

A MITZVA DILEMMA FOR THE SHABBOS TABLE



AMALEK; THE EMUNAH BUILDER

This week we shall read the Parsha in which we are instructed to erase the memory of Amalek. The Torah states that HaShem's throne is not permanently affixed in this world until Amalek is wiped out. When Moshiach will arrive, may it be soon in our days, all the nations will achieve a level of perfection. They will even participate in the holiday of Succos. However, the nation of Amalek will be eradicated. Who are they to deserve such a place in history?

There is no person who travels through this world that is not presented with challenges. The purpose of those challenges are to serve as exercises through which we can develop ourselves. Just as the person entering a gym together with his personal trainer anticipates developing his body through a series of controlled exercises so it is with every person in this world. We are all brought here to build up our soul to become more complete and closer to HaShem through the series of challenges that we are given in this world. Those challenges are carefully designed by our Personal trainer who sets the perfect challenges by which we develop our neshama in the best manner. This is true on a personal level and it is true on a national level. As a nation we need to develop our national self.

The greatest body part of our soul that we wish to build up is our emunah muscle. The stronger our emunah becomes, the better our connection with HaShem becomes. As we become close to Him, He, in turn, becomes closer to the world. The greater the Presence of HaShem is in the world the more blessing comes to the world. As that happens the ripple effect has a positive effect on everything.

These exercises which present us with challenges of growth are found in all areas

LESSON FOR THE DMV LINE CUTTER

By Rabbi Yitzi Weiner

One morning, a crowd gathered outside a DMV office in Israel, eager to get an early start. They arrived at 7:50 AM, ten minutes before opening, to avoid the long wait. Nine people stood patiently in line when suddenly, a newcomer barged in front, ignoring the line. Attempts to remind him of the queue were met with indifference; he simply stood at the front, disregarding the protests.

At 8:00 AM, three DMV clerks emerged, ready to organize the crowd into three lines. "The first person in this big line will head line one, the second will lead line two, and the third, line three," one clerk announced. "We'll continue alternating in this pattern." As it happened, the line-cutter found him-

self at the forefront of the first line.

The three clerks ushered their lines inside, where two lines progressed swiftly, thanks to the clerks' efficiency. However, the first line, led by the inconsiderate line-cutter, moved at a snail's pace. The clerk, new to the job, apologized for the delay, struggling with the process.

As time passed, the other lines emptied, their patrons served and gone, while the first line remained. Frustrated, the man who had cut the line eventually left, not having been served. The clerk remarked, "It's ironic, isn't it? Those you bypassed are done, yet here you are, unserved. Had they contested your place, they'd still be waiting."

The clerk, named Avi, later confided in Rav Zilberstein. "I wasn't new at all," he admitted. "I've been here for years but acted slowly on purpose to teach him a lesson. I saw what he did on the security camera. He shouldn't benefit from cutting the line. Yet, I wonder if I did right."

"On one hand, I taught him not to bully or cut the line. But on the other hand, it was at the expense of the people behind the line-cutter. In addition, as an hourly employee, was it permitted for me to deliberately delay my work?"

What do you think?

See Upiryo Matok Vayikra Page 297



of life; business, shidduchim, schooling, children and so on. With every instance, one of the tools that help us navigate through the challenge is emunah. As we flex our emunah muscle to make it through the challenge our emunah becomes stronger. As we travel through life's experiences we find our emunah continues to grow.

On a national level there are also challenges. The one that comes to mind immediately is the current war in Israel. As a nation, we are all flexing our emunah muscle and with the help of HaShem our nation will come out of this experience with much greater emunah.

Amalek has a unique role like no other nation. They attacked us immediately following the splitting of the Red Sea. It was a time when the leaders of Canaan were shivering in their boots from fear of the awesome power of HaShem which was evident in the Jewish nation. At this moment Amalek struck our people. Why? Because they wanted to teach the world not to

fear the G.D of the Jewish people. Their sole purpose of attacking us was to make that demonstration. What incredible chutzpah!

The Torah, however, tells us that Amalek's strength and courage to attack came from the shortcoming of our emunah muscle. In other words, before Amalek can attack, our emunah must be low. Once they feel that low emunah on our side they are able to rise up and create a revolution against HaShem. The only way to overcome Amalek is by strengthening our emunah and that diminishes Amalek's strength.

Amalek is the greatest national challenge to our emunah and provides us the greatest opportunity to strengthen that emunah.

The reason HaShem's throne is incomplete until Amalek is eradicated is not because of Amalek per se, No! It is because our emunah is still short. It is our emunah that establishes and secures the Presence of HaShem in this world. May this Purim bring about the final establishment of Hashem's Throne with a final affirmation of our national emunah.

Have a wonderful Shabbos and Happy Purim!

Paysach Diskind



SHABBOS: CELEBRATING HASHEM'S CREATION

THE ROADRUNNER

Two weeks ago, we learned about cuckoo birds; we mentioned that roadrunners were a type of cuckoo bird. Roadrunners are actually fascinating birds who choose to run instead of fly. Let's explore them together.

First off, although roadrunners are part of the cuckoo bird family, unlike their clock-bound cousins, roadrunners prefer the ground under their feet. In addition, rather than say "cuckoo," roadrunners have a distinctive "coo" sound that sets them apart. (They do not really say "meep, meep.")

