

# Yahrzeits, Biographies & Stories

Special thanks to Yaakov G. for the help with the content



**Rav Yosef Chaim Sonnenfeld**, (1849 – 1932).

**Yahrzeit date:** 19<sup>th</sup> of Adar (this year: Tu.-Wed., Feb. 18-19)

R' Sonnenfeld was born in Vebove, Slovakia. He made aliya in 1873, eventually becoming the Rosh Av Beis Din of Yerushalayim. R' Sonnenfeld inspired many Jews to make Eretz Yisroel their home or at least purchase burial sites here.

Once, R' Chaim Noach Kruskal from Frankfurt visited Eretz Yisroel and stayed with R' Sonnenfeld for a short while during his visit. So inspired was he with the *kedusha* of Yerushalayim that he sent a letter to his parents back in Frankfurt, informing them of his decision to remain in the Holy Land. However, in Frankfurt R' Yehuda Leib Kruskal and his wife were taken aback by their son's step.

R' Kruskal's parents crossed the ocean to bring their son back home. Though R' Sonnenfeld tried stubbornly to convince the parents to stay in Eretz Yisroel, he was not successful. Seeing his case was lost, R' Sonnenfeld gave the family his *bracha*, but as a last resort he begged the father to at least buy burial plots in holy soil. "In this *z'chus*, you'll merit to have your final resting place in the Holy Land and you'll be saved from tragedy," were R' Sonnenfeld's parting words. R' Yehuda Leib Kruskal followed the Rav's advice.

During World War II, Kruskal family ended up in the Bergen Belsen camp. At one point there was a prisoner swap between the Germans and the Allies. Those who had visas to Palestine or America had a much better chance of being chosen in the exchange. One day, R' Chaim Noach was summoned to the Red Cross office. There, he was informed that since he had no visa to Palestine, he and his family were being deleted from the list of those to be exchanged. Suddenly, the *bracha* of R' Yosef Chaim Sonnenfeld ran in his ears, "... and you will be saved from tragedy." With a flash of inspiration, he recalled the purchase of the burial plots his father had made upon the advice of R' Sonnenfeld. "We are citizens of Palestine!" he exclaimed. "At my relative, Mr. so and so in London, on this and this street are the documents verifying my possession of land in Palestine." Notorious for being meticulous and methodical, the Germans indeed checked out the details. When they were verified, R' Chaim Noach was returned to the list of prisoners set up for exchange and eventually he was included in the prisoner swap. ♦

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# Menucha

*The Shabbos Table Companion  
for the Whole Family*

תשע"ד  
פרשת כי תשא

## Halacha Challenge

### Eating the Melted Ice Cream

by Shlomo Epshteyn



*Rina and Maya love to get together on Shabbos afternoon to eat ice cream. This Shabbos, while Rina was helping her mother, some of her ice cream melted in the bowl.*

*"That looks delicious—like a milk shake," said Maya, "I'll melt my ice cream in the sun too."*

*"Wait!" Screamed Rina's brother, Raphael. "I learned last Shabbos that if ice-cubes melt in an empty cup on Shabbos, we're not allowed to drink the resulting water."*

### Questions

Is Rina permitted to eat her melted ice cream?

Is Maya permitted to put her ice cream in the sun to melt it?

### Answers

Even though Raphael is correct regarding drinking water from melted ice-cubes, regarding melted ice cream the halacha is different. Rina is permitted to eat it, and Maya is permitted to deliberately melt hers too.

### Explanation

To briefly summarize last week's article, there is a rabbinic prohibition to crush ice and similar things (e.g., snow) in order to produce water<sup>1</sup>. Sefer HaTruma<sup>2</sup> learns that the issue is creating a *molad* and therefore, even if the ice was melted passively (i.e., without actively crushing it), the resultant water cannot be used (with the exception of a case where the ice was melted inside another liquid). Although many Rishonim<sup>3</sup> disagree



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## Halacha Challenge

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with Sefer HaTruma, the Ashkenazi minhag is to follow his *chumra*<sup>4</sup>.

Having said that, some prominent contemporary poskim say that the *chumra* of Sefer HaTruma does not apply to all solid foods<sup>5</sup>. Based on the Ran's *peirush*<sup>6</sup> of the *sugiya*, they learn that even sefer HaTruma does not prohibit melting things that are normally eaten in a congealed form. Since the normal way to eat ice-cream is when it's in a non-liquid state, even sefer HaTruma would agree that the melted ice cream does not have a status of *molad*. ♦

1. שבת נא: שו"ע א"ח סימן שכ סעיף ט 2. ספר התרומה סימן רלה 3. הרמב"ם, הרמב"ן, הרשב"א 4. הרמ"א א"ח סימן שיח סעיף טז 5. ששכ"ה (מהדורה חדשה) פרק א סעיף מג הערה כג ופרק י הערה כד 6. פ' הר"ן על הרי"ף שבת פרק במה טומנין דף כד בדפי הרי"ף

## Kids Ask, Zeidy Answers



Zeidy, in this week's parsha we learn about the spices that are mixed for the K'tores. We heard that if honey is added to the K'tores, the whole blend is *pasul*. Why specifically honey?



From the answer, kids, you will learn an important lesson for life. You see, honey springs upwards when added to fire. This represents the ugly *midah* of *ga'ava* (haughtiness) [based on *peirush Me'am Loez*]. Now, you know that the *avoda* of the Beis Hamikdash teaches us how to be true *ovdei Hashem*. The fact that mixing honey into the spices invalidates the **entire** blend teaches us that when we serve Hashem, we dare not mix in any *ga'ava*; otherwise, that *avoda* can become invalid, *chas v'shalom*! For example, when you *davven*, make sure not to do anything to show off to your friends how well you *davven*.

## Wonders of Creation

### Beneath the Shell

by Alex Isaacson

The Galapagos tortoise is like no other. It is the largest living species of tortoise and the 10th-heaviest living reptile, weighing on average over 880lbs! They can live to be 100 years old, and one in particular specimen lived to 170 in captivity. These amazing animals are native to the Galapagos Islands, a volcanic archipelago located around the equator in the Pacific Ocean.



What is most unique about this gargantuan creature is its practice of symbiosis. Tortoises share a mutuality relationship with certain species of the Galapagos finch and mockingbirds. This relationship is crucial for the tortoise's health and grooming. The finch or mockingbird will begin by hopping on the ground in an over-dramatic fashion while facing the tortoise. The tortoise indicates that it's ready to be groomed by rising up and extending its neck and legs, enabling the birds to reach dead skin and parasites hidden in otherwise inaccessible spots on the tortoise's body. The birds, of course, are thankful for their meal. One helps the other, and they both help to preserve the delicate balance of nature. The Creator made this particular bond, without which the tortoises would likely die off from disease or infection. ♦

## Riddles & Parsha Qs

### Riddle

In the middle of parshas Ki Sisa, we learn about the precious mitzva of Shabbos, and how it is related to the Mishkan.

Since the sun moves from east to west, Shabbos starts in Yerushalayim first and then in New York. But which mitzva is observed first in New York and then in Yerushalayim?



### Answer to last issue's Riddle:

(Riddle: According to some opinions, one of the priestly articles (from this week's parsha) had a text written on it in a reverse order. Which garment was it?)

צִיץ (the forehead plate of the Kohen Gadol). The text "Kodesh LaHashem" was written from bottom to top (i.e. it was written in two lines, but "LaHashem" was written on the 1st line, while "Kodesh" was written on the 2nd line). [Based on Rambam, Hilchos Klei Hamikdash 9:1. See Tosafos (Succah 5a, "Kodesh") for a different opinion.]