

Stories, Biographies & Wonders

The Brisker Rov & Rav Aharon Kotler Cheer Up The Chofetz Chaim's Grandson

Special thanks to Revach L'Neshama for the story

A grandson of the Chofetz Chaim came to Rav Aharon Kotler and asked him why it is that his grandfather, who was a *gaon* and even wrote seforim such as the Mishna Brurah which clearly prove it, was acknowledged by the world as a great *tzaddik* but less so as the great *gaon* that he was? Rav Aharon had no answer, but he told him that he happened to be on his way to visit the Brisker Rov, and that he should join him so that they could ask the Brisker Rov this question.

When they asked the Brisker Rov, he answered, "Retzon Yerie'av Yaaseh". Rav Aharon explained these words, saying that apparently the Chofetz Chaim davened to Hashem, begging him to keep his greatness in Torah hidden from the world. "If so" asked the grandson, "then why was his *tziddkus* not hidden?" To that Rav Aharon had a very simple answer. The Chofetz Chaim clearly understood his breadth and depth of Torah were astounding and far beyond the rest of the generation. However when it came to *tziddkus*, the Chofetz Chaim did not see himself as any more special than any Jew trying to serve his Creator to the best of his abilities. Therefore he didn't think he had any notoriety in this area, and had no need to *daven* that it should be hidden.

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Menucha

A Shabbos table companion for the whole family

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Halacha Challenge

For How Long to Hold the Lit Match by the Wick



Elana and Danny were excited to spend their first Shabbos as a married couple. On *erev* Shabbos, Danny set up Elana's Shabbos oil candles inside the beautiful candle holders that he gave to Elana as a present.

As Elana was about to light the candles, she remembered that her mother would hold the lit match next to the wick for a good amount of time. "I wonder if that's a

halacha. Or perhaps, those wicks would not light right away," thought Elana.

Q. For how long should Elana hold the lit match next to the wick?

DEDICATIONS

- ◆ By the **Ross family** in honor of Rabbi and Rabbetzin Malinowitz and the entire shul for their outpouring of loving kindness in supporting us during our son Noah's Bar Mitzva. Thank you, thank you, thank you so much.
- ◆ By **Zechariah and Sarah Rakhsha** in honor of Elana Duchin and Danny Louise's wedding.
- ◆ By **Yonah Alexander Bronstein** for hatzlacha of the family's endeavors.



Special thanks to kehillas **Beis Tefillah Yonah Avraham**

Menucha's Answer*: Elana should hold the lit match by the wick until most of the wick that comes out from the oil is burning.

Explanation: This halacha is taught in the Gemora (Shabbos 28b): עולא: הַמְדַלִּיק: (Shabbos 28b): *..Because Ulla said: the one who lights [Shabbos candles] needs to light most [the wick] that comes out [from the oil].* - i.e., When holding the lit match by the candle, most of the wick [which comes out from the surface of the oil] should be burning before one removes his hand (Rashi ibid).

The Shulchan Aruch (OC 264:8) rules based on this teaching of Gemora. This *halacha* applies to all types of candles - e.g., oil, wax, paraffin (see Mishna Berura OC 264 §27, Shemiras Shabbos Kehilchosa ch. 43 §33).

Let's try to explore if this requirement is somehow related to the *halachos* of light the Menorah in the Beis HaMikdash. We are familiar with the famous words of Rashi at the beginning of *parshas Beha'alo-secha*:

בְּהַעֲלֶתָּהּ: על שם שהלהב עולה, כתוב בהדלקתן לשון עליה, שצריך להדליק עד שתהא שלהבת עולה מאליה

בְּהַעֲלֶתָּהּ (lit. when you make it ascend): *Since the flame rises, the Torah expresses "lighting the candles" in terms of ascending. [This teaches that Aaron] is required to light [each candle of the Menorah] until the flame rises by itself.*

The obvious question is what exactly does it mean that the flame should "rise by itself"? Also, what specifically did Aaron need to do in order to accomplish this?

Now, let's try to understand Rashi's source that teaches the requirement to light the Menorah of the Beis HaMikdash until the flame of each candle "rises by itself." It appears that Rashi's source is the teaching of Rami bar Chama who said that only wicks and oil of good quality may be used for the Menorah of the Beis HaMikdash—i.e., the same wicks and oils that may be used for Shabbos candles (Shabbos 21a). Rami bar Chama explained that this is required due to the fact that the Torah says regarding the Menorah (Shemos 27:20): לְהַעֲלֹתָּהּ בְּרֵחַ תָּמִיד. And this verse is teaching us, says Rami bar Chama, that each flame of the Menorah should rise by itself and not with the help of something else. Commenting on that part of Gemora, Rashi explains that this means that the Menorah should be lit in such a way that the candles would not need any adjustment or tilting. Hence, it appears that when Rashi commented on *parshas Beha'alo-secha* and said - "[This teaches that Aaron] is required to light [each candle of the Menorah] until the flame rises by itself." - Rashi meant that Aaron needed to make sure that the candles will **stay** lit without needing any adjustment or tilting.

Do you see a connection between this halacha for lighting the Menorah and the halacha taught by Ulla (see above) regarding lighting the Shabbos candles?

* Note: Menucha's answer is for Torah learning purposes only and not as a *halachic* ruling.

Kids Ask, Zeidy Answers



Zeidy, why did Hashem want Moshe Rabbeinu to look at Eretz Yisroel?



You're asking an excellent question, kids!

It is taught that looking at Eretz Yisroel has a special influence on the *neshama*. When a Jew just looks at Eretz Yisroel he elevates his *kedusha*.

Riddles



Levi and Yehuda are twins. They ate a small meal on a Friday night. Levi said to Yehuda: "That's funny; we ate absolutely the same amount of food. We're twins even here!" Their father gave each one a bencher and said: "Now it is time to thank Hashem for the food." When they were finished, their father asked them: "Did you mention Shabbos?" "Oops, we forgot," they said. Their father turned to Levi and said: "You need to repeat." Then, he turned to

Yehuda and said: "You don't need to repeat." Levi and Yehuda are equally healthy and strong (physically and mentally). *Why did the father tell to Levi to repeat and to Yehuda he said not to repeat?*

Last week's Riddle: Reuven and Shimon are twins. They ate a small meal on a Shabbos afternoon. Reuven said to Shimon: "That's funny; we ate absolutely the same amount of food. We're twins even here!" Their father gave each one a bencher and said: "Now it is time to thank Hashem for the food." When they were finished, their father asked them: "Did you mention Shabbos?" "Oops, we forgot," they said. Their father turned to Reuven and said: "You need to repeat." Then, he turned to Shimon and said: "You don't need to repeat." Reuven and Shimon are equally healthy and strong (physically and mentally). *Why did the father tell to Reuven to repeat and to Shimon he said not to repeat?*

Answer : Reuven was eating his second meal of Shabbos. Shimon was eating Shalosh Seudos.