

## Inside The Daf



Imagine you had to take a very important test. You would probably spend a lot of time studying and reviewing the material.

The יום כפור service that the כהן גדול had to perform was very important. On each of

the seven days before the holiday he had to review the Torah portion about the יום כפור service.

The משנה tells us that the Elders of the בית דין (Court) would read these Torah portions to the כהן גדול. They would then ask him to read them himself in case he had forgotten them, or never learned them.

The גמרא wonders how there could have been a כהן גדול who had never before learned these sections. A כהן גדול was required to be wiser than regular people!

The גמרא answers that the משנה is talking about כהנים גדולים of the Second Temple period. It was normal at this time for the position of כהן גדול to be sold to the highest bidder. These כהנים גדולים would not be learned.

בבלי tells a story of a wealthy widow, מרתא, the daughter of ביתוס who paid 9 pounds (4 kg) of gold dinars to King ינאי to appoint her future husband, יהושע בן גמלא, as כהן גדול.

## A מידות Moment

"That's it!" said Daniel Sasson as he slammed down the basketball. "Who hit me in the head?"

It was last recess at Derech Emet Day School and the boys had just started what was supposed to be a friendly game of basketball. That is, until someone got hurt.

"I don't know, Daniel," said Haim Tudela. "Wasn't me. Let's just go on and play."

Haim's best friend Elisha knew it wasn't true and went to speak with Haim after recess.

"Haim," Elisha said. "I saw you hit Daniel with the basketball."

"I didn't do it on purpose!" Haim protested.

"I know," said Elisha. "Still, you shouldn't have lied about it and should apologize to Daniel."

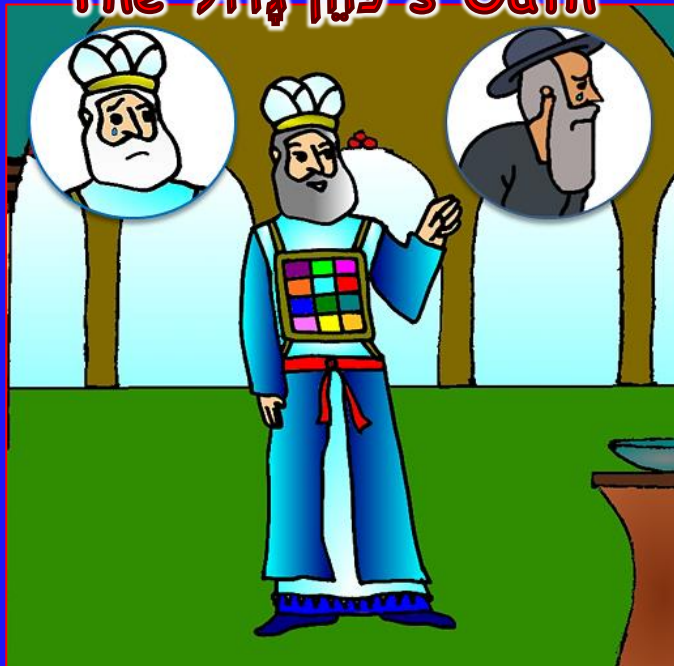
"You're right," admitted Haim. "What made you want to set me right?"

"Actually, it was something I learned today in the גמרא. In the גמרא, if one of the כהנים was hiding a misdeed, the כהן גדול would know about it and bring him back in repentance."

"Thanks, Elisha," said Haim. "Thank you for being my כהן גדול!"

WORD OF THE DAY:  
 אי הני  
 "IF SO"

## The כהן גדול's Oath



Before a president or a prime minister takes office, he or she must swear an oath. In this oath they promise to uphold the laws of the land and serve their country faithfully.

The כהן גדול took a similar oath before יום כפור. The משנה teaches that the elder כהנים would take him to a room in the המקדש (Holy Temple) called the לשכת בית אבטינס. In this room they would show the כהן גדול how to handle the קטרת (incense) properly. The כהן גדול had to swear that he wouldn't change anything the elders taught him.

This was a very important oath to take because in the time of the Second Temple, there were כהנים צדוקים (Saducees), Jews who did not believe in the תורה שבעל פה (Oral Torah). Because of their misguided beliefs they would perform the עבודה (Service) of יום כפור improperly. The elder כהנים needed to make sure the כהן גדול in front of them was not a צדוקי.

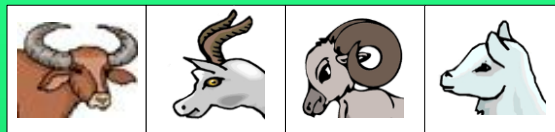
After the כהן גדול took this oath, he would turn aside and cry because he was suspected of being a Sadducee. The elders would also turn and cry that they had to be so suspicious!

### Did You Know...

A ברייתא teaches that the כהן גדול had to be superior to the other כהנים in four areas: strength, looks, wisdom and wealth.

## Games

The משנה teaches that before יום כפור, the elders of בית דין (court) would pass bulls, lambs and rams (and goats) before the כהן גדול - to make him reflect about the עבודה of tomorrow.



In how many different orders could these animals pass by?

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

### יומא דף י"ח – Review Questions

1. What did the כהן גדול have to review for seven days before יום כפור?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What happened with the כהן גדול in the לשכת בית אבטינס?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. List four qualities in which a כהן גדול must be superior to other כהנים.  
\_\_\_\_\_

THIS PAGE HAS BEEN DEDICATED

לעילוי נשמת  
האדמו"ר הצדיק  
הר"ר אלימלך ב"ר משולם פייבוש  
מטוש זצוק"ל  
זכותו יגן עלינו  
נתבקש בישיבה של מעלה כ"ג כסליו תש"ב  
ת.נ.צ.ב.ה