

A MITZVA DILEMMA FOR THE SHABBOS TABLE



THE SHAITEL MACHERS

By Rabbi Yitzi Weiner

This week's Torah portion talks about the importance of peace. The Torah discusses how HaShem is willing to have His name erased in order to bring peace between a man and his wife. This leads us to the following interesting story.

Leah opened a hair and wig salon. She hired an inexperienced woman named Dina and trained her how to be a good wig stylist. Dina learned all the tricks of the trade from Leah and she was very charming and charismatic. Leah together with Dina grew the hair salon to be a very successful enterprise. They had



A PICTURE IS MORE EXPRESSIVE THAN WORDS

In this week's Parsha, Nasso, the prince of each tribe brought their own personal offering in the dedication of the Mishkan. Every prince composed their own multi-faceted offering consisting of dishes of gold and silver, various types of animals, flour and incense. The choice of which animals to bring and how much flour and the weights and material of the dishes all reflected the unique qualities, aspirations and destinies of each respective tribe. Naturally, no two offerings were the same.

The remarkable thing about these 12 offerings was that all the offerings were perfectly identical. Anyone looking at the presentation of these offerings would not be able to discern any difference between one offering and the next. In fact, when the Torah records these offerings it repeats the entire offering of each prince 12 times. The first time indicating that this was the offering of Nachshon from Yehudah. It is repeated a second time indicating that this was the offering of Nesanel from Yissachar, and so on.

As a child I was fascinated by this repetitive portion as the Torah spends 52 words times 12 when it could have simply written the description of the offerings once and then say that this offering was brought by the prince of every tribe. However, when we appreciate that these offerings were personal expressions of hope, prayer and worship it becomes obvious that no two offerings are the same.

Words are very limiting in their usage. Even a great poet who knows how to use the various connotations and subtleties of every word is still limited to the finite number of meanings that any word represents. It is for this reason that a picture is worth a

hundreds of customers and were among the most popular spots in town.

After 15 years of working with Leah, Dina realized that she had all the skills and know-how to go out on her own.

One day she told Leah that she was going to leave and start her own business on the other end of town. Dina started her own hair and wig business with all the skills and training that Leah gave her. Her prices were similar to Leah's but because she was very popular and gregarious many of her old clientele that she met at Leah's establishment, left Leah and went to Dina.

Eventually Leah called Dina and told her that it wasn't right for her to use the training that she gave her as well as her contacts to start her own business.

This question was brought to Rav Zilberstein. On one hand they both lived in the town and they both had the right to start their own business. On the other hand was it okay for Dina to use the knowledge and contacts that she got from Leah to compete with her?

What do you think?

See Chashukei Chemed Baba Basra page 132

MITZVA MEME



thousand words. Even one picture of a face of a person can often capture an understanding that cannot be adequately expressed in words. After one has exhausted the string of adjectives describing the feeling of that face, it will still come up less expressive than the picture itself.

The offerings that were brought in the Mishkan were even more expressive than pictures. The symbolism that each offering represented was truly infinite. Every animal represented infinite expressions unique to that animal. Every material as well represented infinite expressions unique to that material. Even the weight and the order of the offering represented infinite expressions unique to each item. Each offering was brought with differing intentions expressing the hope, prayer and worship of each tribe using the offering to reflect the unique qualities, aspirations and destiny of that respective tribe.

Behold! Each offering was a symphony of expression, the depth and richness of it surpassed anything that poetry and music could convey.

Our Sages teach us that today, when we have no opportunity to bring offerings, the tefillos we daven replace them. These prayers were composed by our greatest Sages including several prophets 2,500 years ago. Reb Chaim Volozhin writes in Nefesh Hachaim how the words of these prayers carry infinite meanings and their finest subtleties all of which can be harnessed when we recite those words. He goes on to say that in the history of our people, from the time these prayers were composed to date there has never been two prayers that carried the same meaning. When one prays in the morning and later in the afternoon, even though he recites the very same words, nevertheless, there are different emotions, different insights, different needs from one moment to the next. All those details make up the expression of every prayer.

How fortunate we are to have access to the vehicle that opens for us endless expressions to communicate with our Creator!

Have a very safe and a very wonderful Shabbos.

Paysach Diskind



SHABBOS: CELEBRATING HASHEM'S CREATION

THE HUMMINGBIRD HAWK-MOTH

Is that a hummingbird you are looking at?

