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EPISODE!

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JOYFULLY JEWISH EXPERIENCES

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SEASON 9, EPISODE 24
.....

PARSHAS TAZRIA 5785



Torat Scene-A-Eye

*This features an AI generated picture that has numer-
ous hints to the weekly parsha.
This week's is about Parshas Tazria*

Disclaimer: These AI generated images are NOT meant to portray actual people or events from the Torah. They are simply hints to get you thinking.

DVAR TORAH

SLOTCHY

.....

Getting Tzaraas was probably a pretty traumatic experience.

You'd get this skin rash (and yes, it could manifest on your home or clothing as well, but let's focus on the skin for now) that you could not explain. You'd probably get tested for allergies, maybe try going gluten free and see if your skin improves. Use some chemical-free laundry detergent... but you knew that wasn't it. You'd have heard of the people who'd gotten tzaraas and no antihistamine could help. So now what? You'd go to see the Kohen who was the only authority qualified to diagnose tzaraas, which could come in many forms. Why the Kohen? For that matter, if all tzaraas would result in being sent into quarantine outside the neighborhood, why were there so many variants?

You might not know this but not all tzaraas was white. First, there were several

CONTINUED ▼

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Deep Thoughts

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**Rumplestiltskin's
job got much harder
after voice notes were
invented**



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.....

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DVAR TORAH

CONTINUED

shades of white it could be. Then the hair color mattered. Was there yellow? Reddish? Greenish? Was it shaped like a pickle? If you weren't careful, you might have a Kohen psychoanalyzing your Rorschach results. But all kidding aside, tzaraas came in many variations. Why?

One approach to this Kohenundrum can answer both questions.

You see, people are afflicted with tzaraas for a large number of reasons, and being awesome isn't one of them. The Talmud actually lists seven causes of tzaraas, including false oaths, narcissism, theft, negative speech and stinginess. Well, if the purpose of tzaraas is to help a person become a better person and a better Jew, how could you tell which problem you needed to fix? It's kind of like having a fever. You might have the flu, or an ear infection, Covid, tuberculosis, or one of so, so many other illnesses. A trained doctor may be able to use tests to tell (we all have PTSD from shoving those covid tests up our noses). Tzaraas is similar. The family of Kohanim had a primary purpose of guiding the Jewish people in spiritual matters. A Kohein observing a person's tzaraas might be able to tell based on shape, hue, tone, and many other factors just what kind of tzaraas it was, and on what mistake or character flaw he needed work. We can now understand both why tzaraas came in 57 varieties, and why a Kohein had to be the one to diagnose and treat it.

What happens when you have a rough day, or when a family member, community or entire Jewish people experiences hardship? The Talmud tells us our job during difficult times is to recognize that the difficulty is a message to us to improve, and we should examine our actions. What if we can't tell in what areas we require improvement? Well the modern day replacement for the biblical Kohein is a Rabbi or teacher of Torah. It's a good idea to discuss challenges with a wise and learned person (preferably one who knows and understands you well) in order to develop a strategy for improvement. So treat Tzaros (trouble) as tzaraas, and you'll be golden. But hopefully your skin won't be, cuz that might be tzaraas.



ANSWER ON PAGE 3

Question of the Week

.....
One with tzaraas tears his clothing. Where do we have a commandment NOT to tear clothing (2 examples)?



LOLZ

.....
My wife told me there were moose falling from the sky.

I said, "No, it's reindeer."



53

DAYS TILL NAGEELA WEST GIRLS SESSION



78

DAYS TILL NAGEELA WEST BOYS SESSION



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Answer of the Week

.....

One of the Kohen Gadol's garments is the me'il (a blue robe). There's a commandment not to allow it to tear. Aaron and his two living sons were prohibited from tearing their clothes when the two older sons died.

QUESTION ON PAGE 2

MIDDLE SCHOOL BOYS ARE INVITED TO THE NEW JEWNIOR NCSY SCHOLARS PROGRAM

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QUESTIONS?
Contact Rabbi Locker at 917-613-1037 or Lockerd@ncsy.org

Jewnior NCSY

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Have a great answer?
Send it in to
dlocker@nageelawest.org

We discuss BRIS a lot in this episode. What is the appropriate food for a bris?

Many authorities insist that since it's a holy celebration, it should be required to serve meat, and some people do so.

Neverthelss, the vast majority of Jews don't have meat at a bris, mainly because they don't want meat early in the morning, or because they want to put milk in their coffees. What do you think is the right thing to do?

PARSHAL PARSHA

*a brief summary of the weekly
Torah porshon*

PARSHAS TAZRIA

BABIES ARE BORN
SKIN GETS PALE

.....

