



A MITZVA DILEMMA FOR THE SHABBOS TABLE



SHABBOS VIDEO FOOTAGE

By Rabbi Yitzi Weiner

Parshas Kedoshim talks about the mitzvah of Shabbos. This brings us to the following true story.

Daniel was the president of a shul in Baltimore. His shul had recently received a government grant to enhance security due to a rise in anti-Semitic attacks across the United States. As a result, numerous security cameras were installed throughout the premises, including several that provided a clear view of the bimah and the interior of the shul.

Daniel was responsible for allocating aliya and tracking the pledges associated with each. He usually



LOOK INTO THE MIRROR FIRST

The verse states “Do not hate your brother in your heart, rather, you should reprimand him and do not carry on him any wrongdoing.” The Talmud teaches us that although we may hate one who fails to accept the Torah, nevertheless, we must not hold that hatred in the heart. We must reprimand him.

What is the intent of “do not carry on him any wrongdoing”?

Rebbe Tarfon says (Erchichin 16b) “I wonder if there is anyone nowadays who can give a successful ‘tochacha’.” He explains, this is because if the one giving the tochacha tells the wrongdoer that he is doing wrong, the recipient will turn around and tell the reprimander that he is doing greater wrong in the same area or in some other area. The recipient will therefore pay no attention to the words of the reprimander.

This passage from the Gemara is difficult to understand. How could Rebbe Tarfon say that there is nobody to give tochacha in his day? He was among the authors of the Mishna! Could they not safely tell their constituents not to talk during davening? What could the recipient respond back to Rebbe Tarfon or to any of his fellow tannaim? These Sages were so great that they had the ability to resurrect the dead.

The Toldos Yaakov Yosef explains that the entirety of the Jewish people form a single unit, a single organism. Perhaps one way of understanding this is to view the totality of all Jews as comprising the single body of Knesses Yisroel. Any imperfection found in any part of the body is an imperfection in the entirety of the body. If the hand is missing a finger, the entire person is missing a

kept a record of these details on an index card box. But one week he misplaced the index card box. He distributed the aliyos and hoped to try to remember who got which aliya and how much they pledged. However, after Shabbos, Daniel struggled to recall which congregant received which aliyah and the corresponding pledges.

But then Daniel had an idea. He wondered if he could use the security footage recorded on Shabbos to help him recall the information. The recordings captured both audio and video, making it possible to see and hear the aliyos and pledges. However, he was uncertain whether it would be appropriate to use the footage for such a purpose.

On one hand, the security cameras were installed and videoed on Shabbos due to a potentially life-threatening situation (pikuach nefesh) and may not be intended for more trivial matters. On the other hand, one could argue that since the footage already exists, it is permissible to use it for more mundane purposes, such as tracking aliyos and pledges.

What do you think?

This question was asked to Rav Tzvi Berkowitz.

“The greatest expression of freedom is discipline”

First Mitzvah of Kedoshim



finger. He goes further to explain that the leaders of the people influence the welfare of the people and only if there is an imperfection in the leader could there be an imperfection in the people.

It follows, therefore, that if people are talking during davening, evidently, the leader, too, is lacking somewhat. He goes on to explain, therefore, that the only way to be effective in giving tochacha is if the leader corrects his own shortcomings and perfects himself. Once that happens his influence will affect his people and then the recipient will surely accept the reprimand.

If the leader recognizes that all the people together form the single unit of Knesses Yisroel and only if there is a shortcoming at the top can there be something wrong elsewhere, then we can appreciate the intent of the end of the verse; “Do not carry on him any wrongdoing”. The Torah is

telling the reprimander that when giving reprimand do not see the wrongdoing in the recipient rather in oneself.

Immediately following this verse the Torah instructs us not to hold a grudge or take revenge against our fellow Jew and that we must love our fellow Jew as we love ourselves. How do I control myself from holding a grudge against one who wronged me? How can I love another person as I love myself?

If we are able to incorporate the Toldos Yaakov Yosef’s insight into our perspective, although it may be difficult, we will be able to see every other Jew as an extension of our own existence. If we are both members of a single organism, Knesses Yisroel, it will be easier for me to care for another Jew as I would care for myself. It will be easier not to hold a grudge against another member of Knesses Yisroel to whom I belong.

Once we can see ourselves as nothing but a single member of Knesses Yisroel all strife, competition and jealousy will melt away.

Have a wonderful Shabbos.

Paysach Diskind



SHABBOS: CELEBRATING HASHEM'S CREATION

TASTEBUDS

This week a frequent reader put in a request for us to explore how our taste buds work. So let's explore some fascinating aspects of our taste buds. From sweet to salty and bitter to umami, the human tongue's ability to taste flavor makes every meal an adventure. Imagine what life would be like if Hashem did not give us the ability to taste.

Contrary to popular belief, taste buds are not limited to specific regions of the tongue. In fact, any area of the tongue can detect all five basic tastes: saltiness, sourness, bitterness, sweetness, and umami. In addition, taste buds are not just on our tongues. In addition to the tongue, taste buds are also on the soft palate, upper esophagus, cheek, and epiglottis.

