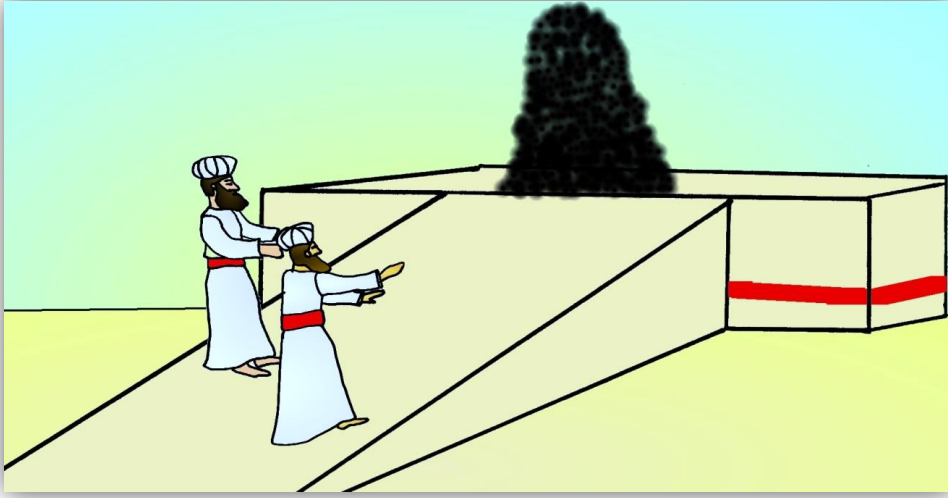


Inside The Daf



Do you like cleaning your room? If you don't, you probably wouldn't like cleaning up ashes.

But in the **בֵּית הַמִּקְדָּשׁ** (Holy Temple), the ashes from the **קִרְבָּנוֹת** (sacrifices) were removed every day. This was such an important duty that many **כֹּהֲנִים** sought it out.

They would show up bright and early and race each other up the ramp of the **מִזְבֵּחַ** (Altar) from where the ashes were removed. Whoever reached the last four **אַמּוֹת** (cubits, about 7 ft. or 2 m.) of the ramp first, won the privilege.

What would happen if two or more **כֹּהֲנִים** tied for first place? They would stand in a circle and raise a finger. A Temple official would remove the hat from one of the **כֹּהֲנִים** and call out a random number that was greater than the assembled **כֹּהֲנִים**. He would count the **כֹּהֲנִים**'s fingers beginning with the hatless **כֹּהֵן**, and would continue counting around the circle as many times as necessary until he reached the number he called out. The **כֹּהֵן** whose finger was counted last won the privilege of clearing the ashes.

A מְדוּת Moment

"Hey, Nathan, let's help clean up the shul."

"How?"

"By putting the **סְדוּרִים** and **חֲבֻטִים** away."

"Aw, Yehoshua, do we have to? I want to play downstairs." Nathan whined.

"You know, Nathan," explained Yehoshua, "**כֹּהֲנִים** used to compete for the privilege of cleaning up the ashes in the **בֵּית הַמִּקְדָּשׁ**. They didn't complain about the job – just the opposite! **כֹּהֲנִים** used to race to the top of the **מִזְבֵּחַ** and whoever got there first got to do the cleaning."

"Really?" asked Nathan.

"Absolutely," said Yehoshua. "In fact, one time, two **כֹּהֲנִים** were racing to the top and one of them pushed the other down, breaking his leg! From then on, no more races were allowed."

"Wow! They really must have been serious about their work."

"They were, Nathan, and we should remember what a privilege it is to do a job for Hashem - no matter how unpleasant it is!"

WORD OF THE DAY:
קְשִׁיָּא
"A CONTRADICTION"
OR "A DIFFICULTY"

Don't "Count" On It



Did You Know...

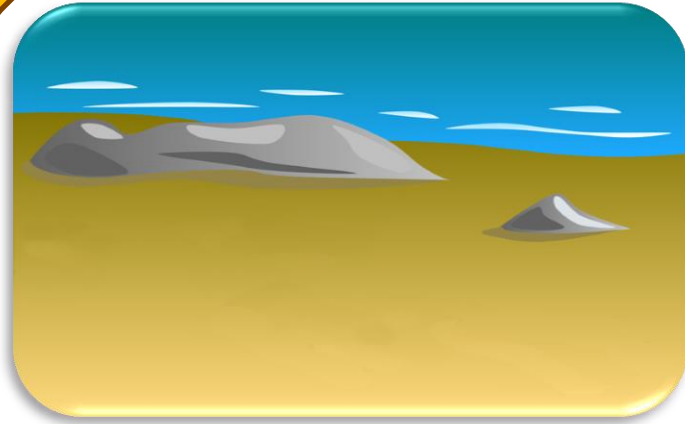
The Jewish people will be as numerous as the sand of the sea when they do not do the will of Hashem. If the Jewish people follow the will of Hashem, they will be uncountable!

count the soldiers themselves because it is forbidden to count Jews.

ר' אֶלְעָזָר and רַב נַחֲמָן בַּר יִצְחָק say the source is from a פְּסוּק (verse) in הוֹשֵׁעַ (א,ב) (Hosea 2:1):

"וְהָיָה מִסְפַּר בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל כְּחֹל הַיָּם אֲשֶׁר לֹא יִמַּד וְלֹא יִסְפָּר..."

"And the number of the children of Israel shall be like the sand of the sea, which cannot be measured nor counted..."



When the כְּהֵנִים stood in a circle, they would each raise a finger to be counted instead of themselves (see "Inside the Daf"). This is because it is forbidden to count Jews.

What is the source that it is forbidden to count people?

רַב אֶשִׁי says from שְׂאוֹל הַמֶּלֶךְ (King Saul) who counted his soldiers using lambs. He didn't

Games

Who will remove the ashes today? The מְמוּנָה (official) will call out a number to pick a כְּהֵן. Start counting at the hatless כְּהֵן and go around the circle until you reach the number. Then color him in.



- | | |
|--------------|--------------|
| 54! (green) | 38! (brown) |
| 20! (yellow) | 41! (black) |
| 35! (red) | 58! (grey) |
| 44! (blue) | 47! (purple) |
| 27! (orange) | |

Review Questions – יוּמָא דְף כ"ב

1. Where would the כְּהֵנִים race to see who would remove the ashes?
2. Why were the fingers counted and not the כְּהֵנִים themselves?
3. When will the Jewish people be uncountable?

