



לז"ג הרב שמעון יהודה בן הרה"ג ר' אברהם יעקב (זיידיל) עפשטיין זצ"ל

LAST WEEK'S RIDDLE

How is it possible that a person who has two bottles of שמן זית – one edible and the other bitter and inedible – should use the inedible oil for נרות חנוכה.

ANSWER

The **גמ' פסחים קי"ב**, says that a **רוח רעה** rests on food or drink that had been under a bed. Accordingly, the **שו"ע יו"ד סי קט"ז ס"ה** rules that one should not place food or drink (even if covered) under a bed.

There is a **מחלוקת הפוסקים** concerning whether this food is **אסור** to be eaten or drunk if it had, indeed, been under a bed. Most **פוסקים** (the **שבות יעקב**, the **פתחי תשובה** and **רבי עקיבא איגר**) say that while someone should not **לכתחלה** place food or drink under a bed, if it had been done, the food is **מותר בדיעבד**, yet the **גר"א** and the **חיד"א** say that the food or drink is **אסור** to be eaten if it had been under a bed.

(Interestingly, the **ס' שמירת הגוף והנפש (פרק י"ד)** (Not related) holds that on the first night of **פסח**, this whole **דין** doesn't apply since it is **ליל שימורים** and, on that night, we are protected from **רוח רעה**, **מזיקין** included. According to this, his son wished to say that one needn't wash **Negel Vasser** on the first morning of **פסח** since no **רוח רעה** could have settled on his hands overnight!)

Which brings us to the answer of our riddle. The **בן איש חי (פרשת וישב אות י"ב)** says that if someone has two bottles of oil that had been under a bed, with one bottle full of clear and edible oil and the other full of bitter and inedible oil, then the bitter oil should be used for **הדלקת נר חנוכה**. Having been under a bed, the oil that is edible has been contaminated by a **רוח רעה** and oil with a **רוח רעה** should not be used for the **מצוה** of **הדלקת נר חנוכה**. Although, according to most **פוסקים**, something with **רוח רעה** is not **אסור** to be used, it still shouldn't be used to perform a **מצוה** since something **מאוס** should not be used for a **מצוה** because of the rule of **הקריבהו נא לפחתך** – the **פסוק** in **מלאכי א'** that says a person should present his loathsome items to his governor and not to Hashem.

However, the oil that is inedible is not contaminated by a **רוח רעה**, says the **בן איש חי** because a **רוח רע** only attaches to food or drink and not to oil that is not edible!

דבר תורה

בַּעוֹד וְשִׁלְשֵׁת יָמִים יִשָּׂא פְרֵעָה אֶת רֵאשֵׁהּ וְהִשְׂיבָהּ עַל פִּנֵּה וְנָתַתָּ כּוֹס פְּרֵעָה בְּיָדוֹ כַּמְשָׁפֵט הָרֵאשׁוֹן אֲשֶׁר הָיִיתָ מְשַׁקְּהוּ...בַּעוֹד וְשִׁלְשֵׁת יָמִים יִשָּׂא פְרֵעָה אֶת רֵאשֵׁהּ מֵעֲלִיָּה וְתִלָּהּ אוֹתָהּ עַל עֵץ וְאָכַל הָעוֹף אֶת בְּשָׂרָהּ מֵעֲלִיָּה...בראשית מ' י"ג, י"ט
answers both ministers with complete confidence, as if he's been in this business for 50 years. How was he so certain that this would truly be the outcome?

Many years ago, we brought the answer of the **משל** of **Shapiro** who answer with the **משל** of the artist who made a bowl of fruit that looked so real, the birds were pecking them. But the king ruled, that it was a fake drawing for if the person holding the bowl of fruit would look real, the birds would be scared & stay

away. Since they were pecking at the fruit, was a ראייה that the person must be dead! So too, thought יוסף, birds pecking at the bread in the basket on top of the שר האופים's head, means that he is dead!

