

A MITZVA DILEMMA FOR THE SHABBOS TABLE



THE GASH ON THE DOUBLE-PARKED CAR

By Rabbi Yitzi Weiner

Yanky lived in Eretz Yisrael and drove a nice car. One day, while driving through a narrow street, he suddenly felt lightheaded. He had a family history of hypoglycemia, which meant he had a condition that caused low blood sugar. He realized he might be experiencing a low blood sugar episode and desperately needed something to eat or drink to stabilize himself.

However, the street was narrow, and there was no available parking. In his urgency, he made the difficult choice to double-park next to a parked car, leaving his hazard lights on. He quickly ran into a nearby grocery store to buy some food.

Meanwhile, Eli, another driver, was behind Yanky's car. When he saw



CELEBRATE THE ARRIVAL NOT THE JOURNEY

Our battle against Amalek in Persia was on the 13th of Adar and in Shushan where they added an extra day of fighting, the battle finished on the 14th of Adar. The celebration however is on the day after, namely the 14th and 15th respectively. The Megillah tells us that we celebrate the day that we rested from our enemies. Why do we celebrate resting from the enemies and not the victory against the enemies which would be the 13th and 14th. Wasn't the miracle our victory not our resting?

In addressing this question the Sfas Emes explains that Amalek's primary goal is to make us veer off course as we travel towards our destiny. Our destiny is to carry HaShem's Torah through the entire world, both geographically and historically. As we look back at the past several thousand years we have, in fact, achieved this to a great extent. Amalek is committed to preventing us from arriving at our final destination. When the Torah tells us to remember Amalek, it states "remember how Amalek encountered you as you were on your path..." Behold! The mitzvah is to remember how they encountered us and not how they attacked us.

The Hebrew word used for 'encounter' carries a second meaning 'to cool off'. The verse can therefore be read 'remember how Amalek cooled you down as you were on your path...' The idea is that we were on our path of connecting to HaShem. We just experienced a year of Egyptian plagues, the splitting of the Red Sea and we were on our way to experiencing the

it double-parked with its flashers on, he became impatient. "What nerve does this guy have to block the street like that?" he thought. Eli felt very pressured because he had his employees waiting outside of his store and they were waiting to be let in. Finally, after waiting for a few minutes, Eli lost his patience and decided to squeeze past Yanky's car.

There was just barely enough room to get through, but as Eli maneuvered past, he suddenly heard a loud scrape. It was clear that he had made a deep scratch on Yanky's car. Later, after parking, Eli approached Yanky and said, "I just wanted to let you know that I made a big scratch on your car. But I don't think I should have to pay for it because you had no right to double-park and block the street."

Yanky replied, "I'm very sorry, but I was having a serious, life-threatening medical episode. I had no choice but to stop and get some food. I understand that it was inconvenient for you, but according to halacha, I had the right to park there due to the emergency. So I believe you do have to pay for the damage to my car."

They agreed to bring the issue to a Rav for a ruling.

What do you think? On one hand, Eli might not have to pay because Yanky was blocking the street. On the other hand, Yanky had the right to park there due to a life-threatening situation, so maybe Eli should have to pay.

What do you think?
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giving of the Torah at Mount Sinai. We were 'hot', we were driven and on the road to our destination. Filled with the yearning that a deer has to water we were yearning to HaShem. We must remember how Amalek cooled us down. His goal was not to kill us; all Amalek wanted was to disrupt our path so that we should not reach that destination.

Amalek achieves this goal by throwing cold water on our passion to become close to HaShem. This passion exists only so long as we hold on to two qualities; the clarity of mind how close we are to HaShem and the emotional thirst to be close to Him. In Haman's day, between Haman and Achashveirosh our people felt that HaShem abandoned them. They questioned whether He was going to bring them back to His Land and His Temple. Their minds were filled with doubt about where they were

heading.

