

October 11, 2014
שבת קודש
י"ז תשרי תשע"ד

מסכת יבמות דף ז

DAF YOMI4 KIDS

Inside the Daf

WORDS OF THE DAY:
תְּלַמּוּד לֹוֹמֵר
"THE VERSE TEACHES US"

Imagine the following case. A פֶּהַן has just been found guilty of murder and has been sentenced to death. Desperate not to be executed, the פֶּהַן escapes from the court. But where can he go? Wherever he hides, the court will find him sooner or later and carry out his execution!

The murderer has an idea: Since he is a פֶּהַן, he can perform the עֲבוֹדָה (Temple service) of offering sacrifices. The murderer runs to the בַּיִת הַמִּקְדָּשׁ (Holy Temple) and starts performing the Temple service. Surely the court will not interfere with his holy task....or will they?

The Torah says that if a man is sentenced to die then "מֵעַם" מִזְבְּחֵי תִקְחֶנּוּ לָמוֹת, "from beside my Altar you shall take him to die" (שמות כא, 14, Ex. 21,14). That means, even if the person who has been sentenced by the court to die is performing the Temple service, the court's messenger removes him from the Temple to execute him.

There is an exception to this rule. If the פֶּהַן who has been sentenced to die is actually standing *on top* of the מִזְבֵּחַ (Altar) and performing the עֲבוֹדָה, he is not taken to be executed at that exact moment.



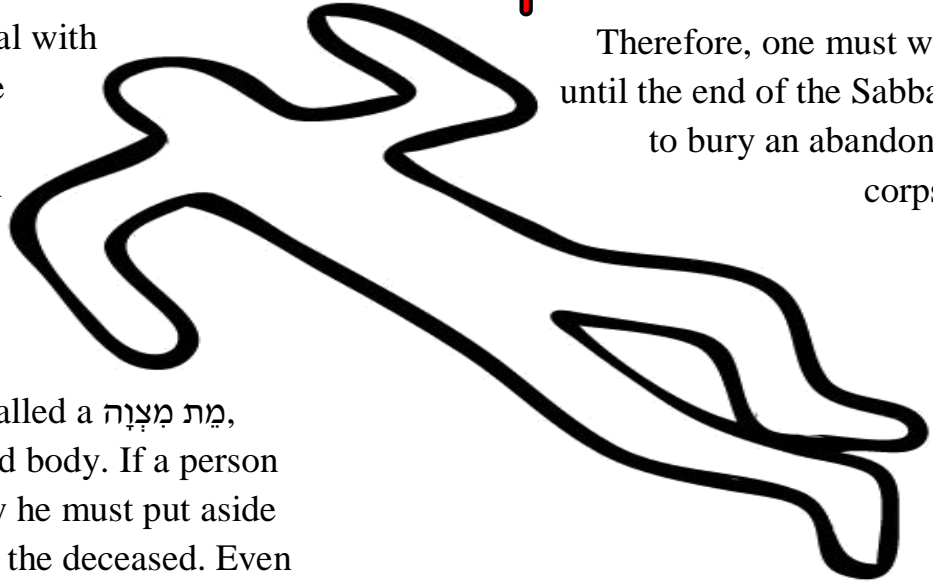
Did You Know...

The punishment for not obeying a negative commandment is stricter than the punishment for not doing a positive commandment. One (usually) gets lashes for not obeying a negative commandment, but no punishment in this world for not performing a positive commandment.

The Abandoned Corpse.

Most people do not like to deal with a dead body. If someone were to find a dead body in the middle of the street, he would probably want to rely on someone else to bury it rather than doing it himself.

Therefore, one must wait until the end of the Sabbath to bury an abandoned corpse.



An abandoned dead body is called a **מַצְוָה**, literally, a commandment dead body. If a person finds an abandoned dead body he must put aside anything he is doing and bury the deceased. Even if he performing a **מַצְוָה** (commandment), he must take care of the dead's burial needs.

The **גְּמָרָא** says that even **עֲבוּדָה**, Temple service (for example, offering sacrifices), is put on hold in order to bury an abandoned corpse. But the **גְּמָרָא** gives an example of one commandment that is not pushed aside to bury the dead: The Sabbath. Burying the dead means one must dig a hole for the body, an activity not allowed on the Sabbath.

A מְדוּת Moment

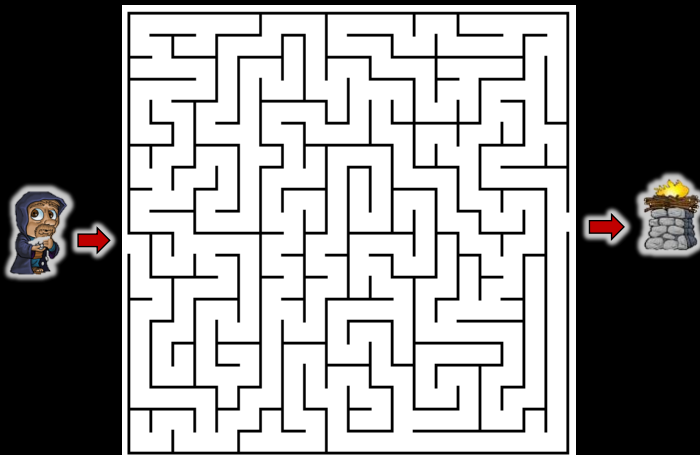
Oh no, thought Yisroel to himself. His mother was calling him to do a chore. No problem. Yisroel had a technique to avoid his parents when they were about to ask him to do something. He would just start *davening*. His parents would never interrupt him in the middle of his prayers.

"Nice try, Yisroel," said his mother this time as soon as he had finished *davening*. "Did you know that if a **פְּתוּר** was sentenced to death and he went to the Temple to perform the holy service, that service isn't enough to protect him. He is still taken to execution even in the middle of the service. *Davening*, or any holy service, shouldn't be used as an excuse to avoid your responsibilities."

Games

AMAZING

Help the murderer reach the Altar



Review Questions – יבמות דף ז'

1. When would the **מִזְבֵּחַ** (Altar) protect a murderer (at least for a while)?

2. Which commandment is not pushed aside for burying an abandoned corpse?

3. Is one punished more harshly for not obeying a negative commandment or a positive commandment?
