

Youthful

Wonders of Creation

-- Special thanks to the anonymous contributor of this article

As we know, spiders produce silk threads to build their webs. How do they do it? The threads a spider uses to construct its web begin as liquid, produced in a spider's "silk gland." After a tiny drop of this liquid comes out from a spider, it quickly dries in the air and become a thread.

Another important tool in the web construction is a complex of "spinnerets." Spinnerets are special organs that allow the spider to decide what type of thread it needs for the web at the current moment in construction: thick or thin, dry or sticky, beaded or smooth.

Spiders make very complex geometrical patterns. Yet, they did not attend a single Calculus class. Of course, the amazing wisdom of making these patterns was granted to them by Hashem from birth.



Did you know that, actually, not all spiders use webs for food? Some don't even build webs at all. Some spiders chase their prey. And some of them make sticky nets, which they throw over their prey to catch it!



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

Menucha

A Shabbos table companion for the whole family

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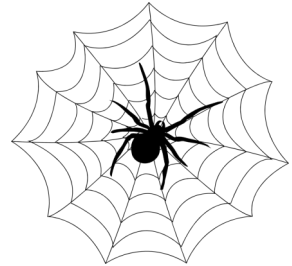
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Challenges

TOPIC

Halacha Challenge

Getting Rid of Spider Webs



On *erev* Shabbos, the Shuster family was busy getting things ready for their special guest – Shabbos Kodesh. Mrs. Shuster was making a *kugel*, Mr. Shuster was preparing tea essence, and the kids were sweeping the floor.

"Look! A spider web!" shouted Bentzi, as he dropped his broom and pointed to the corner of a room. Everyone saw that Bentzi was not joking around. There was a big spider web attached to the floor and a wall.

"Let's sweep it away," proposed the older brother Levi. "The room needs be clean for Shabbos."

"Why? A spider web is not real dirt," said Leah. "Let's leave it alone."

Question: Who is right - Levi or Leah?



Dedications

- by Chanie & Howie Bryks, *leilui nishmas* Simcha ben Naftali Falik Halevi

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: Let's review what we've learned last week. As the Rambam explains [Laws of Shabbos 30:1], the *mitzva* of *Kavod* Shabbos (honoring Shabbos) was taught to us by the *navi* Yeshayahu [58:13] - "...מְבַדֵּה ה' מְבַדֵּה" - "And if you establish Shabbos...the holy [day] of Hashem [to be] 'honored'..."

Besides being clean and looking nice, part of honoring Shabbos is making the home look presentable. The source of this *halacha* is the *Braisa* of Rabbi Yosi bar Yehuda [Shabbos 119b]: "*Two Malachei HaShares escort a person from shul to his home on erev (i.e. leil) Shabbos...and when the man comes to his house and finds a lit candle, and a set table and a [nicely] covered bed, a good Malach says: 'May the will be that it will be like this next Shabbos'!*"

Based on this *Braisa*, the *Rishonim* and later *poskim* write about the need to make the house look dignified for Shabbos *Kodesh* [see Rambam, Laws of Shabbos 30:5, Shulchan Aruch 262]. For that reason, based on the *Chayei Adam*, the *Mishna Berura* teaches that as part of the *mitzva* of *Kavod* Shabbos, one needs to sweep away dust and dirt in his home on *erev* Shabbos. | *To solve the challenge think if a spider web found in a corner of a room (between the floor and the wall) is considered "dirt" which must to be cleaned up before Shabbos.*

Menucha's Answer: Levi. Though a spider web might not necessarily be considered as "dirt," it is, nevertheless, proper to remove it.* | **Explanation:** In two different places, the *Mishna Berura* writes about removing spider webs before Shabbos [siman 250:3 & 262:3]. In one place, the *Mishna Berura* writes: "[In order to] to clean the house in honor of Shabbos, it is good to remove spider webs from the house during the day (i.e., on erev Shabbos)." [ibid. 262:3] | *Qs: (1) Do you think the halacha is different in a case where the spider web is not in people's eye's view - such as on a ceiling? And why does the Mishna Berura write to remove the spider web specifically "from the house" - isn't simply putting the spider webs in a trash good enough? (3) And finally, why do you think that the prohibition of "tza'ar ba'alei chaim" (causing suffering to living creatures) does not play a role in this halacha?*

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\* As we learned last week, intentions and feelings, are essential when it comes to honoring Shabbos. That is to say that doing things that are part of everyone's *erev* Shabbos 'routine' should be done while having thoughts and feelings in the spirit of: "I am doing these things in order to honor my long-awaited, special guest - the Shabbos Queen!" Let's recall, also, that what's great about this is that a person who observes Shabbos, truly honors it and makes it a day of *עונג*, sees the fruits of his labor on Shabbos itself, as the *navi* Yeshayahu says (ibid. 13-14): "...[And if you establish] the holy [day] of Hashem [to be] 'honored'...then you will delight in Hashem..." The *Iben Ezra* explains that this "delight" is similar to the pleasure that a son feels when he is with his father.]

Riddle



In this week's parsha we are given the precious *mitzva* of eating *matza*...At his *Pesach seder*, Mr. Roger said *HaMotzi* & *Al Achilas Matza* and began eating the *matza*. "Interesting," he thought "I am not hungry, yet I had to say *HaMotzi*.

Well that's because I love *matza*!" Then, Mr. Roger realized that tomorrow afternoon, before *Mincha*, he will need to eat a certain food on which he will need to say the *bracha* of *SheHakol*, yet he never enjoys the taste of that particular food at all. Besides that, he will, certainly, not be hungry, since he will have already eaten a *Yom Tov seuda* by that time. And did Mr. Roger tell you that he runs a marathon once a year and eats a pound of fresh veggies daily? Well, if he didn't, just know that Mr. Roger is a very healthy man. If so, why will Mr. Roger be eating that 'certain food' before *Mincha* tomorrow? And moreover, why will he need to say a *bracha* before eating it?!

Answer to the last riddle

RIDDLE: There are five of us. Three of us are in this week's parsha. Two of us are not in this parsha and not in any parsha of the Torah. Who / what are we?

ANSWER: חמשת מיני דגן (the 5 types of grain). Wheat, barley and spelt were mentioned explicitly in parshas *Va'eira*. Oats and rye are not mentioned explicitly anywhere in the Torah.



Kids Ask, Zeidy Answers



Zeidy – everyone despises the spiders. They look scary and they add to dirt in a house. But is there anything good that we can learn from spiders?



Absolutely, kids! Shlomo HaMelech told us in his *sefer* *Mishlei* [30:28] the lesson that we are supposed to learn from spiders:

שְׁמִמִית בְּיָדַיִם תִּתְפֹּשֵׁ, וְהִיא בְּהִיכְלֵי מְלָךְ. -- משלי ל:כח

*A spider captures with its hands, and it [lives] in kings' palaces. -- Mishlei 30:28*

What does the *Mishlei* mean by saying that a spider is "in kings' palaces?" It teaches us that even though a spider that crawls on a floor of a king's palace can find many goodies from the delicacies that fell on a floor from a king's table, it does not want to partake in them. It prefers to toil for its food with its own strength and skills that Hashem granted to it - to create a web and catch flies.\*

*[based on the commentary of the Metzuda on Mishlei]*