But I was reminded of another מהלך that I wanted to share. Imagine, the minister was thrown in jail! He now has plenty of time to figure out what went wrong. Was it in the planning? Was it in the manufacturing? Was it in the delivery? The שר המשקים narrowed it down to the manufacturing & the delivery! The worker that actually placed the wine in פרעה's cup was negligent! He wasn't watching carefully, making sure that no fly got near that wine! Now, the שר המשקין came up with a new plan. If he ever got his job back, he would upgrade his manufacturing staff. But the delivery system would change. He could no longer take any chances letting a worker mess things up again! He would do it HIMSELF!! He reviewed this procedure in his brain day & night, all year long! Eventually, he had a dream! A person dreams at night what he thinks about in the day! The שר המשקין is now telling his dream to יוסף, who knew from him exactly what happened & where he went wrong! יוסף hears from the dream, the new protocol that the minister instituted. וכוס פרעה בידי, the cup is in MY hand! ואקח את ואתן את הכוס, I myself will take the grapes, ואשחט אתם אל כוס פרעה, I myself will squeeze the grapes, הענבים, and I myself will put the כוס on פרעה's hand! על כף פרעה, I myself will understand that the שר המשקין made a הנפש, figured out where he was wrong, made a new resolution to get it right in the future & is ready to get his job back! יוסף agreed to give him a פתרון as he deserved another chance!

But then, the שר האופים describes his dream. He has birds eating out of the king's bread basket! Are you normal? This is how you watch over the king's bread? You never heard of bird flu? What were you doing this past year in jail? You didn't even try to learn from your past mistakes! You don't deserve your job back! Off with your head!! The birds will be eating you!

This Vort is very demanding of us in our lives. Every year we go through an אלול cycle with the נוראים. We basically do the same עבירות year after year, and ask הקב"ה for מחילה on those same עבירות, year after year! It's prime time that we figure it out, as on חנוכה they send out the final פסק! Let's change our מהלך, and maybe we'll get our 'House' back, אמן! משיח צדקינו במהרה בימינו בנין בית שלישי

RIDDLE OF THE WEEK

You are Davening a שמונה עשרה that is not a תפלה of פורים, yet you say על הנסים. WHY?

מי אני???

**Many years before I became an adult, my Zaideh the ruler had me married,
Which caused a decree of annihilation and a king to cease to lead.
From my six famous brothers who were good & got presents, I worried,
Since I treated them wickedly, I was punished through my wife & kids, for my bad deed.
The scathing letter I received from its sender years after he sent it,
In it was written the ways I would be נענש for the עבירות I did commit.**

מי אני???

ANSWER TO LAST WEEK'S מי אני???

שיהושפט היה השמיני בין המלכים שיעקב זקנו העמיד מזרעו
שיהושפט במלכותו השלים את ביטול שררת מלכי אדום שהורישו המלכות זה לזה
שמחמת מסורת האבות שקיבל יהושפט ואחוז בה, נהג כדלהלן
שמחת אחיזתו של יהושפט במסורת האבות, מיאן להאמין לנביאי השקר הגם שהיו מרובים
שבמהלך המלחמה בקשו להרוג את יהושפט, וברגע האחרון זעק לה! וניצל ממיתה
שבצדקותו הגיע יהושפט לימי הזקנה והוריש את גדולתו לבנו
יהושפט בן אָסָא וְעִזְרָבָה, ואבי יוֹרָם, מלך יהודה

שמיני בשררה שהעמיד זקני נחשבותי,
ואת ביטול שררת המורשים השלמתי.
מחמת מסורת האבות שקיבלתי ואחזתי,
לבעלי הכזב המרובים להאמין מיאנתי.
בזעקתי לה! ברגע האחרון ממיתה ניצלתי,
ובצדקותי לזקנה הגעתי וגדולתי הורשתי.
מי אני???

If you have any comments or answers to the riddles or the תורה דבר, please fax them to 732-363-4947 or email me at ichudbchidugmail.com. If we receive a good answer from you, your name will be placed in a גורל for a trip to ישראל. If you would like the English or Hebrew emailed to you at no charge, please send us a request at ichudbchidud@gmail.com !!

Riddles of the week & the answers are written by R' Michael Levi of Bais Yaakov D'Rav Meir