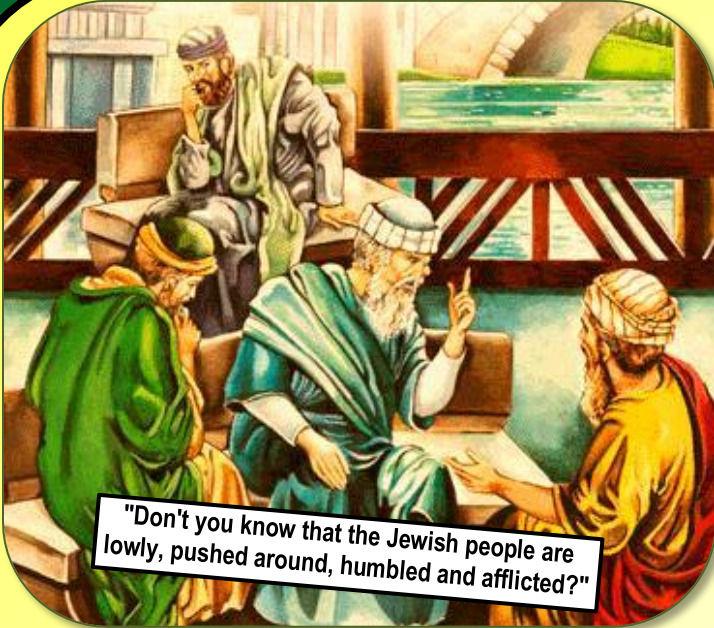


Inside the Daf



"Don't you know that the Jewish people are lowly, pushed around, humbled and afflicted?"

The Jewish nation only wants converts who are sincere. Therefore, if a non-Jew wants to convert to Judaism the Jewish court first tries to discourage him or her by telling of the difficulties of the Jewish people.

"Why do you want to convert," the court asks him or her.

"Don't you know that the Jewish people are lowly, pushed around, humbled and afflicted?"

If the convert says, "I know. If only I was worthy of their affliction!" we accept the convert right away because they show themselves to be sincere. At this point, we tell the convert some of the light commandments and some of the more severe ones. We tell him (or her), "Before converting, you did not receive the early death punishment for eating certain fats of animals. Once you convert, you will receive such a punishment if you eat these things. Before you converted you did not receive the death penalty for doing a forbidden activity on the Sabbath. If you convert, you will receive the death penalty."

But we are warned not to frighten the prospective convert too much. And we don't tell him or her only about the hard things. Just like we tell them about the punishment for not doing commandments, we also tell them of their reward!

Did You Know...

If a convert does not change his or her ways after converting to Judaism, רבי חלבון says the convert is as bad for the Jewish people as a skin disease.

WORD OF THE DAY:

מִיָּן

"FROM WHERE DO WE KNOW?"

The Most Famous Convert

Perhaps the most famous convert in Jewish history is רות (Ruth), a Moabite princess who decided to follow in the ways of her Jewish mother-in-law, נְעֻמִי (Naomi).

At first נְעֻמִי tried to discourage רות from following her. But רות said, "Wherever you go, I shall go. And wherever you stay overnight, I shall stay overnight. Your nation is my nation, your G-d is my G-d. Where you will die, I will die and there I will be buried" (רות א, טו, Ruth 1, 16).

The גִּמְרָא explains what went on behind the scenes of רות's statement.

נְעֻמִי told רות that on the Sabbath she may not travel far outside of the city.

"Wherever you go, I shall go," assured רות.

"We cannot stay alone with men," informed נְעֻמִי.

"Wherever you stay overnight, I shall stay overnight," was רות's answer.

"We are commanded to keep 613 commandments."

"Your nation is my nation," came רות's reply.

"And idolatry is forbidden to us," נְעֻמִי instructed.

"Your G-d is my G-d," assured רות.



A מְדוּת Moment

"Today I committed to raise \$500 for my school in the walk-a-thon," said a proud Aryeh.

"That's great, Aryeh," said his father. "When do you start collecting pledges?"

"I'll probably wait until a week before the walk-a-thon."

"You should start collecting right away! We are taught that if someone decides to convert, we begin to carry out the conversion process immediately because we don't delay when it comes to performing a מִצְוָה (commandment). You too, Aryeh, should not delay once you've decided to perform this great מִצְוָה!"

Games

Review Questions – יבמות דף מ"ז

1. When someone wants to convert, what is the first thing the person is told?

2. Explain what רות (Ruth) meant when she said "your G-d is my G-d."

3. What does רבי חֵלְבֵּן say about converts who do not change their ways?

MATCH UP

Match what רות said to its meaning

Your G-d is my G-d

Where you stay overnight I will stay overnight

Your nation is my nation

Where you will go I will go

• Keeping 613 commandments

• Not travelling on the Sabbath

• Not secluding with men

• No idolatry