

The Holy Wooden Spoon

Special thanks to Revach L'Neshama for the story

The author of the sefer "Ohel Dovid" lived in dire poverty. Once, the Chasam Sofer was visiting in his city, and he went to visit him. When the Chasam Sofer entered his house, the Ohel Dovid was in middle of eating, and he saw that he was eating his meal from a simple plate made out of wood and even his spoon was wooden. The Chasam Sofer was astounded; he simply could not fathom such dire poverty.

The two began conversing, and in the midst of the conversation, the Chasam Sofer picked up the wooden spoon and examined it in wonder. The Ohel Dovid didn't understand that the Chasam Sofer was simply shocked that by the fact that he was eating from such simple utensils, and concluded that he must really admire the spoon. He began worrying that there was a possibility that the Chasam Sofer may stumble in the prohibition of "Lo Tachmod." Quickly, the Ohel Dovid said, "I'm giving you the spoon as a present with a full heart."

The Chasam Sofer loved to repeat this story, emphasizing how this tzaddik was so pure that it didn't even enter his mind that the Chasam Sofer was simply bemoaning the fact that he was forced to eat from these simple wooden utensils. ♦

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Menucha

*The Shabbos Table Companion
for the Whole Family*

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פי ויחי

Halacha Challenge

"יִשְׁשַׁכָּר חָמֹר גָּרָם ... וַיֵּט שִׁכְמוֹ לְסַבֵּל..." [בראשית מט:יד-טו]

[Yissochar] bent his shoulder to bear the yoke of Torah [Rashi's commentary]



Returning a Sefer to the Bookshelf at the end of Shalosh Seudos

by Shlomo Epshteyn

reviewed by Rav Chaim Malinowitz

Yaakov's shul had a special Sholosh Seudos, so he decided to join his kehilla. The Seuda went on and on...Yaakov's patience ran out and he took a sefer from a bookshelf and started learning.

About 15 minutes later, the time arrived to say Bircas HaMazon. Yaakov was about to return the book to the bookshelf when he realized that by returning the book to the bookshelf he would be preparing for the weekday – he is making the book available for someone to learn from it after Shabbos.

Question: May Yaakov return the book to the bookshelf?

Answer: Yes.



Dedication

This week's issue is dedicated
by Hadassa Nussbaum and the Bisk family,
l'ilui nishmas Shlomo Yisroel ben Moshe Ahron

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Explanation: There are several types of *hachana* activities (preparation on Shabbos for another day) that are prohibited. One of them is doing an action on Shabbos for the sake of *motzei* Shabbos—even if it merely involves a minor effort. One of the sources for this is a Mishna¹ in Shabbos, which teaches that it is not permitted to arrange a bed on Shabbos for the sake of *motzei* Shabbos. Hence, this Mishna is teaching us that even an action that entails a minor effort, is *hachana*. The poskim rule that even bringing something from one place to another is *hachana* (e.g., bringing a Machzor to shul on Shabbos that fell out on *erev* Rosh Hashana).²

Having said that, certain *hachana* activities are permitted. HaRav Shlomo Zalman Auerbach *zt"l* permitted effortless action that people are accustomed to do (on any day) without thinking about the resulting benefit.³ For example, it is permitted to return things to a refrigerator (or to a freezer) at any time on Shabbos.⁴ This is permitted even if the person's intention in doing it is so that his food will not spoil after Shabbos. The reason why it is permitted is because (1) an action of returning things to the fridge does not require much effort and (2) people often return things to the fridge without thinking how this will help them to keep the food fresh (i.e., it's done by rote).

By the same token, in our case, Yaakov may return the sefer to the bookshelf—even if he is doing it so that the book is available when someone will want to learn from it after Shabbos, because this is an effortless action and people often return books to the bookshelves by rote.⁵ ♦

1. משנה שבת פרק טו משנה ג. 2. ששכ"ה פרק כה אות פב והערה רא (במהדורה חדשה). 3. שם אות פט. 4. שם. 5. שם.

The Arctic Woolly Bear Moth

by Alex Isaacson



The Arctic Woolly Bear Moth, is a lymantriid moth found within the Arctic circle, in Greenland and Canada. It is well known for its ability to withstand temperatures below -76°F .

The Arctic woolly bear caterpillars are unique in their combination of adaptations to the polar extremes. They spend nearly 90% of their lives frozen and only about 5%

feeding on the tundra, aestivation and dormancy within hibernacula (protective cocoons).

Hiding within their cocoons serves several functions: protection from insect parasitoids that kill about 75% of the larvae and pupae, avoidance of secondary metabolites built up in their food source, degradation of mitochondria, antifreeze synthesis, and conservation of energy reserves needed to synthesize cryoprotective compounds required for freezing survival. Not bad for the oldest known caterpillars on the planet! ♦

Kids Ask, Zeidy Answers



From the Haftarah of Vehechi:

לְמַעַן תִּשְׁכִּיל אֶת כָּל אֲשֶׁר תַּעֲשֶׂה
[מלכים א' ב:ג]

Zeidy - what was David HaMelech saying by this phrase to his son Shlomo?



You're asking good questions, kids. As you know, in the beginning of that verse, we see that David HaMelech is instructing his son Shlomo to guard carefully all the mitzvos of the Torah. By saying לְמַעַן תִּשְׁכִּיל אֶת כָּל אֲשֶׁר תַּעֲשֶׂה, David HaMelech reveals to his son

an important lesson: when a person fulfills the mitzvos of Torah, he becomes wise and understands how to serve Hashem in everything that he does.

[peirush Metzuda]

Riddles



Riddle

Yossi made Aliya to Eretz Yisroel. Now, he gets to answer Amen to a certain supplication very often - an opportunity that in Chutz La'aretz he only had on a rare occasion. Once, Yossi proudly told about this to his friend Moishy. "Which supplication are you talking about?" asked Moishy. "Oh, it's the one that I never hear," replied Yossi.

Which supplication is Yossi referring to?

Answer to the last issue's riddle

(Riddle: Who in sefer Bereshis was his sister's son-in-law? [Special thanks to Yiddle Riddle Archives (Ohr Somayach Institutions) for this riddle.]

ANSWER: Yosef. Yosef married Osnat, who was his sister Dina's daughter. [Osnat was born from Shechem and Dina and found her way to Egypt where she was adopted by Potifar. The Torah calls her Potifar's daughter, because the Torah credits adoptive parents as though they had given birth to the child. [see Me'am Loez Bereshit, Parshat Miketz]