

Inside the Daf

One of Hashem's most important creation is the יֵצֶר הָרַע, or "evil inclination." The יֵצֶר הָרַע is the temptation to act against the Torah. It is our job to withstand this temptation and come closer to Hashem.

רַבִּי יְהוּדָה says in the future Hashem will slaughter the יֵצֶר הָרַע in front of the righteous and the wicked. And, believe it or not, they will cry and mourn its death!

The righteous will see the יֵצֶר הָרַע as a huge mountain they overcame.

The righteous will

cry, "How were we able to conquer a gigantic mountain such as this?" Rashi explains they will cry as they recall the pain they suffered to overcome the evil inclination.

The wicked, however, will see the יֵצֶר הָרַע as a tiny thread of hair. This will cause them to cry, "How were we not able to conquer such a small hair?" The גַּמְרָא explains that, at first, the יֵצֶר הָרַע is as easy to break as a cobweb. Once one gives into it, it becomes as hard to break as the ropes of a ploughshare.



Did You Know...

The Talmud tells us of exceptional architects: the Messiah, who will build the Third Temple; אֵלִיָּהוּ הַנָּבִיא (Elijah the prophet), who built an Altar on Mount Carmel with an sophisticated system of water trenches; שֵׁם (Shem) the son of נֹחַ (Noah) who helped construct the ark that was sturdy enough to withstand the heavy flood waters for an entire year.



The Lights of Celebration



The illumination for the שמחת בית השואבה (Celebration of the Water-Drawing) was so great that the people of Jerusalem were able to check wheat kernels by its light. But how did the light get so bright?

The גמרא describes that candelabra 50 אמות high were placed in the Women's Courtyard of the Temple. That's almost 90 feet (27 m) high!

At the top of each of the candelabra were four bowls that young פהנים would fill with oil. We are told that each of these young men would carry 30 לוג of oil (almost 2.5 gallons or 9 liters!) up ladders to the top of each of these candelabra and ignite the oil.

This wasn't the only act in the בית המקדש (Holy Temple) that required remarkable agility and strength. The son of מרתא בת מריתא carried the two thighs of a large ox up the ramp of the מזבח (Altar). He was stopped by the other פהנים who wanted to also participate in the honor of bringing up the sacrifice to the Altar.

A מדות Moment

Jeremy was so hungry he felt like his stomach was missing. He wanted to buy something from the school cafeteria, but had not money on him. He looked around the classroom for a solution to his problem. He found it on the teacher's desk.

The school צדקה (charity) box. He would just borrow some money and pay it back the next day. No one would even know it was missing and no harm done.

It was a good thing his friend Naphtali was there to stop him.

"You can't take that money, Jeremy," Naphtali said.

"Oh, sure I can! I'm just going to borrow it. I'll pay it right back tomorrow."

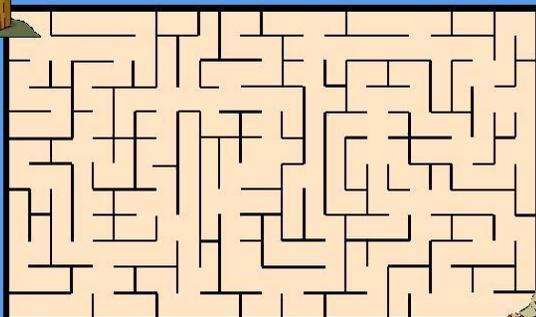
"The greatest trick of the יצר הרע (evil inclination) is to make a sin look like it isn't a sin, but rather something good. That's why the גמרא says it is like a strand of hair. You hardly notice it at first, but once it gets its way...it expands! The צדקה box your personal bank account."

(אור החיים, דברים יט, יא)

Games

A-MAZE-ING

Help the man find his way to a סוכה



Review Questions – סוכה דף נ"ב

1. How tall were the giant candelabra for the Celebration of Water-Drawing?

2. In the future, what will the יצר הרע (evil inclination) look like to the righteous?

3. Who was an exceptional architect?
