

Youthful

**The Maggid's Corner**

Special thanks to Revach LaNashama for the story

Rav Avigdor Miller was known for his emphasis on appreciating the wonder and beauty of nature and the vast wisdom of the world that Hashem created among a multitude of other qualities from which we can learn so much. This classic story epitomizes his constant

focus on appreciation for Hashem.

Once, a grandchild visited Rav Miller at home and was puzzled to see his grandfather with his face in the sink. After a few minutes, Rav Miller stood up, and breathed deeply. "The air is so wonderful," he said.

His grandchild said, "Why was your face in the water for so long that you couldn't even breathe properly?" Rav Miller said, "On my way home, someone started talking to me and commented that lately, the air has been polluted. I didn't want my appreciation of Hashem's air to lessen, so I decided to deepen my appreciation of air. After depriving myself of air for just a short while, I now am even more thankful to Hashem for providing us with such wonderful air.



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◆ Please, don't read me during tefilla, kadish, etc. ◆

# Menucha

A Shabbos table companion for the whole family

Volume V, Issue No. 10

מקץ

5776

## Challenges

### Halacha Challenge

TOPIC

Playing Dreidle



As the kids were waiting for their father to come back from shul on a Friday night, they decided to play dreidle. "But which game should we play?" asked Chani. "We can't use Chanuka gelt. It's Shabbos!"

"No problem," said his sister, Shani. "We'll use chocolate coins instead."

Chani protested: "Chocolate coins look too much like money. Let's just play "the longest spin" game. The kid whose dreidle spins the longest gets to choose which Chanukah song to sing next!"

**Question:** Who proposed the best game - Chani or Shani?



Dedications:

- By Rav Malinowitz, in honor of Shabbos Menucha-Rosh Chodesh-Chanukah
- L'ilui nishmas Chaya Devora bas Rav Nosson

Menucha thanks all of the co-sponsors of this week's issue.

Special thanks to *kehillas* **Beis Tefillah Yonah Avraham** for all of their help.



◆ requires geniza ◆

**Help:** *Kosev* (writing), which is one of the 39 *melachos* of Shabbos, is what of concern to us here. There are many things throughout a day that we do which cause us to write things down for memory. To protect us from *chilul* Shabbos, Chazal made a *gezeira* not to do any business transactions, because those may lead to writing things down [Rambam, Laws of Shabbos 23:12]. That's why, for example, we are not allowed to buy things on Shabbos [ibid.]

What about playing games for money or other things? The source which will help us to answer this is the ruling of the Rama in *siman* O.C. 338 (5) where, based on the Rambam and the Beis Yosef, the Rama writes that one is not permitted to play a "play to earn" type of game on Shabbos - i.e., in such a game, a winner earns his component's money. [Since it is a gambling type of game, one should investigate if it's appropriate to play such game even on a weekday]. Though this is not a true "business transaction," it is nevertheless similar to a business transaction. Thus, what Rama is teaching us is that even activities that are merely similar to business transactions are included in the general *g'zeira* of not to do business transactions. | *Can you solve our challenge based on these sources? Don't rush with your answer! Think well...*

**Menucha's Answer:** Chani. **Explanation:** Even though the chocolate coins are not money, nevertheless Shani's game is still in the category of those "play to earn" games that the Rama prohibited (see above). Let's remember that the reason for why "play to earn" games are prohibited on Shabbos is because earning money through a game is similar to a business transaction. Now, as we know, business transactions do not always involve money. Sometimes, a business transaction is merely an exchange of goods! Although chocolate coins are not money, they are valuable goods - and quite delicious ones!

[As a support for Menucha's answer, the following are the words of the book "The 39 Melachos" by Rabbi Dovid Ribiat (page 978): *One should refrain from playing games in which one stands to lose or gain, such as dreidle and the like. Even if played for items other than money, it resembles buying and selling and falls within the injunction against transactions on Shabbos.*]

## Riddle



What many of us will witness this Shabbos, we will only see next time in April, and after that, on Simchas Torah. What will we witness this Shabbos?

Answer to the last riddle (riddle: Which Mitzvah only applies to someone who is sitting, reclining or lying down? - special thanks to Yiddle Riddle Archives of the Ohr Sameyach Yeshiva for the riddle!)

Standing up in honor of a Talmid Chacham or an elderly person.

## Sweet & Short



### Chanukah

On a physical level, Chanuka is a time of lighting the candles of the Menorah to publicize the miracle. Based on the teachings of the Sefas Emes, we learn that on a spiritual level, Chanuka is a time to learn how to find and reveal the inner candle - the pure Neshama, as the verse in Mishlei (20:27) says: "*Ner Hashem nishmas adam.*" This inner candle, teaches the Sefas Emes, exists in every Jew and it always remains pure. We testify about it in the morning blessings as we say "...the neshama that you gave me is pure."

Quoting from his Rebbi, the Chidushei HaRim, the Sefas Emes says further that finding that one pure jar of oil in the Beis Hamikdash is a symbolism that inside a person-who is a mini Beis HaMikdash-there is "one jar of pure oil" that Hashem always protects from impurities. That "one jar of pure oil" is a Neshama that is present in every Jew.

In the story of Chanuka, that one jar of pure oil was spread out in a miraculous way to the entire duration of time that was needed to prepare new oil. Similarly, teaches the Sefas Emes, our job is not only to find that "one jar of pure oil" within ourselves, but also to spread it into every action of our lives. In other words, once a person finds that pure light of his Neshama, he now needs infuse that light into fiber of his life.

Furthermore, it is our job to find the "jars of pure oil" in others. The closer a person is to his friend, the better he can accomplish this task. Certainly, the parents have an important task in life - to find the "jars of pure oil" in every child and to light the most precious menorah which the parents possess.

[Sefas Emes, Chanuka 5631, 5632]