



One day, Rav Ezra Attia, the Great Rosh Yeshiva of Porat Yosef (1885-1970), was giving over his daily shiur in Gemara. The sugya that day was on the mitzvah of Shiluach Haken—(sending the mother bird away). Rav Ezra quoted the Gemara in Chulin which talks about what to do if one finds a nest on the head of a person! One of the participants asked, "Why does the Gemara discuss such an impossible scenario?"

Suddenly, one of the Rav's talmidim, who had been absent for an extended time, entered the room. Rav Ezra greeted him warmly, "Sholom Aleichem! We missed you!" The talmid answered, "I was traveling for business reasons. Actually, I was in India - which is quite an interesting country." Rav Ezra queried, "What's so interesting about it?" The talmid replied, "I saw strange things there that I've never seen anywhere else. Once, I actually saw a man sitting completely still under a tree with his arms folded. He sat in that position for three days, and on the third day, a bird landed on his head and started to construct a nest in his hair!"

Everyone at the shiur was speechless.

Hints & Answers* **HALACHA CHALLENGE:** *Piskei Teshuvos* (300:1) quotes the Pri Megadim who says, "It's possible that women are not obligated to have Melave Malka. But nevertheless it is appropriate that they should have this *seuda* as well." The *Piskei Teshuvos* explains that this opinion would be according to those *poskim* who hold that women are not obligated to have Havdala; but since we hold that women are obligated in Havdala, this leniency does not apply to us (*Piskei Teshuvos* O.C., note 18). *Piskei Teshuvos* further writes that based on the Magen Avraham, the Machtzis Hashekel rules that women are obligated to have *seudas* Melave Malka just as men are. Women's *segula* for honoring Shabbos with *seudas* Melave Malka is easy childbirth (ibid., note 19). [Regarding the level of obligation of *seudas* Melave Malka see Mishna Berura 300:2] **RHYMES:** "give" **RIDDLE:** Levi missed the camp's Maariv and is planning to *daven* later on his own. Once three stars emerge, a person is not allowed to learn Torah if he is planning to *daven* Maariv on his own, unless he asks someone to remind him to *daven* (see Mishna Berura 235:17). | *Menucha answers are not to be taken as final decisions in halacha.

Halacha Challenge

Should Women Have Melave Malka?



As Rivky was setting up the table for Melave Malka, she asked her mother, "Imma, should I set up plates for you and the girls also?"

"Well maybe for the girls. But I am not so hungry," replied Imma.

"But isn't it a mitzva to have Melave Malka?" asked Rivky.

"It is," replied Imma, "But I am not sure if it applies to women as well."

Chaim overheard the conversation, and voiced his opinion: "I think Melave Malka is a mitzva for women as well, because women need to honor Shabbos just as men do, and we eat Melave Malka *l'kavod* Shabbos as we escort out the Shabbos queen."

His brother Shmuel objected: "Melave Malka was established by David HaMelech. Maybe he made this extra mitzva only for men."

Question: Should Rivky set up the plates for the girls and Imma?

(The "Hints & Answers" section is on page 4)

Dedicated anonymously for yeshuos and refuos to all Klal Yisroel

Special thanks to the
kehilla of Heritage

HERITAGE
The place where Russian Jews thrive
www.heritageusa.com



Parsha Pearls

In the very beginning of parshas Re'eh, Hashem is informing us that He is placing in front of us blessings and curses. Of course, we want blessings. In the 2nd verse of the parsha, the Torah is letting us know how to get the blessings:

אֶת־הַבְּרָכָה אֲשֶׁר תִּשְׁמְעוּ אֵלֵי־מִצְוֹת ה' אֱלֹהֵיכֶם אֲשֶׁר אֶנִּי מְצַוֶּה אֹתְכֶם הַיּוֹם.

How would you paraphrase this verse? Probably you would paraphrase it as: "Keep the mitzvos and you'll get the blessings." In reality, however, based on Onkolos translation, the word **תִּשְׁמְעוּ** means "you will accept". Therefore, this verse is telling us that Hashem will give us the blessings if we merely accept upon ourselves the mitzvos of the Torah. So simple? Yes. But it still requires work, commitment and continuity. Chaza"l refer to this "acceptance" of mitzvos as **קבלת עול מצוות**. And our sages teach us that the Torah wants us to make this **קבלת עול מצוות** twice a day, every single day. When? When we recite the second paragraph of Sh'ma Yisrael (Mishnayos Brachos 2:2).

So remember that in this week's parsha Hashem promised us blessings as reward for just accepting the mitzvos. Just keep in mind **קבלת עול מצוות** when you recite the 2nd paragraph of Sh'ma Yisrael and you'll receive the promised blessings.



Ask Around Your Shabbos Table

שָׁמַר וְשָׁמְעָה אֶת כָּל הַדְּבָרִים הָאֵלֶּה אֲשֶׁר אֶנִּי מְצַוֶּה לְמַעַן יִיטֵב לָךְ וּלְבִנְיֶיךָ אַחֲרֶיךָ עַד עוֹלָם... דְּבָרִים יב:כח

Ask Around Your Table: Since it is obvious that Hashem needs us to fulfill every mitzva that He commanded us, why does the Torah go out of its way in this verse to tell us that we need to guard and accept **all** mitzvos?

Answer: Rashi's comment to this part of the verse answers our question. Rashi says, *שְׁתֵּהא חֲבִיבָה עֲלֶיךָ מִצְוָה קְלָה כַּמִּצְוָה חֲמוּרָה* – [This is teaching us] that a small mitzva should be dear to you just like a great mitzva is dear to you. As we know, being passionate about doing mitzvos is an integral part of a Jewish life. In this verse, Hashem is telling us that this applies to absolutely **all** mitzvos.



Rhymes for Kids



כִּי־פָתַח תִּפְתָּח אֶת־יָדְךָ לּוֹ וְהַעֲבַט תַּעֲבִיטֵנוּ דִּי מַחְסְרוֹ אֲשֶׁר יִחְסֹר לוֹ.

"Rather, you shall open your hand to him, and you shall lend him sufficient for his needs, which he is lacking." - Devorim 15:

"[Rather] you shall open [your hand]" - Even many times. [Rashi]

"and you shall lend" - If he does not want [your money] as a [charitable] gift, give it to him as a loan. [Rashi]

Do you know the secret how with *simcha* to live?

When someone is in need, open your hand and ____!



Riddles



שָׁמַר וְשָׁמְעָה אֶת כָּל הַדְּבָרִים הָאֵלֶּה... [דְּבָרִים יב:כח]

שָׁמַר: זוֹ מִשְׁנָה [פִּירוּשׁ רש"י]

"Levi, what are you doing there leaning over that *sefer*?" asked Avi during the last evening of their sleepover camp.

"What do you mean?! I am learning!" answered Levi.

"Sorry, you can daven Maariv, but you're not allowed to learn now," said Avi.

"But it's not Tisha B'Av today. In fact, it's almost Elul!" said Levi.

"I know, but you still can't learn," said Avi.

"I am not a mourner, ר"ל," said Levi.

"I know, but you still can't learn," said Avi.

"We threw away that smelly garbage bag. This place is clean now," said Levi.

"I know, but you still can't learn," said Avi.

"I said Bircas Hatorah in the morning and it is still in force now!" said Levi.

"I know, but you still can't learn," said Avi.

"Avi - are you allowed to learn now?" asked Levi.

"Yes!" replied Avi.

Why is Levi not allowed to learn now?