Actually not! The hummingbird-hawk moth is an unusual moth. It looks a lot like a hummingbird and actually shares a lot of the features that people love in hummingbirds. Hummingbirds can beat their wings more than 80 times per second. So, when they hover over flowers, their wings are flapping so rapidly that it is impossible to have a clear view of the wings with naked eyes. Hummingbird hawk-moths have similarly strong wings. The flapping motion of their wings are not quite as fast as that of the hummingbirds, but still fast enough to make them hold their position while they are hovering over and sipping nectar off the flowers.

The hummingbird hawk moth has two sets of wings. The forewings are greyish-brown, with black wavy lines across them, and the hindwings are orange with a black edge. It also has a broad, black-and-white 'tail'. The entire moth is covered with fine, tan or gray-colored hair that gives its body a feathery look. Even its wings appear to be covered in feathers.

Like the long beak on most hummingbirds, the hummingbird hawk-moth also has a specialized feeding apparatus – an extraordinarily long, tongue-like proboscis that rolls out from its resting, coiled shape to reach deep inside a flower. This super-straw is often double the length of the moth's body. These moths sip nectars from flowers of plants such as Viola, Buddleia, Nicotiana, Jasmine, Verbena, Centranthus, Phlox and Primula, again just like hummingbirds.

One thing that makes them different from some of their American cousins, such as the bumble bee moth, is the fact that they can sustain their flight much longer than the other types and can hover and feed even while it is raining.

Unlike most moths, which are active at night, the hummingbird-hawk moth is a day flying moth, especially in bright sunshine, but also at dusk, dawn, and even in the rain, which is very unusual. Based on some of their differences scientists think that these hawk-moths possess superior color-learning abilities and vision.

A hummingbird hawk-moth's eyes are huge. It will appear as though it's watching you no matter where you stand relative to the moth's position. This is due to an optical illusion created by its massive, compound eyes. The result: This trick of light generates a pseudo-pupil.

Unlike hummingbirds, which are native to the US, hummingbird hawk moths like warmer climates. They are most commonly found in North Africa, Asia and parts of Southern Europe. During the winter, they migrate to places that experience mild winters.

Hummingbird hawk-moths lay glossy pale green eggs that are tiny and round. They look like the flower buds of their host plant, where the female lays them. They hatch 6 to 8 days after laying. Up to 200 eggs may be laid by one female, each on a separate plant. Newly hatched larvae are clear yellow, and then turn into green caterpillars, with two grey stripes bordered in cream along the sides and with a purplish red horn at the rear, which changes to blue with an orange tip. After it fattens up, the caterpillar spins a cocoon and emerges later in its "hummingbird" form.

Hummingbird hawk-moths have been seen as a lucky omen. In particular, a swarm of the moths was seen flying across the English Channel on D-Day, the day of the Normandy landings in the Second World War. Soldiers took this as a sign that they would be successful in France.

“SO THAT NO ONE COULD SAY I GAVE HIM AND NOT HER”

Reb Dovid Spiegel tells a story involving Tzedakah and the general Yiras Shomayim and concern that Rav Aharon Kotler had about the consequences of his deeds.

Reb Dovid once accompanied the Rosh Yeshiva as they went to the Sfarisher Shul in Boro Park to daven. A poor lady was sitting there collecting Tzedakah and the Rosh Yeshiva took out some of the Tzedakah money his Reb-betzin had prepared for him, and gave it to her.

When they left, the lady was still there and a new collector, this time a man, had also come. By now the Rosh Yeshiva was out of money and he motioned to Reb Dovid to give for him. The Rosh Yeshiva then asked him if he gave the lady also and Reb Dovid said he didn't.

The Rosh Yeshiva said “Nein nein, you must give her”. Reb Dovid did, of course. A little while later Reb Dovid asked the Rosh Yeshiva why he insisted on giving her too, if she already got on the way in.

The Rosh Yeshiva said, “Kdei zei zol nisht kennen zогin, ich hub em gıgebbın, un nisht ir -

So that no one could say I gave him and not her”

By Rav Aaron everything was thought through to the end.

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THE ANSWERS

Regarding last week's question about the extra cheese sent by the store, Rav Tzvi Berkowitz answered as follows.

Yoni, the one who received the cheese, is allowed to keep it without paying. This is because it was worthless to the owner because he was not allowed to take it back. Effectively, the store threw it out when they mistakenly sent it. In that case, Yoni can keep it.

This week's issue of TableTalk is dedicated l'aliyas neshama of

Mrs. Rosa Roth

מרים רחל בת יעקב

by her children Idie and Isser Goldsmith

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