



PESACH BREAK The Kollel will be on recess from Sunday afternoon, Mar. 25 till Tuesday morning, April 10.

A LESSON FROM THE PARASHA RABBI DOVID TZVI MEISSNER



Shoot for Your Stars

MANY KORBANOS (SACRIFICIAL OFFERINGS) ARE discussed in the first few portions of Chumash Vayikra, and each one is replete with lessons we can learn. Let us focus on the *Korban Oleh v'Yored*, the "Ascending and Descending" Offering. This offering varies—it depends on the financial ability of the one bringing the offering. A wealthy man must bring a sheep or goat, as a *chatas* (sin offering); a poor man would bring two pigeons or turtledoves, one as a *chatas* and the other as an *olah* (burnt offering).

Ibn Ezra asks: Why does a poor man have to bring an additional offering? A rich man only brings a sin offering, while a poor man must bring an *olah* in addition to his *chatas*!

In his first answer, he suggests that the pauper may entertain jealous thoughts as he reflects on his "paltry" offering, compared to the rich man's. Such thoughts are sinful, and consequently, he must bring an *olah* offering, as well, which atones for sinful thoughts.

Rabbi Eliyahu Baruch Finkel asks: Presumably, this pauper isn't just jealous when he brings his offering; we can assume he's always jealous of the wealthy. He's jealous of the Ferrari, the fifteen-acre property, the mansion with twelve bedrooms and eight bathrooms, etc. He should bring *olah* offerings much more frequently, for all of his jealous, sinful thoughts! Why does he bring an *olah* just now?

He answers: The poor man we talk of here isn't jealous of the wealthy man's material possessions; hence, he doesn't entertain envious thoughts. Rather, he is jealous of his friend's spiritual accomplishments. The wealthy man is bringing a more substantial offering to G-d, while he ekes out a couple of birds to offer. The Torah tells us that these thoughts, as well, are improper—and he must bring an *olah* to atone for them!

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A TIMELY HALACHA

RABBI CHAIM HEINEMANN

Despite every precaution taken by matza bakeries, it is possible, if unlikely, to purchase matzos that still have issues. Even though these problems can be found with both hand and machine matzos, they are more common in hand-baked matzos. The following is a brief summary of some of the problem areas, based on Shulchan Aruch (O.C. 461) and the opinions of Rabbi Moshe Heinemann.

Matza k'fula: If there is an area on a matza that is bent over, the doubled-over portion is not kosher for Pesach. Even if the bent area is very small, one must discard this area, together with a one-

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COMING UP

- *Yeshivas Bein haZ'manim*— see flyer for details

A RIDDLE FOR YOU

As a rule, a *Beis Din* (Jewish court of law) deciding a case involving money may not rely on the testimony of a plaintiff's (or a defendant's) relative. In what situation does Jewish law make an exception?

The answer will appear after Pesach.

PREVIOUS RIDDLE:

- Q When Moshe counted the Levi'im, who was not included?
- A Aharon, the High Priest (Talmud, B'choros 4a).

TIDBITS OF CINCINNATI JEWISH HISTORY

RABBI MOSHE TZVI CRYSTAL

On 9 Nissan, 5647 (1887), prominent Cincinnati Reb Shachne Isaacs passed away. At a time when the Reform movement was sweeping across America, R' Shachne was a vociferous opponent, even publicly burning a Reform prayer book. R' Shachne immigrated to America in 1853 and moved to a farming community near Cincinnati, where he opened a general store. Even though the farmers traditionally went shopping on Saturdays, R' Shachne resolutely remained closed. Eventually, the farmers began to appreciate R' Shachne's honesty and integrity, and they learned to do their shopping on different days. R' Shachne later moved to Cincinnati, where in 1866 he opened his own shul, which became known as R' Shachne's Shul. The shul's cemetery is still active and is still known as Shachne's (or "Schachnus") Cemetery. When he was 76 years old, R' Shachne attempted to break up a fight between two Jews, and he suffered a blow to the head with a cane; he died several days later.

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A TIMELY HALACHA

CONTINUED

inch margin of regular matza. However, if the matza is bent over but the two layers don't actually touch one another, the matza remains kosher and nothing needs to be done to it. It is common to find creases in handmade matzos. If there is a corresponding crease on the other side of the matza, one should assume that the dough probably doubled over during the rolling process. In such cases, it is customary to remove the creased area, but we do not view the crease as real *chometz*—it can even be used for *Lechem Mishna* (the matza on which one recites "Hamotzi" at the beginning of a Shabbos or holiday meal)! The matza from such a creased area should be set aside (after reciting "Hamotzi," if necessary) so it won't be eaten, while true *matza k'fulah* must be disposed of as soon as it is discovered, as though it were *chametz* (leavened bread).

