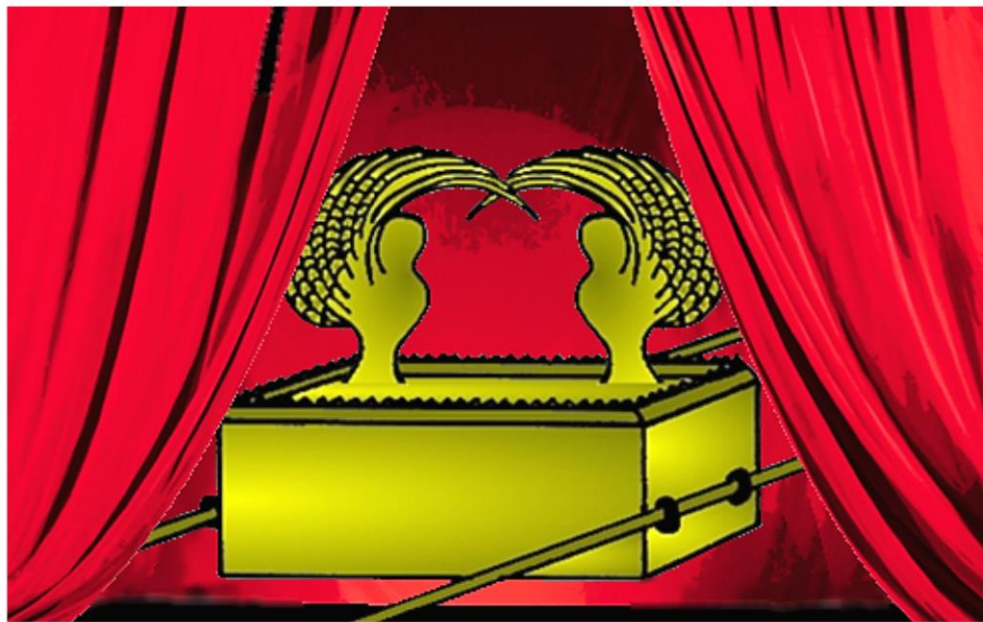


Inside The Daf



רַב קָטִינָא says that on each of the three festivals, the כְּהֵנִים would roll up the פְּרוֹכֵת (curtains) in front of the אַרֹן קֹדֶשׁ (Holy Ark) so that the Jewish people would be able to see the כְּרוּבִים (Cherubs) figures that rested on top of the Ark.

But why did the כְּהֵנִים want the visitors to see the כְּרוּבִים? This is because the כְּרוּבִים appeared to be hugging each other. The כְּהֵנִים would tell the visitors that Hashem's love for them was like the love a man has for his wife.

רַב אֶחָא בַר יַעֲקֹב explains that in the second הַמִּקְדָּשׁ (Holy Temple) where there were no כְּרוּבִים, there were pictures of כְּרוּבִים on the walls of the קֹדֶשׁ הַקְּדוּשִׁים (Holy of Holies). It would be these כְּרוּבִים pictures that the visitors would see when the כְּהֵנִים would roll up the פְּרוֹכֵת.



Did You Know...

Where is the אַרֹן קֹדֶשׁ (Holy Ark) nowadays? Some rabbis say it was exiled. רַב נַחֲמָן says it was hidden beneath the Wood Chamber in the בֵּית הַמִּקְדָּשׁ.

WORD OF THE DAY:

כָּבָר

"ALREADY"

The Foundation Stone

There was a stone in the קדש הקדשים called the שתייה, or foundation stone. It was called by this name because the world was "founded," or made, beginning with this stone.

Rashi explains that after it was created, clods of earth

stuck around it from every side and continued to do so until they reached the ends of the earth.

There are other opinions about which part of the world was created first.

רבי אליעזר says the center of the world was created first.

According to רבי יהושע, the world began with four foundations at the edges of the earth. The foundations extended inward until they met in the middle and joined together. רבי יצחק says Hashem threw a stone into the sea and from that stone, the earth came about.



A Moment

The line was long at the buffet table. Rephael had decided to fill up two plates, one for himself and one for his father, so his father wouldn't have to stand in line. He thought he was doing something really nice until he saw Mrs. Trachtenberg scowl at him from across the buffet table.

"Isn't that a lot of food for one person?" she asked. "You kids these days take too much food and leave nothing over for the rest of us!"

Rephael turned beet red. He returned to the table still feeling his face flush. When his father asked what was wrong, Rephael told him what happened.

"Sometimes something very beautiful can be misunderstood and misinterpreted," his father sighed. "Today in *daf yomi* I learned something about that. When the Second Temple was destroyed our enemies took out the כרובים (Cherubs) and made fun of the fact they were hugging each other. They said it wasn't appropriate for Jews to have such immodest figures. The truth is, the כרובים weren't immodest at all. They symbolized Hashem's embracing love for the Jewish people."

Rephael smiled. He saw he wasn't alone – people had been misinterpreting good intentions as being bad for thousands of years! Besides, Mrs. Trachtenberg's mistake in judgement was much less important than the one our enemies made!

Games

Read the opinions in "The Foundation Stone" about which part of the world was created first. Then match each opinion to the picture that shows it.

- A רבי אליעזר
- B רבי יהושע
- C רבי יצחק



Review Questions – יומא דף נ"ד

1. What did the כרובים (Cherubs) appear to be doing to one another?

2. Why was the stone in the קדש הקדשים (Holy of Holies) called the "foundation stone?"

3. According to רב נחמן, where is the Ark hidden?
