

אב תשע"ד, 9 באוגוסט, שבת קודש

מסכת מגילה דף כט

DAF YOMI4 KIDS

Inside the Daf

In the month of אָדָר, four special Torah portions (אַרְבַּע פְּרָשִׁיּוֹת) are read in the synagogue on the Sabbath. These special Torah portions are read at the end of the regular Sabbath Torah reading.

The first of these four Torah portions is called "פְּרֻשַׁת שְׁקָלִים", and mentions the commandment for every adult male to give a half-שְׁקָל coin to the Temple to be used to buy community sacrifices. The community offerings of נִסְחָן and after would be bought from these donations. When the Temple stood, this half-שְׁקָל donation was due in the month before נִסְחָן, that is, אָדָר. We therefore read פְּרֻשַׁת שְׁקָלִים on the Sabbath that comes right before, or falls out on, the first of אָדָר.

There is a debate about which Torah portion is read for פְּרֻשַׁת שְׁקָלִים. שְׁמוּאֵל says that the portion is quite simply the verses in the Torah that command the donation of a half-שְׁקָל coin to the Temple (see שמות ל, יא-טו, Ex. 30,11-16). רַב however says that פְּרֻשַׁת שְׁקָלִים are the verses that talk about the commandment to sacrifice a daily, public offering (see במדבר כח, א-ח, Num. 28,1-8). We follow the ruling of שְׁמוּאֵל.

A מְדוּת Moment

It was that time of year again. All of the Jewish schools from the surrounding areas congregated together for the Torah Fair convention. An emissary from each school would give a short speech explaining his school's Torah Fair display. As was the case every year, the identity of the speaker was highly debated.

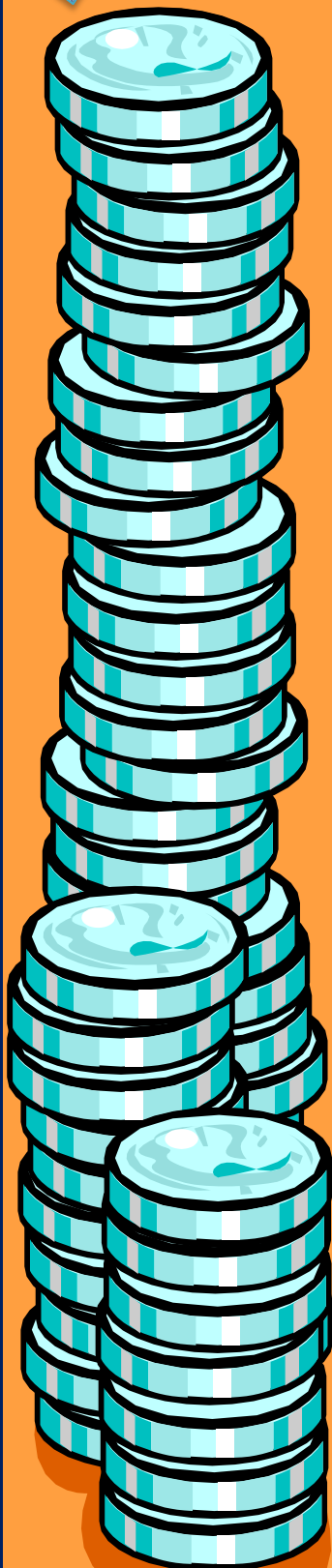
"Surely, I'll speak at the convention for our school," said Boaz. "After all, don't I have the highest grades in all Judaic subjects? The speaker will *definitely* be me!"

"You may have the highest grades, Boaz," said Aryeh, "but you don't seem to get the idea of Torah at all. In *daf yomi* we learn that a haughty person is blemished. That's why the tall, lofty mountains were not fit to be the base for receiving the Torah. It was the humble, low Mount Sinai that was the receiving ground for the Torah."

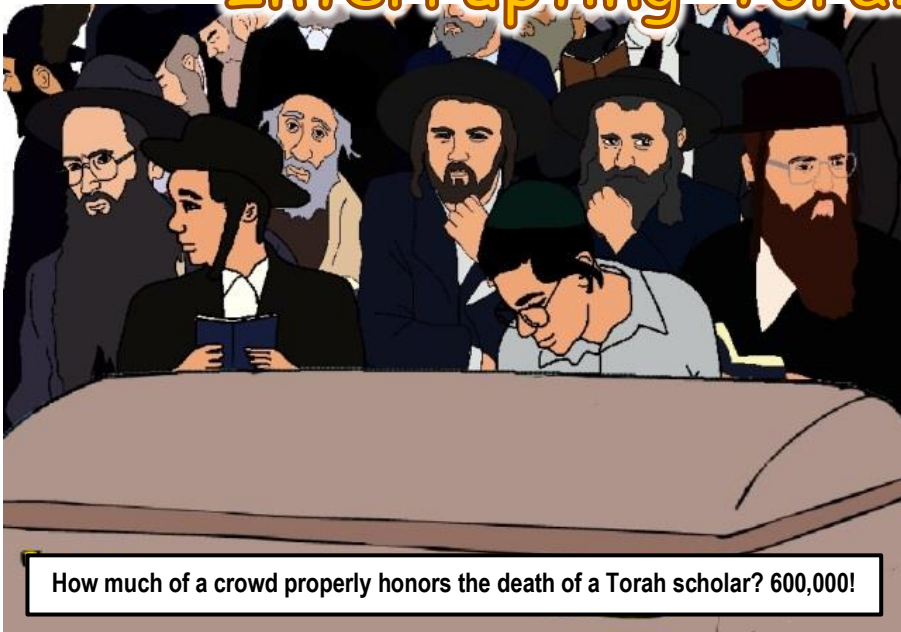
WORD OF THE DAY:

בְּשִׁלְמָא

"IT IS UNDERSTANDABLE" (LIT. "IT IS PEACEFUL")



Interrupting Torah Study



Torah study is so important that few things override it. The גמרא mentions two activities for which one must interrupt Torah study: Taking out the dead for burial, and bringing a bride to her wedding.

The גמרא is quick to explain that we interrupt Torah study only if there are not enough people at the burial to properly honor the departed. How many people are

"enough" to properly honor the dead?

For a Torah scholar's burial, רב ששת says 600,000 people is enough of a crowd to properly honor the scholar. רב ששת compares the death of a Torah scholar to the loss of the Torah itself. Just like the Torah was given in front of 600,000 men, so too when the Torah is taken, that is to say when a Torah scholar dies, 600,000 men should be there. If less than this number of people will show up, one may interrupt one's Torah study to attend the burial.

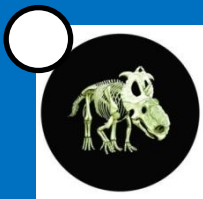
Games

MATCH UP

Match each unusual coin to its country of origin



Real ivory is embedded in this country's coins



This country's glow-in-the-dark coin shows a dinosaur skeleton found near Lethbridge, Alberta



This country's beautiful £2 coin has a turtle etched into blue crystal embedded in a solid silver ring.



Moai statue pops out of this country's coin



This country's three-cent coin was last made in 1889

- A** UNITED STATES **B** CANADA **C** EASTER ISLANDS **D** IVORY COAST
E BRITISH INDIAN OCEAN TERRITORY



Did You Know...

A ברייתא teaches that one may not joke around, graze one's animals, build a water canal or pick up grass in a cemetery.

Review Questions – מגילה דף כ"ט

1. What is the name of the first of the ארבע פרשיות (four Torah portions).

2. What are two activities for which may interrupt Torah study?

3. Name something one may not do in a cemetery.