Matza n'fucha: A matza which has ballooned and formed a blister during the baking process. It must be examined to see if an average-size hazelnut (with its shell) can fit inside the blister, between the upper and lower levels. If it wouldn't fit, the matza is kosher. Matzos that have not formed any blisters, but are uneven in appearance, are certainly kosher.

Underbaked matzos: Matza which is completely white, on both sides, should not be used, since it may not have been thoroughly baked. Matza which is even slightly brown is fine

Chipped/incomplete matzos: In order for matza to be considered *shalem* (complete—so it can be used for *Lechem Mishna*), no more than 1/48 (approx. 2%) of the matza may be missing. Matzos which are irregularly shaped (many hand-made matzos), are still considered whole, as long as no pieces broke off after it was baked. 🥂

Shoot for Your Stars CONTINUED

Rav Finkel then explains a fundamental lesson:

The oft-quoted saying "*Kin'as sofrim tarbeh chochma*—envy of scholars (and their spiritual accomplishments) increases wisdom," doesn't apply to every such gift. Someone who has inherent capabilities in

At the Kollel

DAILY

WEEKLY

MORE

Sunday *Free brunch!*

👉 **Beginner's Halacha & More** (skills-building)
Rabbi Moshe D. Zeffren.. 9:30–10:30 AM

👉 **Shivti** (Self-contained learning, geared toward practical halacha)
Rabbi Avrohom Weinrib..... 10 AM–NOON

Monday

👉👤 **Torah Treasures for Seniors at the Mayerson JCC**
Rabbi Yitzchok Preis 10:30–11:15 AM

Tuesday

👉👤👤 **Partners in Torah at the Mayerson JCC**
Rabbi Michael Soroka..... 8 PM

Wednesday

👤👉 **Downtown Lunch-n-Learn at Strauss & Troy**
Rabbi Yitzchok Preis 12–1 PM

Thursday

👤👉👉 **Yehoshua/Shabbos** in the former Back Office
Rabbis Michael Soroka and Moshe Dovid Zeffren..... 9:10–10 PM

👤👉 **Leil Shishi Halacha Chabura** for boys in grades 7–8, with the occasional kumzits
Rabbi Moshe Fuchs..... 8:15–9 PM

👤👤 *Homemade refreshments served*

KEY: 👉 Beginners 👤 Intermediate 👤👤 Advanced 👤👤 for men and women

Chavrusos are available for private and group learning—
speak to Rabbi Chaim Heinemann! weekdays noon–1 PM • Sun.–Thurs. 8–9:45 PM

DAVENING TIMES CAN BE FOUND AT CINCYKOLLEL.ORG/MINYAN-SCHEDULE/

GREAT ACTS OF ORDINARY PEOPLE

MR. EPSTEIN AND HIS TWELVE-YEAR-OLD TWIN boys were on a summer cross-country trip, visiting communities across the U.S. In one community, the local rabbi was a childhood friend of Mr. Epstein's.

When they met, the rabbi mentioned how he was currently involved in a very sad situation. "There's a Russian couple who's waited many years to have children, and they've finally been blessed with a child. Unfortunately, the child has contracted a disease, and the only chance of survival is a twenty-thousand-dollar surgery. I was approached by this couple to help them raise the money, but I'm still ten thousand dollars short."

As they left, one of the boys asked their father if he could provide the missing money.

"I don't think so," answered Mr. Epstein. "That's a lot of money, I can't do that by myself."

"But what if you use the money that you otherwise would have spent on making our bar-mitzvah celebration?"

"If you both are agreeable to it then I will."

When both of the boys gave their assent, Mr. Epstein turned around and walked back up to his friend the rabbi's home. When the rabbi answered the door, he was told: "My dear friend, we've found a sponsor for the last ten thousand dollars." 🥂

certain spiritual areas may look at others, who have fine-tuned similar skills, and use his envy as a stepping-stone to reach greater heights in those areas. However, if someone sees a person with spiritual gifts in areas outside of his own capabilities, he should not be envious of those strengths; such jealous

thoughts would be sinful.

Shoot for the stars—the ones *you* have the potential to reach.

May we all merit to reach our individual potentials and be positive role models for others. 🥂