

## A MITZVA DILEMMA FOR THE SHABBOS TABLE



### BROKEN TABLET

By Rabbi Yitzi Weiner

This week's Torah portion, Bereishis, introduces the first commandment that HaShem gave to Adam. The commandment HaShem told Adam was, "HaShem Elokim commanded to the Man saying, from all the trees in the garden, you can surely eat". (Bereishis 2,16) Our Sages in Sanhedrin 56 teach that each part of that commandment included the seven Noahide commandments, the mitzvos that were commanded to all humanity. For example the word "commanded" is a reference to the fact that HaShem commanded Adam about Dinim, laws of justice.

This leads us to the following fascinating story. Eli was new to Yeshiva. He was joining first year beis medrash and didn't know anyone yet. He walked into his assigned classroom and put his leather shoulder bag on a chair by a desk. Eli then stepped away from the desk and walked to the other side of the room. In his briefcase he had a tablet because the Yeshiva would occasionally learn remotely over Zoom.



### PURITY IS FOREVER

Excerpted from a talk by Rav Aaron Schechter

In this week's Parsha, Breishis, the Torah relates the story of HaShem's creation of His world. As one might expect, there are remarkable secrets that we might glean from this Parsha. One such secret lies tucked away in the story of Lemech and his two wives.

The wives of Lemech, a descendant of Cain, refrained from being with him. Their concern was the fact that their great grandfather Cain killed his brother Hevel and was doomed to have all his descendants destroyed. They argued, therefore, that since they already bore two children to Lemech and had already fulfilled the mitzvah of having children, what was the point of having any more children if they will be destroyed in the end anyway. On the basis of this argument they refrained from being with Lemech.

Lemech went to his great grandfather, Adam, to solicit his input. Adam himself had refrained from being with Chava as a self-imposed punishment ever since HaShem sent them out of Gan Eden. Adam spoke to Lemech's wives and told them that HaShem wants them to populate the world and whatever HaShem may do as a consequence of Cain's sin has no relevance to them. They must heed the Will of HaShem. Upon hearing these words they turned to Adam and said "Dress yourself before you dress others, or, practice what you preach" in other words, "what about

Mordechai came into the classroom. He saw Eli's shoulder bag on the chair and picked it up. "Who put this bag on my seat?", he exclaimed, and then proceeded to throw the briefcase a few feet away to an empty desk. Mordechai didn't know that there was a fragile electronic device in the shoulder bag.

Pinny, another student, saw Mordechai throw the bag, picked up the bag and said, "Why are you putting his bag near my desk?" Pinny then proceeded to throw Eli's bag to a third, empty seat. Eli watched the incident with horror and embarrassment. He went over to his shoulder bag and opened it up. As he feared, the electronic tablet inside was broken.

Eli went over to Pinny, the last person who threw the bag and said. "I think you just broke my tablet, I believe you need to pay me for a new one". When Pinny realized what happened he felt bad but countered, "I didn't know there was a tablet in the bag. I don't think I broke it though. Mordechi threw it first. He likely broke it when he threw it. I'm sure it was broken when I threw it". When Mordechi heard the accusation he said, "I'm really sorry about the tablet but it must have broken when it was thrown the second time. I only threw it very gently and I didn't hear anything when it fell. That second blow must have cracked the tablet".

Poor Eli now has a broken tablet and both of the negligent people claim the other broke it.  
Who has to pay for the broken tablet?  
Is it the first person who threw it?  
Is it the second person who threw it?  
Do they both have to pay half?  
Or perhaps neither has to pay because it's impossible to prove who broke it?  
What do you think?



you and Chava? Why do you separate from Chava if HaShem's Will is to populate the world?" Adam took their words to heart and Adam and Chava had their third child, Sheis (Seth). As the Parsha continues, the Torah teaches us that it was Noach's descendants, who came from Sheis's family, who survived the Mabul (the Great Flood). Whereas the family of Cain perished.

Chava gave Cain his name to indicate that now she was a partner with HaShem in bringing life to this world. We can certainly assume that her intentions were pure and wanted Cain to be a committed servant of HaShem. Cain's name indicates Chava's pride that her child was her acquisition, her child represented her partnership with HaShem. In spite of her best intentions, the lineage of Cain terminated with the Mabul.

Her intentions with Sheis, however, were purely for the pur-

pose of fulfilling the Will of HaShem. In their mind, Adam and Chava had ended their career of parenthood. They abandoned the idea of bringing more children into the world. The sole reason that drove them to have another child was exclusively to fulfill the Will of HaShem; nothing else. It was only the argument that Adam told Lemech's wives that brought Sheis into the world. When an endeavor is undertaken with the exclusive purpose of fulfilling HaShem's Will its effectiveness will be everlasting.

