



## A MITZVA DILEMMA FOR THE SHABBOS TABLE



### THE LAPTOP BAG

By Rabbi Yitzi Weiner

Dovid, who lived in Kiryat Atta, not far from Haifa, took a trip to Yerushalayim. While the bus was driving through Yerushalayim, he saw his friend Eli get on the bus. He was holding a laptop bag. They looked at each other, and they smiled. Eli put the laptop on the overhead shelf above the bus seats. After a little while, Eli got off the bus. When Eli got off, Dovid realized that his friend had forgotten the laptop. So, when he reached his destination in Yerushalayim, he took the laptop with him.

Later that night, when he returned back to Kiryat Atta, he called his friend and said, "I noticed you forgot the laptop, but no worries, you allowed me to do a mitzvah. I was able to take the laptop, and I have it, so I can drop it off."

Eli said, "Oh, I feel so bad that happened. The truth is, that laptop doesn't belong to me. What happened was when I was wait-



### PRAYER IS NEEDED FOR HASHEM

Already three and half months have passed since our brothers and sisters in Eretz Yisroel were forced into a war that was imposed on them. At the initial impact of October 7 all of klal Yisroel was engaged in tefillah; there was probably not a single Jew whose daily life was not disturbed. It is only natural. We are blessed to be a nation who cares for one another. At the time, the Rabbonim across America instituted that two chapters of Tehillim be recited following the davening as the means of turning to HaShem soliciting His protection for the soldiers in the IDF as well as all the residents of Eretz Yisroel. The response from the community was overwhelming. It was palpable that it was an eis tzara l'Yaakov, a time of trouble for our people.

However, people are human and we tend to lose our passion for the eis tzara l'Yaakov. The humdrum of life with the myriad of responsibilities draws our attention away from war. How long can we focus our attention on matters that are not in front of us. With two additional chapters of Tehillim after davening it becomes difficult to manage our schedules and carpools..

Nevertheless, we cannot take our hearts off the situation. It is incumbent that we feel for those families whose fathers, brothers and sons were sent into the most dangerous situations for weeks on end. We certainly must not become numb to those families who lost members in this eis tzara.

I would like to introduce one more party for whom we must daven and perhaps even more than all of the above-mentioned people. The One who truly

ing at the bus stop, someone next to me had a ton of packages, and I offered to carry his laptop bag. He sat near me, and I put the laptop on the top shelf of the bus near him. So it wasn't my laptop bag."

Dovid realized that he accidentally took someone else's bag, and he was now an hour and a half away from where the laptop owner lived. So now Dovid felt that he had the responsibility to try to track down the owner of the laptop.

Dovid opened up the computer and, in a short while, was able to find the owner. His name was Aaron, and he lived in Yerushalayim. Dovid called him up and explained how he ended up with the laptop. Aaron said, "You know, my job is a graphic designer. I use the computer the entire day, and I have all my files there. I need you to return my computer as soon as possible."

Dovid was taken aback. He didn't think it was his responsibility to travel one and a half hours to return the bag. He felt bad about taking someone else's laptop, but he felt like it wasn't his fault. He felt like he did the right thing since, from his perspective, it was his friend's laptop, and his friend left it. He didn't think he should be penalized and have to travel all the way back to Yerushalayim to return it.

Aaron, however, felt that Dovid had a responsibility to return the laptop because he was the one who took it off the bus.

What do you think? Is Dovid obligated to return the laptop because he took it down, or was it not his fault because he thought he was doing a mitzvah of returning a lost item?

See Upiryo Matok Vayikra Page 75



suffers more than everybody is the Ribono shel Olom. His pain transcends the pain of everybody because He knows better than anyone else how much pain His children are in. He feels their pain even more than their closest relatives.

It goes beyond the pain of His children. His Own Honor is being disgraced. The entire world is calling for a cease fire. They want Israel to allow Hamas to survive, knowing all too well that Hamas has only one intent; wipe every last Jew off the face of the earth.

Why does the world wish for the Jewish nation to be decimated? The Psalmist in chapter 83 tells us "They say let us go and cut off their nation, let the name of Israel be wiped out. They are motivated to unite together because they want to wipe out Your Name."

The base root of their hatred is directed against HaShem.

There is no way to actually attack HaShem. However, they know that we are His people. This is why they shoot their missiles at us. We therefore begin the Psalm pleading to HaShem "Do not be quiet and do not remain inactive." We beg HaShem to respond, to restore His Honor. We beg HaShem that He demonstrate vengeance on the murder of His servants.

But how do we daven to HaShem to respond? Is that a Tefillah for Him? He can do whatever He wishes; why should this be our responsibility? Can HaShem not take care of Himself!

The answer is that HaShem has established a principle in this world. Nothing can happen unless someone davens for it. HaShem really needs us to daven for Him!

Yes, HaShem needs our prayers. He needs us to feel His pain. He needs us to beg and yearn for the resurrection of His Honor. And He will listen.

Have a wonderful Shabbos.

**Paysach Diskind**





## SHABBOS: CELEBRATING HASHEM'S CREATION

### THE EGGPLANT

Recently, my wife made eggplant parmesan. I asked around why the eggplant was called an "egg", but no one knew. So I decided to look into this fascinating and delicious vegetable. Please enjoy some amazing facts about eggplants that make them a vegetable like no other.

