

Inside The Daf

As part of the יום כַּפּוּר Service, the כַּהֵן גָּדוֹל would sprinkle bull and goat blood toward the פְּרוֹכֵת (curtain) that separated the אָרוֹן קֹדֶשׁ (Holy Ark) from the rest of the בַּיִת הַמְּקֹדָשׁ (Holy Temple).



Did the blood actually splash onto the פְּרוֹכֵת itself or did it land in front of the curtains?

The גְּמָרָא quotes a בְּרִיָּתָא text that says the blood is sprinkled in front of the curtains without actually

touching the curtains themselves. This is similar to when the blood was sprinkled in front of the אָרוֹן without it actually touching the אָרוֹן.

רַבִּי אֶלְעָזָר בְּרַבִּי יוֹסִי says that this is not true: the sprinkled blood did in fact touch the פְּרוֹכֵת and he saw this with his own eyes!

Once, רַבִּי was in Rome and was permitted to see the Caesar's royal treasury. Inside, he saw the פְּרוֹכֵת that were stolen by the Romans. רַבִּי noticed that it had dry blood drop stains proving that the bull and goat blood was actually sprinkled on the curtain itself.

The גְּמָרָא asks how רַבִּי knew the stains were from the bull and goat of יום כַּפּוּר. רַבִּי answers that the blood drop stains were one above the other the same way that the כַּהֵן גָּדוֹל sprinkled them on יום כַּפּוּר.

A מְדוּת Moment

The bell rang and the boys from Rabbi Shneur's class ran into the lunch room. They tossed their גְּמָרָא on the long lunch table, opened their lunches and began to eat. One boy spilled his orange juice but fortunately, Jacob Ritter saved the גְּמָרָא at the other end of the table just in time.

"Whew! That was a close one," said the boy who just lost his drink. "I owe ya one!"

A little too close, Jacob thought. A lunch table is no place for holy books. What if Jacob hadn't saved them? It would be sticky pages and tangerine colored גְּמָרָא for the rest of the year.

Jacob thought about what he learned in *daf yomi* that day. Even though blood had to be sprinkled toward the פְּרוֹכֵת (curtain) as part of the יום כַּפּוּר service, the blood was not supposed to touch the curtain.

If we are worried about the פְּרוֹכֵת getting soiled we should probably be concerned about גְּמָרָא getting dirty, too.

Jacob quietly but purposefully took the גְּמָרָא and put them on a shelf at the back of the lunch room. They would be safe from food over there.

"Hey, Jacob," someone said, "why'd you move the גְּמָרָא?"

Jacob smiled. "Call it... *daf yomi's* doing."

Mixed Blood

Oh no! The bull's blood and goat's blood got mixed together! What do you do?

We know that *first* the bull's blood has to be sprinkled once upward and seven times downward and *then* the goat's blood has to be sprinkled in the same way. But what happens if the two bloods got mixed together?

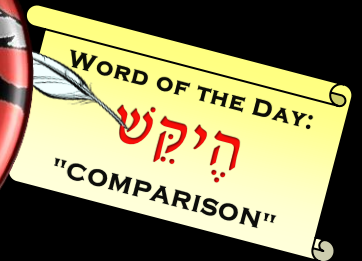
רבא says you sprinkle the mixed bloods once upwards and seven times downwards. By doing this, it is as though you have sprinkled both the blood of the bull and the goat's blood separately.

רבא disagrees with רבי ירמיה so fiercely he calls him a foolish Babylonian! רבי ירמיה says the mixed bloods must be sprinkled once upward and seven times downward *twice*. The first time the sprinkler should have in mind to sprinkle the bull's blood, the second time he should have in mind to sprinkle the goat's blood. This way both types of blood are sprinkled separately once upwards and seven times downward.



Did You Know...

רבא calls the Babylonians "people who live in a dark land," because it is a low-lying land (Rashi). For this reason, he says, their teachings are also "dark." This was in a time when the Torah scholarship of the Land of Israel was superior to that of Babylonia.



Games

Review Questions – יומא דף נ"ז

1. According to רבי, does the blood touch the פרוכת curtains?

2. What did רבי ירמיה call רבא?

3. Why are Babylonians called "people who live in a dark land"?

Follow the blood drops on the curtain to find your way out of the maze!