Through the miracle of Purim our people recognized how dear they are to HaShem and how even at their lowest point, HaShem anticipated their return. This sharpened our awareness and inspired us to reaccept the Torah from a point of love. When we received the Torah at Mount Sinai there was an element of coercion that HaShem 'twisted our arm' to accept the Torah. Now, after experiencing the Purim miracle we reaccepted it from a point of love.

The battle against our enemies in Haman's days was only the prelude to our ultimate victory. The ultimate victory was when we arrived at our destination by accepting HaShem and His Torah.

The celebration of Purim is therefore the day we arrived when we finally rested.

Have a Freilichin Purim and a wonderful Shabbos.

Paysach Diskind



SHABBOS: CELEBRATING HASHEM'S CREATION

THE PINK FAIRY ARMADILLO

Deep beneath the sandy plains of central Argentina, a secretive little creature scurries through the earth, moving as smoothly as a fish gliding through water. Meet the pink fairy armadillo (*Chlamyphorus truncatus*)—a pint-sized, soft-shelled marvel that seems like something out of a fairy tale. Measuring just six inches long and weighing a mere four ounces, this elusive burrowing mammal is the smallest species of armadillo on the planet. Don't let its delicate pink hue and tiny size fool you—this underground dweller is a master of survival. With razor-sharp claws built for digging, a flexible shell that regulates its body temperature, and a lifestyle so secretive that even scientists struggle to study it, the pink fairy armadillo is one of nature's most mysterious creatures. Let's dive into the sandy world of this "sand swimmer" and uncover the secrets of one of Earth's most remarkable animals.

A Suit of (Soft) Armor. Unlike its tougher, more heavily armored relatives, the pink fairy armadillo's shell is surprisingly soft and flexible. While most armadillos have rigid shells fused to their backs, this tiny species has a shell that is only attached by a thin membrane, allowing it to bend and move more freely. This ability helps it burrow quickly through loose sand, minimizing resistance as it tunnels beneath the surface.

Most people think an armadillo's shell is a fixed color, but the pink fairy armadillo's shell can actually change shades! Because its pink coloration comes from the blood vessels just beneath its bony plates, the intensity of its color can shift depending on how much blood is flowing to the surface.

But why is its shell pink? The answer lies just beneath the surface—literally! The pink fairy armadillo's shell is packed with blood vessels, which show through the translucent plates, giving it that rosy color. And this pink armor isn't just for looks—it plays an important role in thermoregulation. When the armadillo needs to cool down, it sends more blood to the shell, making it appear more vibrant pink. When it needs to retain heat, blood flow to the shell decreases, causing it to look pale or whitish. So this dynamic color shift isn't just a neat trick—it's part of its sophisticated thermoregulation system that helps it survive in an extreme desert environment. By controlling the amount of blood flowing to its shell, the armadillo can either release heat when it's too warm or retain warmth when temperatures drop at night. It's like having a built-in heating and cooling system!

Another strange feature of this desert-dweller is its double skin—a unique trait not found in any other mammal. Its outer layer consists of bony plates (called osteoderms) covered by a thin layer of skin, while underneath, a second layer of fine, silky fur helps insulate its body from extreme desert temperatures.

The pink fairy armadillo is a true subterranean specialist. It spends almost its entire life underground, burrowing through soft sandy soil in search of food. With oversized, spade-like claws on its forelimbs, it can dig with incredible speed—so fast that, if threatened, it can disappear beneath the sand in seconds! This ability has earned it the nickname "sand swimmer."

Unlike most burrowing animals, the pink fairy armadillo has an-

other trick up its sleeve—its flattened, armored rear end. This structure helps compact loose soil behind it as it digs, sealing off tunnels and creating a safe, enclosed space. Scientists believe this ability may also help prevent collapses in its fragile underground burrows.

The pink fairy armadillo is built for burrowing in ways that are completely unique among mammals. Here are some of its most specialized abilities:

It "walks" on the tips of its claws – Unlike most animals, which walk on their feet, the pink fairy armadillo moves by balancing on its massive front claws when above ground. This is because its claws are so long that they would get in the way if it tried to walk normally!