Eggplants, or *Solanum melongena*, trace their roots back to India, where they were first cultivated over 4,000 years ago. Eventually, the eggplant spread across Asia, the Middle East, and eventually, Europe and the Americas. Ancient texts reveal that eggplants were not only consumed for their nutritional value but also utilized in traditional medicine to manage diabetes, showcasing their early recognized health benefits. The eggplant was cultivated in ancient China by the 5th century and later introduced to the Mediterranean by the Arabs in the early Middle Ages. By the Renaissance, the eggplant had reached Europe, where it was met with suspicion and often referred to as the "mala insana" or "crazy apple" in Italy due to beliefs that it made people go crazy.

Why did people suspect eggplants of causing insanity? Eggplants belong to the nightshade family, alongside tomatoes, bell peppers, and potatoes. The term "nightshade" refers to a diverse family of plants that are highly toxic when consumed in very large quantities. Nightshades contain alkaloids, which are compounds that can be toxic in high concentrations. Potent alkaloids are capable of causing delirium, hallucinations, and even death. Eggplants contain solanine, a type of alkaloid that can be toxic in extremely high concentrations. That is why people thought that eggplants could cause delirium, hallucinations, and make people go crazy.

However, the truth is that the amount of solanine in eggplants is very low, especially in ripe fruits, and is not enough to cause harm when they are consumed in typical dietary amounts. In addition, cooking further reduces the trace amounts of solanine and other alkaloids present in these vegetables, making them even safer to eat. The notion that eggplants cause insanity or other health problems has long been debunked, and modern cultivation has significantly reduced the bitterness and improved the taste and nutritional value of eggplants. Today, eggplants are enjoyed worldwide for their versatility in cooking and their health benefits, including being a good source of fiber, vitamins, and minerals.

Eggplants exhibit a wide variety of shapes, sizes, and colors, ranging from deep purple to white, green, and even striped patterns.

This leads us to the origin of the term "eggplant." It dates back to the 18th century when Europeans first encountered the fruit; they were introduced to a variety of eggplant that bore small, white fruits. These fruits were oval or pear-shaped and resembled goose or hen's eggs in size, shape, and color. (Pictured, above) Because of this striking resemblance to eggs, the name "eggplant" was coined.

Over time, even as different varieties of eggplant became more widespread, including the larger and darker varieties most of us are familiar with today, the name "eggplant" remained in use even though it no longer reflects the appearance of most eggplants cultivated and consumed.

Eggplants are known for their spongy, absorbent flesh, which makes them exceptionally versatile in cooking. They can be baked, roasted, grilled, fried, or steamed, absorbing flavors and oils to create dishes with rich, complex profiles. Their texture and taste can be adapted to fit a multitude of recipes. This versatility has made the eggplant a staple ingredient in cuisines around the world, including Chinese, Japanese, Indian, Middle Eastern, and Mediterranean. Eggplants hold a special place in the culinary traditions of many cultures.

In India, where the eggplant originated, it is revered as the "king of vegetables." Eggplants have been an integral part of the Indian diet for thousands of years. Eggplant features prominently in a wide array of Indian dishes, from simple stir-fries to elaborate curries, and is a staple ingredient in many regions.

Beyond their culinary versatility, eggplants boast a plethora of nutritional benefits. They are low in calories yet rich in dietary fiber, making them an excellent food for weight management and digestive health. Eggplants are also packed with vitamins and minerals, including vitamin C, vitamin K, vitamin B6, thiamine, niacin, magnesium, phosphorus, copper, folic acid, potassium, and manganese. One of the most notable components of eggplants is their high antioxidant content, particularly nasunin found in the skin of purple eggplants, which has been shown to protect cell membranes from damage. These antioxidants, along with other phytonutrients found in eggplants, may contribute to a reduced risk of chronic diseases, improved heart health, and enhanced skin protection against UV damage.

Thank you Hashem for your wondrous world!

## "HOW DO YOU THINK THAT FELLOW WOULD FEEL IF HE SAW ME EXITING THE AIRPORT"

Shimon, a student of the Rosh Yeshiva Rav Aharon Schechter, once accompanied the Rosh Yeshiva to France for the wedding of a talmid named Moshe Hazane.

After they landed back in America, they got their luggage and made their way towards the exit of the airport.

A non jewish man saw the Rosh Yeshiva, regal and all, and said, "Have a safe flight, Rabbi." The Rosh Yeshiva nodded and cordially said "Thank you."

Then the Rosh Yeshiva turned around and walked the other way with his suitcase. Shimon followed and told the Rosh Yeshiva that he was headed the wrong way, deeper into the airport, instead of heading towards the exit.

The Rosh Yeshiva responded that he was aware he walked the wrong way, but "how do you think that fellow would feel if he saw me exiting the airport, after wishing me to have a safe flight and he would realize I already returned..."



### THE ANSWER

Regarding last week's question about the cash in the trash, Rabbi Zilberstein (Upiryo Matok Vayikra, page 58) wrote that it was negligence on the part of the lender to ask the borrower to drop the money in his mailbox and not tell his wife about it. Therefore, the borrower who returned the money is not obligated to pay anything. There's also a possibility that perhaps the person who threw the envelope in the garbage should be liable midinei shamayim because he threw the envelope and money out, and he should not have simply thrown out the envelope.

This week's TableTalk is dedicated in memory of Malky Meth's parents

Abe & Fay Litwin A"H  
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