

Stories, Biographies & Wonders

**Dolphins**

by Chaya Sara Bukhaver

Did you know that dolphins are mammals, just like us!? They are highly social, playful, curious, and intelligent. Here are some of the reasons they're considered mammals: dolphins give birth to live babies just like humans. Just like other mammals, they produce milk for their babies, and their offspring will suckle for up to four years. Dolphins breathe air like us. They can hold their breath for amazing amounts of time - seven minutes is no problem! They are born with hair (whiskers just above their rostrum), but it falls out immediately after birth.



Hashem gave to dolphins special gifts from birth: They sleep by resting one half of their brain at a time, so that one eye is always open, which is helpful when they have to "keep an eye open" for predators. Another fascinating thing about dolphins is that every dolphin has its own "signature" to identify itself!

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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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אמור

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Halacha Challenge

**Cooling Down a Drink with Ice Cubes**

Last week we began to see the laws of melting solids-such as ice cubes-on Shabbos. We saw that melting ice cubes in an empty cup is a issue, since the resulted water will have a status of 'Nolad'. Let's now explore the case of melting ice cubes inside a drink.



"I am going to Reuven's house, mommy," said Rafi as he headed for the door. It was a sunny Shabbos afternoon. When Rafi knocked on Reuven's door, he realized that he was very thirsty. He was pleasantly surprised that as soon as Reuven welcomed him inside the house, he offered him a cup of water. Rafi gladly agreed.

Reuven poured a cup of water for Rafi and then took out the tray with ice cubes from the freezer. Rafi remembered learning last Shabbos that it's a problem to melt ice cubes in an empty cup on Shabbos since the water will have a status of 'Nolad'. "Is it the same halacha if the ice cubes melt inside a drink?" thought Rafi to himself. "Maybe I should stop Reuven from putting the ice cubes inside my cup of water..."

**Q.** May Reuven put the ice cubes inside Rafi's cup of water?

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DEDICATIONS



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

◆ requires geniza ◆

**Help:** In last week’s article we saw a Braisa that teaches us the *halacha* regarding converting ice into water on Shabbos (*Shabbos* 51b):

וַאִין מְרוֹקֵין לֹא אֵת הַשֵּׁלֵג וְלֹא אֵת הַכֶּרֶד בְּשֶׁבֶת בְּשִׁבְלֵי שְׂיוּבוּ מִמֵּיו. - “*And we don’t crush snow or hail on Shabbos in order that its water should flow [from them].*”

We also saw that although there are several approaches among the Rishonim in explaining the reason for this rabbinic prohibition, the *minhag* of the Ashkenazi community is to follow *Sefer HaTruma*’s interpretation of this Braisa (Rama O.C. 318:16). *Sefer HaTruma* learns that crushing ice to form water falls under the general prohibition of creating a *nolad* on Shabbos (i.e., creating a newly created substance). In general, one may not do any action to create a *nolad* on Shabbos, and if a *nolad* would be formed (e.g., on its own), one would not be able to move it since it would have a status of *muktza*. Thus, although the Braisa above presented a case of crushing the snow or hail, *Sefer HaTruma* understands that the same prohibition would apply even if the conversion from ice to water is done passively—e.g., by merely putting the snow or hail in a place where it can melt.

To solve our challenge, though, we need to see the second part of this Braisa:

אֲבֵל נוֹתֵן הוּא לְתוֹךְ הַכּוֹס אוֹ לְתוֹךְ הַקְּעֵרָה וְאֵינוֹ חוֹשֵׁשׁ... - “*But one may put [snow or hail] into a cup [filled with a drink]...*”

The *Shulchan Aruch* [320:9] rules according to the teaching of this second part of the Braisa as well. | *Based on this, you will be able to solve the challenge.*

**Menucha’s Answer\*\*:** Yes - Reuven can add the ice cubes to the cup of water.

**Explanation:** Why is melting ice on its own prohibited, while melting it in a cup filled with a drink is permitted? The *Sefer HaMordechai* \*\* explains that this is permitted due to a combination of factors: the ice will melt on its own—i.e., without anyone crushing it, and the resulted water will become mixed in, negated and not discernable inside the drink in which the ice was melted.

*The Braisa that we quoted said that one may put [snow or hail] into a drink. Do you think that this Braisa was specific when it stated that order - to add the ice to a drink? Or would one be permitted to reverse the order as well—i.e., to add a drink to the ice?*

\*\* A Biographical note: *Sefer HaMordechai* was composed by Rav Mordechai bar Hillel (c. 1240-1298) who lived in Germany at the end of the period of *Ba’alei Tosafos*. He was a student of the Maharam of Rothenberg.

\*Note: Menucha’s answer is for Torah learning purposes only and not as a *halachic* ruling. To know laws of Shabbos on a practical level, the reader is encouraged to study them in depth, find out the *minhagim* of his/her family and community, and consult with a *halachic* authority. (The opinions of the sources cited in the article may not necessary reflect rulings of other *halachic* authorities.)

Short & Sweet

Tehillim



גָּרְסָה נַפְשִׁי לְתַאֲבָה אֶל־מִשְׁפָּטֶיךָ בְּכָל־עֵת. -- תהילים קיט:כ

There is a powerful lesson to be learned from this verse in Tehillim that will help us prepare for the upcoming *chag* of Shavuos.

*Rashi* comments that the first three words of this verse mean “My soul breaks due to desire”. [The word גָּרְסָה has the same meaning as the word גָּרַשׁ which we find in Chumash—i.e., “גרש כרמל” -- *vayikra*

2:14] Hence, the verse means “Due to the desire that I have for your laws, my soul breaks all the time.”

What does it mean that Dovid HaMelech’s soul was breaking? And what’s the meaning of the emphasis that it is breaking all the time? Based on *Radak*’s commentary, we learn that Dovid HaMelech was relating to Hashem the following: “I yearn to study Torah to such an extent that at the times when I am not able to learn Torah, my soul feels shattered.” We can learn from Dovid HaMelech how strong the desire to learn Torah can become when a person truly loves it. We still have about four more week’s before Shavuos to develop a strong love for Torah. Time is ticking...

Riddles



Shimon was born on Yom Tov. Today is Shimon’s 30’s birthday (the Hebrew date), but today is not Yom Tov!

How could that be?

*The answer to the last issue’s riddle*

**Riddle:** When we get them for the first time, we don’t pay. If we lose them, we get a free replacement. But if we loose them once again, a replacement costs money. We mentioned them two weeks ago when we read about “the four sons” in the Haggada. What are they?

**Answer:** Teeth.