It has an incredibly streamlined body – With its torpedo-shaped body and ultra-flexible shell, this armadillo can slice through sand with minimal resistance, making burrowing as effortless as possible.

Its tail is more important than you'd think! – That short, thick, hairless tail acts like a stabilizer while it digs, giving it extra balance when its limbs are busy shoveling dirt.

How rare is the pink fairy armadillo? Incredibly rare! In fact, some local farmers and ranchers call it a "phantom of the desert" because it seems to vanish as soon as it is spotted. Its ability to instantly burrow beneath the sand makes it one of the most difficult mammals to observe in nature.

Because of its underground lifestyle, the pink fairy armadillo has small, vestigial eyes and virtually no external ears. Instead of relying on vision or hearing, it navigates the darkness using its keen sense of touch and smell. Its long whiskers and sensitive snout help it detect vibrations and scents, leading it to its next meal.

What does a pink fairy armadillo eat in its secret underground world? This little creature may be tiny, but it's a voracious insect hunter! It primarily feeds on ants, larvae, worms, and other soft-bodied invertebrates that it finds in the soil. Scientists classify it as a generalist insectivore, meaning it can adapt its diet based on what's available. Its powerful claws aren't just for digging—they're also perfect for tearing into ant nests and termite mounds. It uses its long, sticky tongue to scoop up unsuspecting insects, much like its distant relatives, the anteaters. When food is scarce, it may also nibble on plant roots and tubers to supplement its diet.

The pink fairy armadillo's unusual appearance has sparked curiosity and wonder for centuries. With its delicate pink armor, fluffy white fur, and burrowing superpowers, it's no wonder some people think it looks more like a fantasy creature than a real animal! Some people have even mistakenly believed it was a hoax when they first saw photos of it! But this little armored fairy is no legend—it's a real-life marvel, and one of the wonders of Hashem's world!

Note: Last week we wrote "Pelican spiders have developed the perfect adaptations for spider-hunting" from the source article. It is understood that we mean Hashem gave Pelican spiders the perfect tools for spider hunting.

THE SPINNING CAR CHANGED DIRECTION AND SPUN THE OTHER WAY

Rav Chaim Epstein (1936–2015) a close student of Rav Aharon Kotler, was the esteemed Rosh Yeshiva of Yeshivas Zichron Meilech in Brooklyn, a position he held for over 40 years.

Rabbi Zevy Golombeck told the following beautiful story:

I was speaking to the driver of the Rosh Yeshiva, Rav Chaim Epstein zt'l, and he shared something incredible. He was once driving the Rosh Yeshiva on the highway. There were three lanes, and they were in the left lane. Rav Chaim Epstein looked out of his window and saw that in the two lanes next to them, two cars had crashed. One of the cars in the middle lane spun out of control and was coming full force—straight toward Rav Chaim Epstein's passenger-side door.

In that split second, spontaneously, Rav Chaim Epstein said, "Ein od milvado! Ein od milvado!" The driver said that the car, which had been spinning out of control straight toward them, suddenly changed direction and spun the other way.

That is the koach of relying on Hashem. When we put our emunah and bitachon in Hakadosh Baruch Hu, when we truly believe that He alone runs the world, nothing and no one can harm us.

This is one of the main lessons of Purim.



THE ANSWER

Regarding last week's question about the woman who promised a ticket to America, Rabbi Zilberstein (Upiryo Matok Bava Kama 181) answered that even though there is a concept of ein holchin bemamon achar harov—which means that we don't go by the majority when it comes to monetary matters—when something is an extreme minority (miuta d'miuta), then we do follow the majority. In this case, because the vast majority of tickets to America are plane tickets, she would have to honor her promise by giving a plane ticket, not a boat ticket.

This week's TableTalk is dedicated to the memory of

יהושע בנימין בן אריה דוב ז"ל

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