Dovid Hamelech writes in Psalm 19 "the fear of HaShem is pure, it endures forever". Behold! Dovid associates the quality of enduring forever with its quality of purity. Perhaps Dovid Hamelech learnt this secret from our Parsha.

Have a very safe and very wonderful Shabbos.

**Paysach Diskind**





## SHABBOS: CELEBRATING HASHEM'S CREATION

### ICE CHIMNEYS & PERMANENT LAVA LAKES

In recent weeks we learned about lightning that can be produced by a volcano. Let us examine some other wonders of the volcano.

Mount Erebus is the second highest volcano in Antarctica. It is the southernmost active volcano on Earth and currently the most active volcano in Antarctica. It reaches 12,448 feet above Ross Island in Antarctica. It sits above a thin slice of crust, so molten rock can easily rise up from inside the Earth. Temperatures at the surface are below freezing most of the year. Active volcanoes not only spew lava, but also hot gases, such as carbon dioxide, sulfur dioxide, hydrogen chloride, and hydrogen sulfide.

Mount Erebus has a few characteristics that stand out even for a volcano. It is famous for its Ice Fumaroles, also known as Ice Towers. A fumarole is an opening in a planet's crust which emits steam and gases. The steam forms when superheated water boils as its pressure drops when it emerges from the ground. Fumaroles may occur along tiny cracks, along long fissure, or in chaotic clusters or fields. They also occur on the surface of lava. A fumarole field is an area of thermal springs and gas vents where shallow magma or hot igneous rocks release gases or interact with groundwater. When they occur in freezing environments, such as in Antarctica, fumaroles can cause ice chimneys. These chimneys can rise as high as 60 feet.

There are hundreds of steaming ice towers around the summit region. In addition to the ice towers, gas and heat seeping through the side of the volcano melt the snowpack above, carve out ice caves. There are hundreds of ice caves, in all shapes and sizes. Most of these caves are small, but some are massive cave systems that would take days to explore, and are visible from far away. They are filled with forests of hoarfrost and cathedral-like ice ceilings. The heat from Mt. Erebus keeps the caves relatively warm, close to 32 degrees Fahrenheit.

Scientists are interested in Mt. Erebus because the ice caves provide excellent environments for investigations of life in the absence of sunlight. They are poor in organics, rich in chemical reactants and well known for chemical exchange with Earth's surface systems. The ice caves are natural laboratories for exploring carbon, energy and nutrient sources in the sub-surface biosphere.

Erebus is also one of the few volcanoes in the world with an exposed lava lake. You can actually look over the lip of its main crater and stare straight into it. There are only five long lasting lava lakes on Earth, they require a delicate equilibrium between heat supply and heat loss. There is even a webcam on the rim of the crater!

## I ADMIRERD AND PRAISED IT TO APPRECIATE WHAT I'M GIVING UP

Once a man borrowed money from the Chasam Sofer. After he repaid the loan, the man took out a gorgeous esrog box to give to the Chasam Sofer as a token of his appreciation for the loan. The Chasam Sofer examined the esrog box from all sides and effusively praised its beauty.

His talmidim were shocked, knowing that accepting the box would be an obvious transgression of the prohibition against taking Ribis, interest.

Noticing the look on their faces, the Chasam Sofer then said, "Let me tell you a story about my rebbe Harav Nosson Adler".

Rav Adler was once waiting to be driven somewhere on a wagon. One of the horses pulled up lame, and the driver went to find a replacement. He came back with an ox, which he proceeded to hitch up to the wagon. Rav Adler immediately jumped out of the wagon and started dancing on the side of the road.

The driver was astonished and asked why he was dancing. Rav Adler explained to the astonished driver that he was thrilled to finally have the opportunity to fulfill the commandment of not using kilayim, a forbidden animal combination of an ox and a horse, for pulling the wagon.

Said the Chasam Sofer to his students, "I cannot accept the box because it is ribis, but I admired and praised it to appreciate what I'm giving up. This way the mitzvah will be mehudar."

From Impact Volume Three By Rabbi Dovid Kaplan, Published By Feldheim. Reprinted With Permission



### THE ANSWER

Regarding last week's question about changing the name, Rav Zilberstein wrote that The mesader kidushin can give her a new name on the spot and write that in the kesuba.

Публикация этой недельной главы Торы посвящена в честь Йосефа и Рут Ушаковых. Спасибо за вашу роль в нашей общине, за вашу любовь к Торе, за знания и мудрость которой вы делитесь с нами! Да благословит Ашем с щедростью вас и всю вашу семью в этом мире и в мире будущем!

С уважением Вадим и Сара Бакаевы

This week's issue is dedicated in honor of Yosef and Rut Ushakov. Thank you for being part of our community, for your love of Torah, for the knowledge and wisdom of which you kindly share with us! May HaShem bless you and your family with an abundance of blessings to be enjoyed in this world and in the world to come!

With much respect, Vadim and Sara Bakaev