

מסכת תענית דף ד

DAF YOMI4 Kids

Inside the Daf

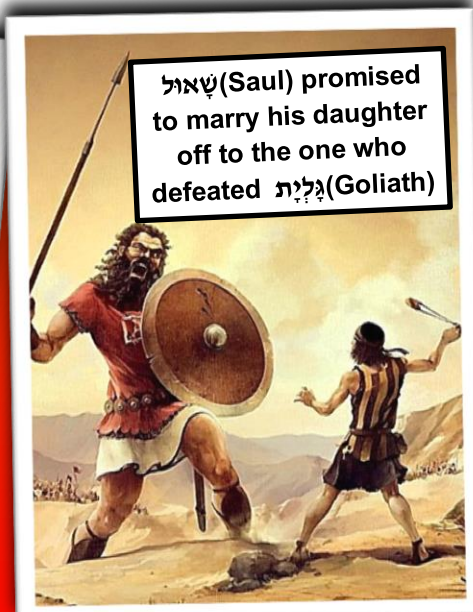
Have you ever made a promise you regretted? יִפְתָּח (Jephthah) certainly did. Before going out to battle the Ammonites, he promised that, when he would return safely from battle, he would sacrifice to Hashem whatever came out of the doors of his house. יִפְתָּח surely had in mind that an animal would emerge from his house which he would then sacrifice. Imagine his shock when his own daughter emerged from the house to greet him!

Now, of course, יִפְתָּח did not have to keep his promise to sacrifice his daughter. But, nevertheless, he did. The גְּמָרָא quotes this as an example of a risky promise that shouldn't be made.

The גְּמָרָא gives other examples of people who made risky promises. However, with these people, the promise did not result in anything bad.

When אֶלְיעֶזֶר, the servant of אַבְרָהָם (Abraham), was searching for a wife for his master's son, he said that whomever would offer drink to both him and his camels would be the right wife. It turned out that רִבְקָה (Rebecca) did just that and she was a most fitting wife for אַבְרָהָם's son. But this promise was risky: what if the one who gave drink to אֶלְיעֶזֶר and his camels had been improper for marriage? אֶלְיעֶזֶר took a risk he should not have taken.

Similarly, King שָׁאוּל (Saul) promised to give his daughter in marriage to whomever defeated the Philistine giant, גִּלְיָת (Goliath). As it turned out, דָּוִד (David) defeated the warrior and was a worthy suitor for the king's daughter. But what if a lowly person had defeated the Philistine? שָׁאוּל, too, took an improper risk.



Anatomy of a Torah Scholar

Today's גמרא identifies different qualities of a Torah scholar:

LIKE SEEDS

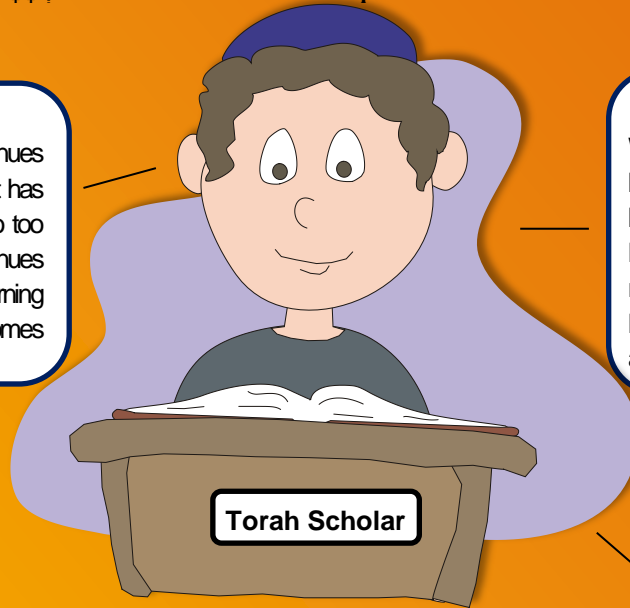
Just as a seed continues to sprout until its plant has grown completely, so too a Torah scholar continues to grow in his learning once he becomes famous

FIREY

When a Torah scholar becomes angry, it is because the Torah he has learned causes him to be more sensitive. Even so, he should overcome his anger

STEADFAST

Any Torah scholar who is not as "hard as iron" is not a true Torah scholar! This means he is not easily swayed by popular opinion



A מְדוּת Moment

"I can't believe you spilled your drink on me!" exclaimed Yoni. His little brother, Mordechai didn't mean to. He was taken aback at his brother's anger. Mordechai had been looking forward to his return from *yeshiva* for the summer break and was embarrassed he made him so mad.

Later, Yoni's father pulled him aside.

"In *daf yomi* we learn that a Torah scholar must teach himself to overcome the trait of anger. When a Torah scholar's knowledge is equal to his good deeds, people will like him. If his knowledge, on the other hand, is more than his deeds, people will not like him. In such a case, the Torah boils inside of him, and, as the גמרא today says, he becomes angry."

(לקוטי מוהר"ן, ק')



Did You Know...

The Jewish people asked Hashem to act like rain to His people. Hashem said that rain is sometimes desirable and sometimes harmful, so instead He would act like dew to His people which is desirable all year round.

Games

Find The Differences

Find 10 differences between the two pictures.



Review Questions – תענית דף ד

1. List two people who took a risk with their promise.

2. List a quality a Torah scholar may have.

3. Which element did Hashem say He would *not* act like?
