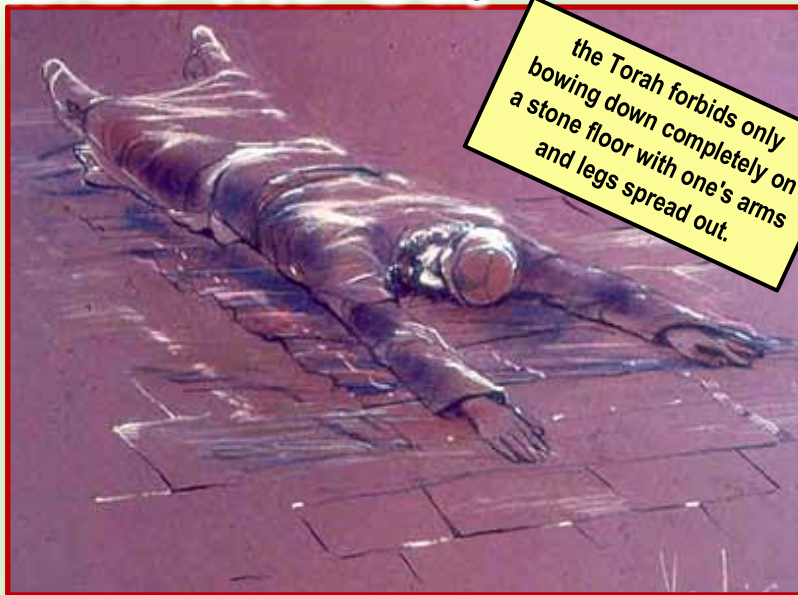


מסכת מגילה דף כב

DAF YOMI⁴ KIDS

Inside the Daf

The "תַּחֲנוּן", or "supplication" prayer, is recited right after the עֲמִידָה prayer in the morning and afternoon prayer services. Nowadays, we say תַּחֲנוּן with our heads tilted resting on our arm, but did you know that in the Talmudic era this prayer was said while spread out face down on the ground?



the Torah forbids only bowing completely on a stone floor with one's arms and legs spread out.

The גְּמָרָא reports that רַב did not lie face down on the synagogue floor in Babylon for the תַּחֲנוּן service. The reason for this is because the floor was made of stone and the Torah commands us not to bow down on a stone surface (see ויקרא כו, Lev. 26,1). עוֹלָא explains that the Torah forbids only bowing down completely with arms and legs spread out.

The גְּמָרָא says that רַב alone did not bow down on the stone floor for the תַּחֲנוּן service, however, the other people in the synagogue did. How come the other people did this? One answer is that the stone floor was in front of רַב but not in front of the other congregants.

Another answer is that the other congregants did not bow for תַּחֲנוּן with their arms and legs spread out the way רַב did. Such bowing is allowed on a stone floor.

A מְדוּת Moment

"Wait!" cried Mr. Shaindenbaum right after the morning prayer services were over. "Before everyone leaves, I have an announcement to make about my son's bar mitzvah this weekend. It will only take five minutes."

When he was finished, the rabbi came up to Mr. Shaindenbaum privately.

"We usually don't make long announcements after prayers in the morning," said the rabbi.

"Why not?" asked Mr. Shaindenbaum.

"Well, the גְּמָרָא says that during a weekday we don't have more than three people come up to read from the Torah because we don't want to delay the service. On a weekday, people are in a rush to get to their businesses and we don't want to keep them behind. We can learn from this that on a weekday it is not proper to keep people behind in the synagogue for long announcements, either!"



Did You Know...

When reading from the Torah, we are not allowed to read only half of a פְּסוּק (verse). In fact, רַבִּי חֲנִינְיָא says that one may read a part of a פְּסוּק only when teaching children who find it hard to learn the whole verse at once.

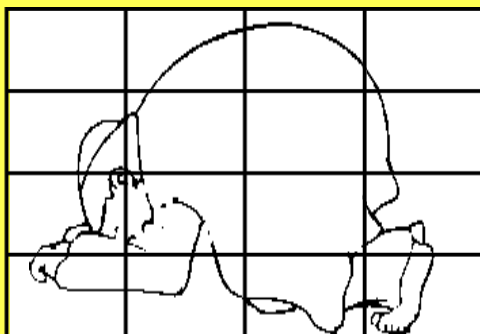
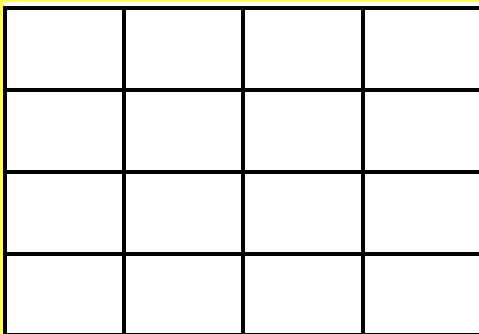
רֵאשׁ חֹדֶשׁ (New Month) and Work

There are some days on the Jewish calendar when work is completely forbidden, for example, on the Sabbath and Festivals. There are other days where work is allowed except in communities that have the custom to not work on those days. For example, some communities have a custom not to work on the fast day of the 9th of אָב, while other communities allow work to be done.

On רֵאשׁ חֹדֶשׁ, the beginning of the new month, work is allowed but it is not the same as a regular workday. Women, in particular, have a custom to not work on רֵאשׁ חֹדֶשׁ as a reward for having not participated in the making of the Golden Calf.

In fact, the תַּנְכ"ך (Bible) itself hints to the fact that רֵאשׁ חֹדֶשׁ is not a day of work. In the book of שְׁמוּאֵל (I Sam. 20,18-19) the day before רֵאשׁ חֹדֶשׁ is called a "day of work." This implies that the day of רֵאשׁ חֹדֶשׁ itself is not a day of work!

Games



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מגילה דף כ"ב - Review Questions

1. What type of bowing is not allowed on a stone floor?

2. Who has a custom to not work on רֵאשׁ חֹדֶשׁ (New Month)?

3. When is one allowed to read only part of a פסוק (verse)?