Taste buds lead short lives, with an average lifespan of only about 10 days. However, as they fade away, new taste buds arise to take their place, constantly refreshing our ability to savor the flavors.

What exactly are taste buds? Did you know that you cannot actually see your tastebuds? Those tiny bumps on your tongue, known as papillae, are often mistaken for taste buds. But those bumps are not the tastebuds. In reality, papillae house numerous taste buds within and around them.

What's in a taste bud? Taste buds comprise of two types of cells: supporting cells and gustatory cells. Supporting cells provide structural support and protection for the gustatory cells, which act as the actual taste receptors. When gustatory cells come into contact with dissolved food molecules, they send signals to the brain, creating our perception of taste.

Despite extensive research, the exact way taste buds detect different tastes remains not fully understood by science. It is believed that different receptors exist for sweet, sour, salty, and bitter tastes, but the details of this process are still under investigation.

Taste buds do not work alone; they join forces with other senses to create the overall flavor of food. The smell of food is detected by the olfactory receptors in the nose, while the texture of food is detected by tactile receptors in the mouth.

These senses, along with taste, collaborate to deliver a complete and immersive flavor experience.

Did you know food tastes better when you are happy? Several factors can affect our taste buds and how we perceive taste. Emotions play a significant role, with happiness making food taste better than when we are sad, due to the release of hormones that alter our sense of taste. Additionally, the temperature of food can impact taste perception, with cold food often tasting sweeter than warm food. Texture also plays a role, as crunchy food generally tastes more flavorful than soft food. Our overall health and certain medications, such as chemotherapy drugs, can also impact our sense of taste. Saliva also plays a crucial role in the functioning of taste buds. Food molecules must dissolve in saliva before the taste bud receptors can detect the chemical compounds responsible for the flavors we perceive.

How many taste buds do we have? People can have anywhere from 2,000 to 10,000 taste buds, making each person's experience of taste truly unique. Some individuals, called supertasters, possess significantly more taste buds, making them much more sensitive to certain flavors. This means if someone is a picky eater, it may be because they are a supertaster and have more tastebuds than the average person.

How is our tongue muscle different than every other muscle? The tongue, which houses most of our taste buds, is the only muscle that works without skeletal support. Comprised of eight muscles – four intrinsic and four extrinsic – the tongue possesses an incredible range of movements, making it essential for speaking and eating. While it may not be the strongest muscle in the body, the tongue boasts incredible stamina. Unlike other muscles that tire after a workout, the tongue rarely experiences fatigue because of its complex muscular structure.

As we age, our taste buds regenerate less frequently, leading to a decreased sense of taste. This natural process means that we should savor and appreciate the flavors we can fully experience in our younger years.

Thank you Hashem for the gift of Tastebuds!

ONE KIDUSH OR TWO?

One of Rav Shimson Pincus's daughters was born less than two weeks before her brother's bar mitzvah. Rav Shimshon debated whether or not to make a kiddush immediately that week because he was hosting a huge kiddush the following week in honor of the bar mitzvah. If he would wait, he could make a double kiddush, a kiddush in honor of the double simchah, the bar mitzvah and his daughter's birth.

Rav Pincus recalled: "I almost decided not to make the kiddush, but on second thought determined that just because her brother's bar mitzvah fell two weeks later, who was I to deny my newborn daughter hundreds of berachos that would be designated exclusively for her? Who knows what these berachos would do for her throughout her life, so lo and behold, we hosted two consecutive kiddushes, one week after the next!"

Indeed, time would reveal how desperately that girl would need those heartfelt brachos one day. Many years later, following a tragic accident that claimed the lives of both her parents and sister, this daughter's life hung in the balance for many months. Yet, through prayers, miracles, and presumably the blessings she received as an infant, she emerged from danger and made a full recovery.

From The Life Of Rav Shimshon Dovid Pincus, Published By Feldheim, Reprinted With Permission From The Copyright Holders, son of Sarah."



THE ANSWER

Regarding last week's question about the person who locked their bike to another's, which led to both bikes being stolen, Rav Zilberstein answered as follows. This would not be considered a case of a shoel, a borrower, who is obligated even for unavoidable accidents. This is because the borrower, the one who locked the other's bike, did not use the other's bike itself, but used it to lock his own bike. Additionally, this is not considered normal usage. And finally, his usage is not considered to be a positive benefit, but rather mavriach ari, usage by removing a hazard. Because of this, while the person did the wrong thing by locking another's bike, he would not be liable to pay for it.

In loving memory of our beloved father, Rabbi Nahum Moshe Ben-Natan, z"l
Who fiercely led our Baltimore community in protest to keep the JCC closed on Shabbos
His Shabbos table was a beautiful place of singing for Jews from all walks of life
May the divrei Torah and family conversation generated by this week's TableTalk be an aliyah for his neshama.

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