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מַתְלוּקָת Matter of Matter

and הְכָמִים (the Sages) have a dispute about the language in which שְׁמַע must be read (we are commanded to read the "שְׁמַע" twice a day, see דברים ו, דברים ו, Deut. 6,7).

יאָמע in Hebrew. **The Sages say** it may be read in any language you understand, since the verse says "שָׁמַע"," meaning "hear" or "understand." This teaches, say the Sages, one may recite שְׁמַע in a language he understands. יְמָר points out that the verse also says "רָבָי," meaning, "and they [the words of שִׁמַע] must be as they are." That means the words must remain in Hebrew.

A Moment

t was hurricane season and a big one was on its way in. The Ben Asam family was making preparations and stocking up on essential supplies. They went to the supermarket to stock up on bottled water.

When they arrived they found a long line of people waiting to buy supplies. Suddenly, a man made an announcement over the loud speaker: "ATTENTION SHOPPERS! WE ARE LOW ON BOTTLED WATER! WE ARE NOW RAISING ITS PRICE TO FIVE TIMES HIGHER."

People groaned but still lined up. For Mr. Ben Asam, it was a teachable moment.

"It's too bad the supermarket owner doesn't learn גְּמָרָא," he said. "He would have learned that one may not unfairly raise food prices. In fact, one who does so is called 'wicked!"

Did You Know...

Before coming to לָבָן's (Laban) house and getting married, יַעֲקֹב (Jacob) spent 14 years studying Torah in the Academy of עֵבָר (Eber).

Games

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Words of the Day: מ״ט מַאי טַעַמַיִיהוּ what is their reason?"

Review Questions – מְגִילָה דַּף י"ז

1. Name two situations when one does not fulfill his obligation to hear the אָגְיָלָה.

2. According to the Sages, in which language may one say שְׁמַע?

3. What did יֶעֵקֹב do before coming to יְעֵקֹב's house?