

March 8, 2014
שבת קודש
"אדר ב' תשע"ד

מסכת

סוֹפָה

דף לג

DAF YOMI4 KIDS

Inside the Daf

One of the rules of the הדס (myrtle) is that it may not have more berries than leaves (myrtle branches sprout small, blueberry-like berries).

רב חסדא quotes his teacher רב as saying the berries only make the הדס not כָּשֵׁר (valid) if they are clustered in one place. If they are spread out in two or three places, the הדס is כָּשֵׁר.

רבא says that this isn't so. If the berries are spread out the הדס would be "מנומר", or spotted "leopard-like," which is a problem because the הדס does not appear as beautiful.

Rather, רבא says that a הדס branch is not כָּשֵׁר only if there are more berries than leaves *and* the berries are black. If the berries are green the הדס will still be valid because they are the same color as the leaves.

רב פפא says there will also be a problem if the berries are red since red berries eventually turn to black.



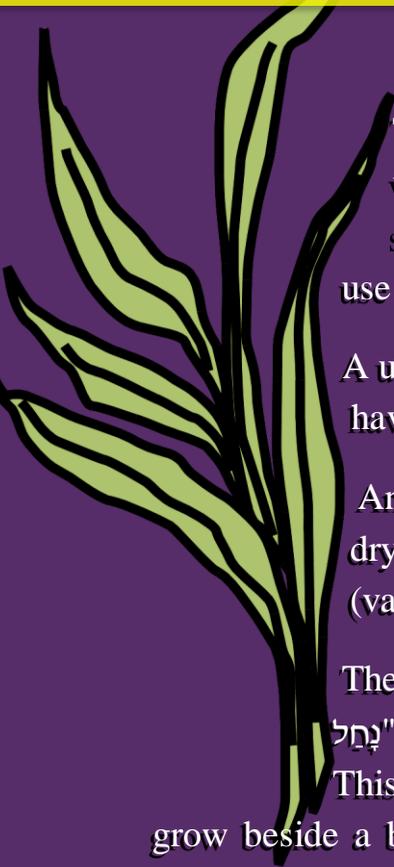
Did You Know...

A dried out הדס is not כָּשֵׁר (valid), but the גמרא says as long as three moist leaves remain, but רב חסדא adds, the leaves must be at the tip of the הדס, not the middle.

WORD OF THE DAY:

לְחוּמָא

"FOR STRICTNESS"



Willow Branches

The משנה introduces the laws of the עֲרֵבָה, or willow branch, used on סוכות as one of the four species. Just like a לוֹלֵב and a הָדָס, one may not use a stolen or dry one or an עֲרֵבָה missing its tip.

A unique feature of the עֲרֵבָה is that it may not have rounded leaves, rather slender ones.

An עֲרֵבָה with withered leaves (i.e.: not completely dry), or one missing some of its leaves is still כָּשֵׁר (valid).

The Torah itself calls עֲרֵבוֹת (plural or עֲרֵבָה), "ערבי", "נחל" or, "brook willows" (ויקרא כג, 40).

This teaches that it is preferred to use עֲרֵבוֹת that grow beside a brook, but even if they grow in a field that is watered by hand they are still valid. The גמרא also learns that the leaves must be long like a brook.

A מְדוּתָה Moment

Accidentally, Malcolm took a step he shouldn't have. He cut in line in front of the class bully, Zevi.

"Hey! You just cut in front of me in line, whaddyathinkyourdoin?!" Zevi yelled at Malcolm, flailing his arms all over the place for effect.

"Uh...sorry," said the terrified Malcolm, retreating instantly.

When Zevi was alone, his teacher, Rabbi Epstein took an opportunity to say something to him.

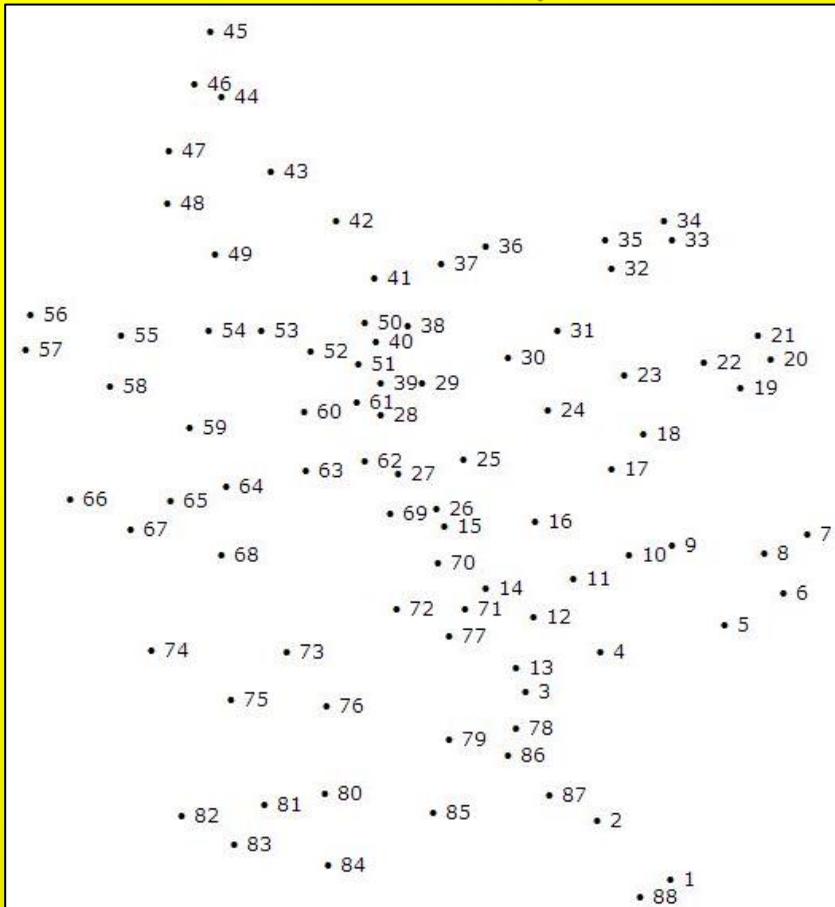
"Zevi," he said, "Remember what we learned in daf yomi about the willow branches? A long עֲרֵבָה is valid but a circular one isn't. Why? The circular one is harder and breaks easier. The long willow is durable but soft. That's the way we should be, soft to others but able to stand our ground when we need to."

"I see," said Zevi. "I should have spoken more gently to Malcolm. I don't have to let him step in front of me in line, but I could have been nicer about it."

(מוסר המשנה)

Games

CONNECT THE DOTS



Review Questions

סוכה דף ל"ג

1. What color berries make a הָדָס not valid?

2. What shape of עֲרֵבָה is not כָּשֵׁר (valid)?

3. How many moist leaves must remain on a הָדָס branch?