

October 4, 2014
 שבת קודש
 תשע"ד

מסכת
 חגיגה
 דף כו

DAF YOMI⁴ Kids

Inside the Daf

Can you ever trust a thief? According to the משנה, yes.

If a thief steals a clay utensil but then returns it, he is believed to say he did not touch the inside of the utensil which would have made it טמא (impure).

But this is only if we want to use the utensils for קודש, for example, for the meat of sacrifices. If we want to use the utensils for תרומה, we do not believe the thief to say he did not touch the inside of the utensils and we treat them as טמא.

In the times of the בית המקדש (Holy Temple), עם הארץ, who are not trusted to say if an item is טהור (pure) or טמא, would sometimes be tax collectors for a non-Jewish king. Their job would be to collect head-taxes and levies from their fellow Jews.

They were granted permission by the king to enter into a Jew's home to take his property.

If a tax collector entered into a Jew's home, he is believed to say he did not touch the utensils inside (which would have made them טמא). But, just as we saw with a thief, he is believed only if we want to use those utensils for קודש; they are still treated as טמא for תרומה use.



An עם הארץ, would sometimes be a tax collector for a non-Jewish king.

Did You Know...

All the utensils in the בית המקדש (Holy Temple) had second and third copies. That way, if the first one became טמא (impure) it could be replaced right away.

WORD OF THE DAY:

אף

"EVEN"

Trusting a Thief



We learned (see "Inside the Daf") that if a thief returns a utensil he stole, he is believed to say he did not touch its inside (which would have made it טָמֵא).

The גְּמָרָא quotes a מְשֻׁנָּה that seems to contradict this. It says, if thieves enter a home, we treat the utensils in the area where they walked as טָמֵא. We assume the thieves handled everything in the area, making everything טָמֵא.

This seems to go against the rule that if a thief returns a utensil he stole, he is believed to say it is not טָמֵא. According to the מְשֻׁנָּה we quoted, we

assume he touched everything in the area where he walked, including the inside of the utensils!

The גְּמָרָא answers that we believe the thief to say he did not touch the inside of the utensil if he returns it because he is doing תְּשׁוּבָה, repentance. He wouldn't do this act of תְּשׁוּבָה but then lie and say he didn't touch the inside of the utensil!

A מְדוּתָה Moment

"Hi, Chaim, I found your lost raincoat!"

"Thanks, Peter...but wait a second I had money in one of the pockets and now it is missing! You stole it!"

"No I didn't! We even learn in the גְּמָרָא that if someone returns a utensil he stole, we believe him to say it isn't טָמֵא (impure). If he has taken the step to do the right thing and return it, surely he wouldn't lie about it being no טָמֵא. You should have the same attitude; if I do something nice like return your lost raincoat, you shouldn't think I did something bad like steal your money!"

Games



Unscramble the English word for each word from the daf

RUPE

STNEIUL

CHOUT

TXA

NEIDSI

EFHTI

Review Questions – ח"ו

1. What do we believe a tax collector to say?

2. If a thief returns a stolen utensil what do we believe him to say?

3. How many copies of the utensils were there in the בית המקדש?