

Inside the Daf

One may not sell a ספר תורה (Torah scroll) even if one has many other Torah scrolls. רבן says that even if one has barely enough food to eat, one may still not sell a ספר תורה. Someone who sells a Torah scroll for this reason will never see any blessing from the money he raised.

There are some cases, however, when selling a ספר תורה is allowed. רבי יוחנן says in the name of רבי מאיר that one may sell a Torah scroll to raise enough money to be able to marry. One may also sell a ספר תורה to raise money so that one may study Torah all day.

The גמרא also teaches that the holiness of a Torah scroll means that one is not allowed to place less holy items on top of it. For example, one may not put single books of the Torah on top of a Torah scroll. All the more so, one may not place books of the נביאים (Prophets) or כתובים (Writings) on top of a ספר תורה since these books are less holy than those of the Torah itself.



A Torah scroll may be sold if the money will be used for Torah study or to marry

The Importance of קידוש

רבי זכאי says that one of the reasons he was rewarded with long life is that he never failed to say קידוש on the Sabbath day.

רבי זכאי's careful attention to קידוש did not come from nowhere. His elderly mother saw קידוש as so important that she once sold her own veil to buy קידוש wine.

רבי זכאי's mother was not the only one who made major sacrifices for קידוש. רב once noticed that רב הונא was wearing a grass belt and asked the sage why he was dressed in this way.

"I did not have enough money to buy קידוש wine," explained רב הונא, "so I borrowed money against my belt and used the money to buy wine."

רב was impressed by רב הונא's willingness to wear poor clothing to be able to recite קידוש.

"May it be the will of G-d," said רב to רב הונא, "that you be totally covered with silk!"

A מְדוּתָה Moment

"Hey, Snacks!" cried Yitzzy to his friend. "Come over here!"

His friend Binyomin waddled over.

"Yitzzy, I asked you not to call me that," said Binyomin.

"Oh, what's the big deal?" said Yitzzy. "I just call you that because you like eating snacks so much."

"Maybe you don't mean anything bad but it hurts my feelings," said Binyomin. "It makes it sound like all I do is eat. Besides, the גמרא says that רבי זכאי earned a long life because he never called anybody by a nickname. Nicknames can be very insulting and can hurt people's feelings. And most of the time, you never find out that the person doesn't like it!"



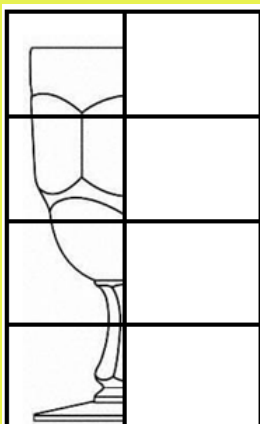
Did You Know...

The Sages say a synagogue may never be sold to be made into one of the following: A bathhouse, a tannery, a מְקוֹה (ritual bath) or a laundry. These uses disrespect the holiness of the synagogue.

Games

FINISH IT OFF!

Finish the other half of the cup



Review Questions – מגילה דף כ"ז

1. When may one sell a סֵפֶר תּוֹרָה (Torah scroll)?

2. What was one of the reasons רבי זכאי was granted a long life?

3. Name 2 things a synagogue may not become.