These terrestrial marvels are primarily known for their incredible speed, dashing across the desert landscape at speeds of up to 25 mph! Despite having wings, roadrunners prefer to run, using their incredible speed to evade predators and catch their prey. They use this speed not for sport, but to hunt down their prey, which ranges from insects to venomous snakes. Yes, you heard right—these fearless birds can take on rattlesnakes! When hunting snakes, a pair of roadrunners may team up and peck at the snake's head until it dies. Roadrunners are formidable predators, even taking on tarantula hawk wasps, which have the most painful wasp sting in the world. The average lifespan of roadrunners in the wild is about 7 to 8 years, which is quite long for birds of their size.

Roadrunners use their blistering speed not just for hunting but also for evading predators. Their agility is complemented by cunning, as they can dive into dense brush or employ deceptive tactics to protect themselves and their nests. Roadrunners are also known as the desert's camouflage artists. Their coloration allows them to blend seamlessly into their arid environments, making them stealthy predators.

Roadrunners are not just fast on their feet; they are also cunning hunters, capable of taking on prey much larger than themselves. Their diet is remarkably diverse, including insects, lizards, and even other birds. This opportunistic feeding strategy allows them to thrive in the varied environments of the Southwest. Roadrunners are omnivores, and their omnivorous diet includes not just snakes and insects but also fruits, seeds, and occasionally, they might even consume their own young under extreme conditions.

What's more impressive than a bird that runs fast? A bird that uses tools! Roadrunners have been observed employing ingenious methods to catch their elusive prey. From using sticks to dislodge hiding critters to leveraging rocks and other objects, they showcase problem-solving skills that rival the intelligence of much larger animals.

The physical characteristics of roadrunners, such as their long legs and zygodactyl feet (two toes facing forward and two

backward), equip them for life on the run. This unique foot structure provides unmatched versatility, aiding in their lightning-fast sprints and offering the dexterity needed for climbing and grasping branches in their rugged habitat. Whether they're chasing down prey or navigating the thorny underbrush, their feet are their secret weapon for survival. Fascinatingly, because of their unique feet, they leave behind distinct "X" shaped track marks.

Roadrunners are true desert dwellers. They thrive in arid lowlands and mountainous shrublands, in Texas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Arizona, and southern California where they can often be seen zipping across the landscape at high speeds. Contrary to popular belief, roadrunners cannot outrun coyotes, which can run as fast as 43 mph.

Living in the desert requires some serious survival skills, and roadrunners have plenty. Without drinking any water, they can meet their water needs from the food they consume. Because they have a very salty diet, they have special salt glands to manage their salt intake.

Roadrunners have remarkable physiological tools suited to their harsh desert environment. Did you know that roadrunners are capable of entering a state of torpor to conserve energy? This temporary hibernation-like state allows them to reduce their metabolic rate, a crucial adaptation for surviving the extreme temperatures of their desert habitats. This incredible ability allows them to adapt to one of the most challenging environments on Earth.

Like true desert dwellers, roadrunners have mastered the art of thermoregulation. These birds harness the power of the sun, orienting themselves to soak up the rays, warming their bodies to kick-start their metabolism each morning. This solar-powered strategy is a perfect example of how roadrunners minimize energy expenditure, allowing them to thrive in environments where others might falter.

Nesting practices among roadrunners are fascinating. They build their nests with an eclectic mix of materials, ranging from twigs to snakeskin, and even man-made objects they find in their environment. This flexibility in nest-building materials reflects their ingenious approach to making a home wherever they find themselves. These nests are often located in cacti or thorny bushes, providing protection from predators. Their eggs, too, are miracles perfect for their environment, with shells designed to minimize water loss, a crucial feature for life in arid climates.

Despite their wild nature, roadrunners are not shy around humans and have even become habituated in some areas.

Thank you, Hashem, for Your wondrous world!

PROBLEM SOLVED

A woman with many tzaros (difficulties) came often to the Rav Aharon Schechter, The Rosh Hayeshiva of Chaim Berlin to unburden herself and ask for his practical advice.

One day she entered the Rosh Hayeshiva's office nearly hysterical. She was twenty-five thousand dollars behind in her tuition payments and her children's school was pressuring her for a plan. She had nothing. After Rav Aharon gave her the encouragement she needed, the woman pulled herself together. But the tuition problem remained.

The Rosh Hayeshiva then picked up the phone and called the administrator of the school in question. "Hello, Mr. ---? This is Aharon Schechter. I understand that your yeshiva will be making a dinner in two weeks. Let me ask you a question: How much would my presence be worth at your dinner? Is it at least twenty-five thousand dollars? Ok, then I will be coming. Now, there's a woman here in my office..."

He hung up the phone and smiled at the woman. Problem solved.



THE ANSWER

Regarding last week's discussion about the bets and the air raid siren, Rav Zilberstein held that Dovid who woke up should not win the money because he did not wake up because of his own discipline. The only reason why he came was because of the air raid siren.

However, Rabbi Chaim Kanievsky held that Dovid should get the money because all Moshe, who made the bet, said was "if you come in time for davening, you will get the money." As long as Dovid came in time for davening, it's not relevant that Moshe meant to motivate him to have the discipline to wake up. However, everyone agrees that if Moshe said, "You'll get the money if you wake up in time," then in that case, Dovid would not get the money if he was woken by the air raid because it was clear that Moshe stressed that Dovid had to wake up by himself.

Wishing all a
FREILECHIN PURIM

May HaShem grant us the merit to see our soldiers and the hostages return home safely and soon.
Murray and Baila Jacobson



K&F
ATTORNEYS AT LAW
406 W. Pennsylvania Avenue
Towson, Maryland 21204

Brad E. Kauffman Esquire and Kauffman and Forman P.A.
specializing in corporate and construction law,
estates, wills and trusts and business litigation.

