

Wonders of Creation

Sounds Fishy

Some aspects of life are true whether we believe them or not. A good case is the relationship between the pilot fish and the oceanic whitetip shark. These two polar opposite aquatic species would ordinarily have nothing to do with one another, but for the fact that they themselves are not ordinary. The whitetip shark's life depends on the life of the pilot fish. The pilot fish eats parasites that live and feed inside and on the shark, helping to avoid it becoming sick and dying. In addition, smaller pilot fish are frequently observed swimming into sharks' mouths to clean away fragments of food from between their teeth. In return, the shark protects the fish from predators.

Also, the fish isn't shy about eating the leftovers from the shark's meals. Hashem enjoined these two animals with a behavior known as "close companionship," which is an even stronger tie than a "mutualistic" bond. Pilot fish are also known to travel great distances on the backs of these sharks. They will stay beside the same acquaintance for many miles, swimming and helping one another. Their bond is so great that on many occasions, sailors have seen pilot fish following ships, which had captured "their" whitetip shark, for up to six weeks. This is almost a behavior indicative of mourning. While pilot fish can be seen with all manner of sharks, they prefer accompanying the whitetip shark in particular.

—by Alex Isaacson

MENUCHA SUPPORTERS



Menucha

בס"ד

A Shabbos table companion for the whole family

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שלך לך

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challenges

Giving Driving Directions on Shabbos

compiled by Shlomo Epshteyn

reviewed by Rav Chaim Malinowitz



Yossi lives in Tel Aviv. This Shabbos, on his way from shul, a car stopped next to him and the driver rolled down his window. "Excuse me. Could you please tell me how to get to Rechov Pardes?" asked the driver.

Yossi knew the directions, but was not sure if giving directions to this driver was the right thing to do. The driver looked Jewish, and it did not appear that he was driving due to any emergency.

Question: Can Yossi give directions to the driver?

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the students of Rabbi Landau,
in honor of
Rabbi Landau's new grandson

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Answer: Yes. However, he should precede it by telling the driver about the prohibition of driving on Shabbos. Also, he should explain that he is giving the directions for the shortest route so that the driver's *chillul* Shabbos will be minimized. Hence, Yossi should say something like the following: "It is Shabbos. It is forbidden to drive today. I want to minimize your Shabbos transgression. Therefore, I will tell you the shortest route, so that your driving will be minimal. The directions for the shortest route are as follows..." [*]

Explanation: Let's first understand the Halachic dilemma involved here. On the one hand, to simply give directions to a driver is equivalent to implicit approval of the driver's *chillul* Shabbos activity and assisting him in transgressing. On the other hand, not giving the directions would ultimately lead to a greater *chillul* Shabbos, because the driver will most likely need to drive even further in search of his destination.

HaRav Shlomo Zalman Auerbach zt"l was asked what to do in this situation. He answered that it is permitted to give directions, provided that (1) the driver will be first informed about the fact that driving on Shabbos is prohibited and (2) that the driver will be told that the reason why directions are being given to him is so that his Shabbos transgression will be minimized (i.e., by driving on the shortest route). [**]

[*] Of course, it wouldn't hurt if Yossi would also suggest to the driver that instead of driving to his destination, he should come over to Yossi's house for a delicious Shabbos lunch.

[**] פניני המאור בספר מאור השבת, מכתב ט

Riddle

After Shmuli did something, he went from being *tammeh* to being *tahor*, while something else went from being *kosher* to being *pasul*.

What did Shmuli do?



Last week's riddle:

Parshas Beha'alosecha mentions fish three times. Where?

ANSWER:

1 - the obvious one: the fish that "they remembered eating in Mitzrayim".

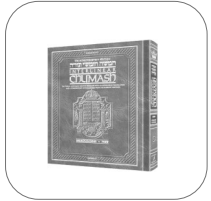
2 & 3 - the reversed נו"ך before and after the parsha of הָאָרֶץ הַנִּלְסָה.

(נו"ך in Aramaic means "fish". See the commentary of *Kli Yakar* for a very beautiful mystical explanation of the meaning of these reversed letters here.)

Parsha Depth

אם תפץ בנו ה' והביא אתנו אל הארץ הזאת

If Hashem desires us, He will bring us to this land...
[Bamidbar 14:8]



The words of this verse (which were said by Yehoshua and Calev) seem out of order. Since Yehoshua and Calev are telling Bnei Yisroel that "*if Hashem wants to, He can do whatever He desires,*" the verse should have said אִם תִּפֹּץ ה' בְּנוֹ. Perhaps, the fact that Yehoshua and Calev switched the order, and said אִם תִּפֹּץ בְּנוֹ ה', the verse is also read as: *If the desire is inside of us, then Hashem will bring us to this land...*

In other words, the critical part is to have a very strong desire to live in Eretz Yisroel. Hashem will take care of the rest. [This lesson is important for both those who still live outside of Eretz Yisroel and for those who already are living in Eretz Yisroel.]

Mishlei—Royal Life Lessons



אל תעזבה ותשמר אהבה ותצרך:

Do not abandon her, and she will guard you; love her and she will protect you. [Mishlei 4:6]

In last week's article we began to explore the ways to gain *ahavas* HaTorah.

This week, let's remind ourselves of the powerful words of Chovos Halevovos from Shaar Ahavas HaShem:

מן הנמנע ממנו שתתישב אהבת הבורא בלבנו עם התישב אהבת העולם בנו.

To paraphrase it: As long as the love for the physical world is entrenched within a person, it is impossible for *ahavas* Hashem to become firmly settled in his heart.