

Hosting a Thief

Special thanks to Revach L'Neshama for the story

A vagrant Jew had acquired a reputation as a thief, and was ostracized by society. However, when he came to Radin, he encountered Rav Naftali Tzvi Trop, the famed Rosh Yeshivah of the Chofetz Chaim's Yeshiva. Rav Trop greeted him warmly, invited him to eat by his table, and even offered him a bed to sleep for the night in his home. The Jews of Radin began murmuring with each other, wondering why R' Trop was exerting himself for this unsavory character.

Someone worked up the courage to ask R' Trop directly why he was treating this thief with such warmth. R' Trop answered in surprise, "It's known that a thief pays back double the value of what he stole, and if he can't pay it back, he's sold as a slave. But where is it written that I'm exempt from fulfilling the *mitzvah* of *hachnasas orchim*? Isn't he a Jew? Didn't Avraham Avinu fulfill the *mitzvah* of *hachnasas orchim* even with Arabs who worshipped the dust of their feet? It's true that it's risky to bring a suspected thief into my house, but I can watch over him carefully the whole time he's in my home. However, I have no excuse to exempt myself from the *mitzvah*."

The next day, the people in Radin heard that R' Trop had done exactly what he had said. He had stayed awake the entire night to guard the thief while he slept in his home. ♦



Halacha Challenge



Using the Leftover Oil From the Menorah for Shabbos Candles

by Shlomo Epshteyn

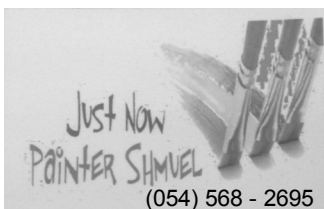
reviewed by Rav Chaim Malinowitz

In the morning of the 8th day of Chanuka, the Shuster family was sitting around a table and enjoying their special Chanuka breakfast - latkes and sour cream. All of a sudden, Racheli pointed to the menorah and said "Look! Last night, some of the oil did not get burned." Her sister, Shoshi, said: "Right. Almost every glass jar has a little bit of oil in it." Their brother, Achinoam had a plan: "I have an idea! Let's add this leftover oil to the Shabbos candles!" Their oldest brother, Bentzion protested: "Didn't we learn that it's prohibited to derive benefit from the Chanuka candles!?"

Question: Can the leftover oil be used for the Shabbos candles?

Answer: If on the 8th night of Chanuka the candles burned for the required amount of time, then the leftover oil can be used for the Shabbos candles or any other mitzva and even a mundane purpose. [Ideally, before lighting the Chanuka candles, one should make a stipulation that he is allocating only the oil which will burn during the required time of this mitzva.]

Menucha sponsors



Avromy the Barber

- professional cuts
- will come to your house
- for men and boys

(052) 768-7012



Martial Arts Academy

052-786-9635
077-431-0116

Dedication

This week's issue is dedicated
anonymously, for *refuah sheleima* of Ayala bas Rut



Explanation: The Braisa teaches: "Its *mitzva* [i.e. the *mitzva* to light Chanuka candles] is from sunset until there is no more pedestrian traffic from the market place."¹ The Gemora gives several interpretations of this Braisa. One of those interpretations the Gemora expresses in one word: "measure".² There are multiple explanations offered by the Rishonim of what the Gemora means by the word "measure". The Rosh writes that by saying "measure", the Gemora is telling us that after the candles have burned for a measure of time from "sunset until there is no more pedestrian traffic from the market place", it is permitted to benefit from the light of the candles. In other words, after that measure of time, what's left in the menorah from the oil is not considered as 'designated for the *mitzva*'. The Shulchan Aruch brings this explanation as *halacha*.³

Interestingly, the Shulchan Aruch writes what to do with the leftover oil in the menorah that remained after the 8th night of Chanuka.⁴ It rules that whatever is left in the menorah from the oil should be burned on its own so that one will not come to benefit from that leftover oil. Based on the explanation above, we now understand why the Mishna Berura explains that this *siman* in Shulchan Aruch is referring to a case where the candles were distinguished before they have burned for the required time.⁵

Having said that, the Mishna Berura teaches that some *poskim* hold that all of the oil that one puts in the menorah is 'designated for the *mitzva*'.⁶ As such, the Mishna Berura writes that before lighting the menorah, it's preferable to make a תנאי (a stipulation) that one is designating for the *mitzva* only the oil which will burn during the required time of this *mitzva*. ♦

1. שבת כא: 2. שם 3. שו"ע א"ח סי' תרעב סעי' ב 4. שו"ע א"ח סי' תרעז סעי' ד 5. מ"ב סי' תרעז ס"ק יח 6. מ"ב סי' תרעב ס"ק ז

Kids Ask, Zeidy Answers



Zeidy – how come, all of a sudden, Yehuda

changed his attitude? The last week's parsha ends with the words of Yehuda expressing guilt and subordination, while this week's parsha starts with the words of Yehuda, talking to Yosef with strong attitude and, as Chazal teach us, he was even ready to wage war again Mitzrayim!



Good question! Here is what happened: Yehuda recalled that he made a קבלה to be responsible for Binyomin's safe return home. This gave Yehuda strengths that he didn't have before!

Rav Shimon Schwab teaches that from here we learn a great lesson: When a person makes a קבלה to keep *mitzvos* (for example, when reciting the 2nd paragraph of Sh'ma), then Hashem gives that person new strengths!

[Maayan Bais Hasho'eivah]

Wonders of Creation

The Great Horned Owl

by Alex Isaacson

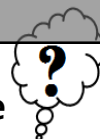


The Great Horned Owl, also known as the Tiger Owl, is a large owl measuring upwards of 2ft in length with a wingspan of 5ft. It is native to the Americas, including the Chicago land area.

Its primary diet consists of small rodents, although it freely hunts any animal it can overtake, including larger mid-sized mammals, various birds, reptiles, amphibians and invertebrates.

Hashem designed this creature with unprecedented hunting abilities. This owl hunts mainly by watching from a snag, pole or other high perch, sometimes completely concealed by the dusky night and partially hidden by foliage. Its flight is powerful and straight, reaching hunting speeds of more than 40mph in level fashion. After it has successfully acquired its prey, it utilizes its signature method of killing by beheading its victims before it takes to the nest or eating perch. ♦

Riddles



Riddle

Who in *sefer Bereshis* was his sister's son-in-law?

Hint

Don't need to look far for the answer.

Answer to the last issue's riddle

(Riddle: Yossi decided to spend his Chanuka on a desolate island. He packed 36 candles for the trip. On the way there, one candle fell out of the boat and was forever lost in the depth of the ocean. When Yossi arrived to the island, he found it completely empty, and hence, there was nothing there from which he could make another candle. He tried to break one candle and make it into two candles, but the candles were made from very thick, hard material which required a knife to cut them. Unfortunately, Yossi forgot to pack along his knife. Nevertheless, during each night of Chanuka he fulfilled the *mitzva* of lighting Chanuka candles on a mehadrin min hamehadrin level. How is that possible?)

ANSWER: On the first night, after the candle burned for the required amount of time, he put it out, and there was enough wax remaining in that candle to burn on another night. [see O.C. 672:2]