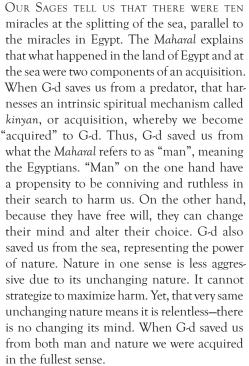
# ncinnati Toral

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Beshalach

# A LESSON FROM THE PARASHA

# Awesome



The Maharal takes us a little deeper. When we left Egypt, it was an exodus from those specific people. When He split the sea, he took us out of the conceptual Egypt for all eternity. This concept is alluded to in the Torah when the Torah (14:10) refers to the Egyptians in the singular. The Midrash Rabbah tells of how the Jewish people saw the angel of Egypt coming to the aid of the Egyptians at the sea. This is

#### A RIDDLE FOR YOU

What three passukim in the Torah have five words in a row made up of only two letters?

See reverse side for the answer

The shackles of bondage were broken permato ponder our incredible blessing and what we nently. They were replaced, ultimately, with the  $\mathbb{M}$ 

because this part of our exodus was not just crown of Torah, representing and facilitating from the individuals of Egypt of that era, but our great privilege of serving our Creator, the rather from Egypt as a whole forever and ever. Creator of the universe and Master of all. It We left Egypt in every sense of the word. seems a worthy endeavor, this Shabbos, for us



#### A HALACHA FROM THE PARSHA

RABBI CHAIM HEINEMANN

The Bnei Yisaschar, in this week's parasha, brings several different possibilities as to which bracha the Jews made on the man while in the desert: 1) hamotzi lechem min ha'aretz, 2) hamotzi lechem hashamayim, 3) shehakol nih'yeh bidvaro, or 4) no bracha at all. We know that according to the Midrash, whatever the individual desired to eat is what the man tasted like. Therefore, the bracha made would depend on what the person had in mind. Considering that this week is Tu Bishvat, let us go through some Hilchos Brachos and discuss a common scenario that we all deal with daily.

When one wishes to eat several different foods at one sitting, each requiring a different blessing, in what order must he recite the blessings over the different foods?

In addition to mandating a specific blessing for each of the foods that we eat, Chazal also established a hierarchy of "more important" and "less important" blessings. A blessing considered "more important" takes precedence over a blessing considered "less important." There are various criteria that Chazal employed to determine the "importance" of a blessing. The more exclusive and specific a particular blessing is, e.g. hamotzi,

which is recited for bread only, the more "important" it is. In addition, a blessing is considered more "important" if it is recited over fruits of shivas haminim (the seven species of Israel), foods that are whole (as opposed to foods which have been cut up), or foods that one enjoys and prefers.

The following, in order of preference, is the order of blessings when eating several different kinds of foods, each of which requires a different blessing (based on O.C. 211 according to the Mishna Berurah). Keep in mind that b'dieved (after the fact) the order does not disqualify the bracha.

- I. Hamotzi over bread
- 2. Mezonos over cake, cookies, and other "cake family" products, such as pretzels
- 3. Mezonos over pasta, cooked grain or cereal, and other non-"cake family" products
- 4. Mezonos over rice and rice products
- 5. Hagafen over wine or grape juice
- 6. Ha'eitz over shivas haminim
- 7. Ha'eitz over other fruits
- 8. Ha'adamah
- 9. Shehakol

A specific blessing is made only one time. Therefore, if one has several fruits of the shivas haminim in front of him,

■ CONTINUES ON NEXT PAGE →



## **GREAT ACTS OF ORDINARY PEOPLE**

CHAIM WAS A YOUNG TORAH SCHOLAR WHO LIVED in Ierusalem. One Shabbos his son needed to be rushed to the hospital because of a life-threatening situation. Upon arriving at the hospital, Chaim was informed that the hospital would need to be paid before looking at his son. Chaim realized that he would have to write a check on the holy Shabbos. Writing the check in backhanded way, he tried to minimize the amount of Shabbos law he would have to put aside to take of his son. The hospital received the check, his son was examined, and taken care of. The next day the doctor who had taken the check looked at it and realized that the check was for 1000 shekalim instead of the 500 that had been requested. The doctor called Chaim for an explanation. "To write out the word Elef (1000) is shorter than writing Chamesh Mei'ot (500), therefore I decided to minimize the amount writing that I would have to do on Shabbos and therefore wrote out the check for 1000 shekel instead of 500," answered Chaim. The doctor was so stunned by the sacrifice that Chaim was willing to make for the sake of Shabbos that he felt he had to learn more about his own lewish roots and see what could make a person act as Chaim had. M

#### RIDDLE ANSWER



Bereishis 5:32, Bereishis 35:17, Shemos 17:16. 🕎

#### GLIMPSES OF THE KOLLEL

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# A HALACHA FROM THE PARSHA

ha'eitz is recited over the highest priority fruit according to this order: olives, dates, grapes, figs, and pomegranates.

If the several foods are non-shivas haminim fruits (or if the several foods are ha'adama or shehakol type foods) priority is given to whichever fruit (or food) is whole. If all the fruits (or foods) are whole or all are

cut up, then priority is given to the fruit (or food) that is usually preferred by the eater.

Two exceptions to the above rules would be I) if there are two or more foods on the table before him (e.g. apple and grapes) and the person wishes to eat only the lower priority food now. He need not be concerned that the other food normally

takes priority (OC 211:5); 2) if the above violates normal eating patterns or mealtime routines. Thus, one does not need to eat fruit intended for dessert before the meat of the main course, even though ha'eitz normally has priority over shehakol (Kaf Hachaim 211:5). 🗍

### **BEYOND ELLIS ISLAND** THE TRAILBLAZERS, TRIALS, & TRIUMPHS OF AMERICAN IEWRY

RABBI MOSHE TZVI CRYSTAL

CONTINUED

Reverend Dr. Henry Pereira Mendes spent a lifetime trying to improve the lot of his fellow man. Originally from England, Rev. Dr. Mendes was invited at the age of 25 to be the spiritual leader of the Shearith Israel Synagogue of New York, a Sephardic Spanish-Portuguese congregation, in 1877. Aside from tending to his own congregation and teaching many Torah classes, Rev. Dr. Mendes was involved in a myriad number of communal initiatives. Many of them had to do with facilitating the ability of Jews to keep Shabbos as part of his involvement with the Shabbos Observance Society. This included petitioning that government employees and soldiers be given time off for Shabbos and Jewish holidays and petitioning colleges to schedule testing dates that accommodated Shabbos observers. He was also involved in anti-missionary work and spoke at a congressional hearing on immigration law. He opened a school and home for Jewish children who were deaf-mute. Sephardic communities throughout Latin America would reach out to Rev. Dr. Mendes for help, and he was often able to use his influence to assist them. One of the things Rev. Dr. Mendes is most remembered for is spearheading the organization of the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America, also known as the OU. 🗍

SOURCE: Levine, Dr. Yitzchak, Reverend Henry Pereira Mendes - Safeguarding Orthodox Judaism, https://www.ou.org/life/community/reverend-henry-pereira-mendes-orthodox-stalwart-part/.

