

Friday, September 5, 2014
 ארול תשע"ד

DAF YOMI4 Kids

מסכת
 מועד קטן
 דף כה

Inside the Daf

"קריעה" is the tearing of one's clothes performed when a close relative dies. But there are times when קריעה is done even when the person who died is not a close relative.

One must tear one's clothes if one was standing by a dead person at the time his (or her) soul left the body. רבי שְׁמַעוֹן רַבִּי אֶלְעָזָר says that the death of a Jew is similar to a Torah scroll being burned. Just as one must tear one's clothing if one saw a Jewish person die.

Rashi explains why a Jew is compared to a Torah scroll. It is written about Torah, "כִּי נֵר מִצָּנָה וְתוֹרָה", "A commandment is a candle and Torah is a light" (משלי ו, כג). Regarding a soul it is written, "נֵר ה' נְשַׁמַּת אָדָם", "Man's soul is a candle of

Hashem" (שם כ, כז, ibid. 20,27). Since both the soul and the Torah are called "a candle" it follows that the extinguishing of one is like the extinguishing of the other.

The גמרא also says that one must tear one's clothes over the death of any proper person. In fact, a ברייתא says anyone who cries and mourns over the death of a proper person will have all of his (or her) sins forgiven.



One must tear one's clothes if one was standing by a dead person at the time his (or her) soul left the body.

A מְדוּת Moment

Yoni was very discouraged. He had failed his third Talmud test in a row and was beginning to think he would never improve. His teacher tried to encourage him.

"Just keep at it, Yoni," said his teacher. "You'll get better. Just don't give up and keep trying."

"Forget it! I'm hopeless!" said Yoni.

"I'm sure you have heard that a Jew is compared to a Torah scroll. Have you ever thought why?" asked Yoni's teacher. "It's because long as a Jew is alive he can always learn more and improve. That's a great lesson. Think of yourself as a Torah scroll with so much potential...you just have to be unlocked!"

(based on שו"ת יו"ד סימן ש"מ)



Did You Know...

בר אבין would say to cry for the mourners and not for the soul of the departed. After all, the soul will go to peace after death but the mourners suffer the loss of the dead person!

רב' הונא's Funeral

When the great sage, רב הונא, passed away, they wanted to place a Torah scroll on his burial bed, as if to say, רב הונא kept everything that is written in the Torah.

רב הונא did not think this was appropriate since רב הונא was very careful all his life to never sit on the same bed as a Torah scroll. It didn't seem proper now to place the great sage on the same bed as a Torah.

רב הונא had lived in Babylonia but was taken to the Land of Israel to be buried. When he arrived there, the sages of Israel wondered where to bury him. They decided on the crypt of רבי חייא since both he and רב הונא worked hard to spread Torah study.



רב חנא volunteered to bring רב הונא's body into the crypt. His scholarship and piety made him worthy of bringing the great sage to his resting place.

WORDS OF THE DAY:

סְלָקָא דְעֵתָךְ

"WOULD YOU THINK? (LIT. DOES IT ARISE ON YOUR MIND?)"



רב' חייא and רב הונא's crypt in Israel

Review Questions – מועד קטן דף כ"ה

1. What is קריעה?

2. What did they want to put on רב הונא's burial bed?

3. According to בַּר אֲבִין, why should we not cry for the soul of the departed?

Games

WHO AM I?

1. I was taken for burial from Babylonia to Israel
2. I volunteered to bring רב הונא in for burial
3. I am also buried in רב הונא's crypt
4. We wondered where to bury רב הונא
5. I didn't think רב הונא should be buried with a Torah scroll