?

There are two stages to a marriage: אירוסין (betrothal) and נשואין (marriage). Nowadays, אירוסין is performed by the groom giving the bride a ring. This makes the couple "married" but not *completely* married. They become completely married when נשואין is performed. נשואין is performed when the bride and groom stand together under the חופה (wedding canopy).

What happens if the groom dies after אירוסין is done but before נשואין? Does the bride become "a widow" and therefore not allowed to marry a כהן גדול? The משנה says, yes. Even a woman who becomes a widow from the time of נשואין may not marry a כהן גדול.

The גמרא is surprised by this. After all, in the Torah when תמר (Tamar) husband dies, she is called "a widow" only after her נשואין with her husband had been performed. Can't this fact prove that a wife becomes a widow only after נשואין?

The גמרא answers that a כהן גדול may not marry a widow the same way he may not marry a divorced woman. And just like a כהן גדול may not marry a divorced woman even if she was divorced after only אירוסין had been done, so too he may not marry a widow even if she was widowed after only אירוסין.



Ruins at the site of ancient Usha

A Moment מְדוּת

Yerachmiel was looking to get married. He asked his rabbi if he had any advice about what to look for in a spouse.

"In the גְּמָרָא, we learn that a כֹּהֵן גָּדוֹל may not marry a widow. Why? So that his wife would not have learned the views of another man so she and the כֹּהֵן גָּדוֹל can live together and make a pure home. She has never been influenced by another man so she does not bring foreign ideas into her relationship with the כֹּהֵן גָּדוֹל. This shows that man and wife should have unity about what they want to accomplish in life. Only then will they truly succeed as a couple."

Who: A Tanna

When: c.3880 (c.120 CE)

Where: Usha, Israel

Teachers: רַבִּי עֲקִיבָא

Contemporaries: רַבִּי מֵאִיר, רַבִּי יְהוּדָה, רַבִּי נְחֶמְיָה

Famous Quote: "One who performs a מִצְוָה (commandment) gets for himself an advocate [before heaven]." (אבות ד, יא)

Very little is known about רַבִּי אֱלִיעֶזֶר בֶּן יַעֲקֹב. A student of רַבִּי עֲקִיבָא, רַבִּי אֱלִיעֶזֶר בֶּן יַעֲקֹב's teachings are known to be "קַבֵּל וְנִקְיֵי". That is to say, his teachings are few in number since he did not teach as much Torah as his friends, but his teachings are "clean" and we follow his opinions wherever they are found.

Following the destruction of the great Jewish city of Beitar, רַבִּי אֱלִיעֶזֶר בֶּן יַעֲקֹב along with other great sages of his time, fled to Usha.

רַבִּי אֱלִיעֶזֶר בֶּן יַעֲקֹב founded his own academy, רַבִּי אֱלִיעֶזֶר בֶּן יַעֲקֹב, and from there taught Torah to his students.

רַבִּי אֱלִיעֶזֶר בֶּן יַעֲקֹב once gave up the seat of honor to a poor blind man. When people saw that such an important rabbi honored the poor man so much, they too ran to give him honor. The man thanked רַבִּי אֱלִיעֶזֶר בֶּן יַעֲקֹב, saying, "You have shown kindness to one who is seen, but cannot see: may He who sees, but cannot be seen, listen to your prayers and show you kindness."

רַבִּי אֱלִיעֶזֶר בֶּן יַעֲקֹב is buried in Kefar Anan.

יבמות דף נ"ט – Review Questions

1. Who, in the Torah is called a widow only after נִשְׂוָאִין was performed?

2. Describe a good deed that רַבִּי אֱלִיעֶזֶר בֶּן יַעֲקֹב did.

3. During which period in history did רַבִּי יְהוּדָה הַנָּשִׂיא live?

Crazy Arrows

Find the arrow that gets the כֹּהֵן גָּדוֹל away from the widow

