

Tuesday, September 23, 2014
כ"ח אלול תשע"ד

מסכת
תְּהִיגָה
דף טו

DAF YOMI⁴

KIDS

Inside the Daf



We learned (pg. 43) about the four rabbis who entered the פְּרָדֶס. One of the rabbis, אֶלְיָשֶׁע בֶּן אֶבְוִיָה, became a heretic known as "אָחֵר" ("the other one").

His student, רַבִּי מְאִיר, would become one of the greatest rabbis of his generation. He did not accept that his teacher had strayed.

After he had strayed from the path of Torah, אָחֵר remarked to רַבִּי מְאִיר, "just as gold or glass vessels can be fixed if they break, so too a Torah scholar who sours can repent and be fixed."

"So you, too, should return to your Torah ways!" exclaimed רַבִּי מְאִיר.

But אָחֵר thought it was too late for him.

"I have already heard them say [in Heaven] everyone can repent...except for אָחֵר,"

When אָחֵר died, there was a stir in Heaven. On one hand, he could not be sent to be punished in גֵּהֵנִים since he involved himself in the study of Torah which protects one from such punishment. On the other hand, אָחֵר clearly could not enter the World to Come because of his great sin.

רַבִּי מְאִיר suggested אָחֵר be cleansed of his sins first in גֵּהֵנִים and then be allowed into the World to Come.

When רַבִּי מְאִיר died, smoke rose from אָחֵר's grave showing he had entered גֵּהֵנִים. When רַבִּי יוֹחָנָן died, the smoke stopped rising showing that אָחֵר had been accepted into the World to Come.

A מְדוּת Moment

"Hey Sruli," said Kalman, "don't eat that chocolate bar; it has a kosher symbol you don't follow."
"Thanks for warning me, Kalman, but why do you care?" asked Sruli. "You follow that kosher symbol, so why would you want to protect me from eating it."
"Well, the גְּמָרָא says that even though אָחֵר didn't keep the Sabbath, he did not want רַבִּי מְאִיר to violate it and warned him not to go beyond the Sabbath boundary. We see from here that just because someone doesn't follow a commandment, it doesn't mean they shouldn't look out for people who do."

Where Did He Go Wrong?



Did You Know...

If a Torah teacher is similar to an angel, one should seek to learn Torah from him. If not, one should not seek Torah from him.



WORD OF THE DAY:

יכול

"I MIGHT THINK"

Why do some good people turn sour?

The Talmudic scholar שמואל once came across רב יהודה leaning against a doorway, crying.

"Sharp one," said שמואל, referring to רב's sharp mind, "why are you crying?"

רב יהודה explained he was worried about his future as a Torah scholar. After all, דואג (Doeg) who was King Saul's advisor and אחיתופל (Ahitophel) who was once King David's advisor, were both highly regarded Torah sages, and yet we are taught that they have no share in the World to Come because of their great sins.

"What will come of us?" asked a worried רב יהודה. How could anyone be sure *they* wouldn't sin?

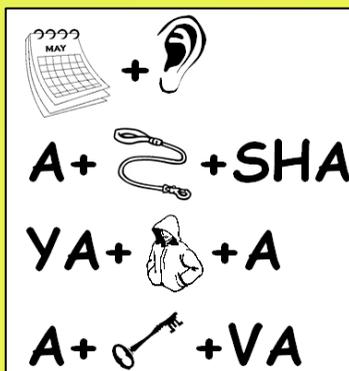
"Sharp one," answered שמואל, "they were always evil in their hearts from their earliest days. But your heart is pure." רב יהודה therefore did not have to worry.

Indeed, the גמרא explains that אחר strayed from Torah because he was always singing light-hearted Greek melodies which showed he didn't take the destruction of the בית המקדש (Holy Temple) seriously.

Games

REBUS FUN!

Sound out the pictures to find the names of these 4 famous rabbis



חגיגה דף ט"ו - Review Questions

1. What was אחר's real name?

2. Why did דואג and אחיתופל stray from the path of Torah?

3. When should one seek Torah from a teacher?