- When a woman gives birth, there's a certain time period when she is considered impure, and then a time period she is pure. These times are different depending on whether the baby is a boy or a girl.
- Baby boys get circumcised at 8 days old.
- There is an offering/ sacrifice given after birth (there's basically an offering for everything, so, yeah).
- The parsha describes many different kinds of skin ailments, some of which are considered tzara'as, and require quarantine.
- The only person who can diagnose tzara'as is a kohen.
- Sometimes even clothing can get tzara'as.



GENERATED AND SUBMITTED BY MATANYA NAIMAN, RAMAT BEIT SHEMESH, ISRAEL

CAPTION THIS

This picture from this week shows one of our programs where hundreds of Middle School students in California try Passover cookies for the first time, two weeks after Passover... Hmmmm...



Torat Scene-A-Eye Explained

The parsha's name is Tazria, so this image of Taz is a nod to the name. The baby boy represents the theme in the beginning of the parsha of a baby being born. The broken brick wall is for tzaraas on a house, which can result in smashing the wall. There are some plants on the side representing the plants brought by a recovering metzora in his offering.



NA-NA-NA-NA-NA-
NA-NA-NAGEELA



How much do you love
being Jewish?



STUMP THE RABBI

StumptheRabbi is a forum where kids can ask ANY Jewish question.

Have a question? Please send it in to stump@nageelawest.org

(Most) questions here are real. Names and some wording have been changed.

BAGELS AND BRISKET

A BRAND NEW STUMP THE RABBI, MADE IN THE USA #279

Hi Rabbi,

I have some questions about the Jewish tradition to give a baby a bris. First of all, I've heard that many hospitals will circumcise babies in the hospital. Does that count as a bris? If not, why not? And why is the bris always on the 8th day? Is it always on the 8th day?

Thanks,
Boris Milah

Dear Boris,

You're right that a bris is usually done on the 8th day of a baby's life. More than that, it can NOT be done earlier. The Torah explicitly tells us that day 8 is the right time to give a bris. If a bris is done earlier, it doesn't count. If a baby has not gotten a bris at day 8- and there are a number of reasons for that- then it can still be done later. If a baby has medical challenges and a doctor says he must wait, then a bris can be done as soon as the baby is healthy. There are also people who don't get a bris for other reasons, like ignorance, government intervention (this was very common in the former Soviet Union when giving a child a bris could get you sent to Siberia, or worse, to the principal's office. Many Russian Jews who came to the United States in the 1980s and 1990s were adult brissers). We're big fans of jumping to do a mitzvah at the earliest possible time, which is why we try not to delay a bris past the 8th day if possible, and why you'll usually have to wake up early in the morning to attend one. Just to be clear, the best time for a bris is on the morning OF the 8th day, not AFTER 8 days. So if for example, a baby is born on Sunday afternoon, that counts as day 1, then we keep counting Monday as day 2, Tuesday as day 3, so that day 8 is actually Sunday, and that's the time to have a bris. FYI, a bris is only done during daylight, not at night.

So why 8 days? There are a whole bunch of reasons given and I'll mention a couple. Doing a bris on day 8 guarantees that the baby will have had at least one Shabbat in his life. This is important because the baby now



has the holiness and protection of a Shabbat before going into this trans-

formative event. Another reason given is that after giving birth, a mother is pretty uncomfortable for a while. Usually about 15-18 years. But at least for the first week or so, she's in full recovery mode, and the parents won't be happy during this great celebration. There are also parallels made between a bris and a sacrifice. The rule for an animal sacrifice is generally that it needs to be at least in its 8th day of life before being brought to God.

To recap, a bris can't be done before the 8th day (like in a hospital- BTW there are other requirements of a bris that are usually not met in a hospital procedure, like bagels- hospitals usually don't serve bagels). Once the 8th day comes, it's important to do it as soon as possible and we don't push it off for any reason other than a serious medical or other life-threatening condition. If a bris is delayed past the 8th day, you can still get it done, really at any point during a person's lifespan.

It's worth noting that for the 40 years our ancestors traveled through the desert, nobody had a bris, because it was feared that intensive travel would endanger the children. They all became circumcised during the time of Joshua, just before entering the land of Israel. On a similar note, Moses did not circumcise his son as he was busy traveling back to Egypt to rescue the Jewish people. An angel attempted to kill him for that, and if not for the quick thinking and 'quick brissing' skills of his wife Tziporah, it would have ended badly.

What kind of food should be served at a bris? You might assume the answer is a bagel. I say, bris-kit.

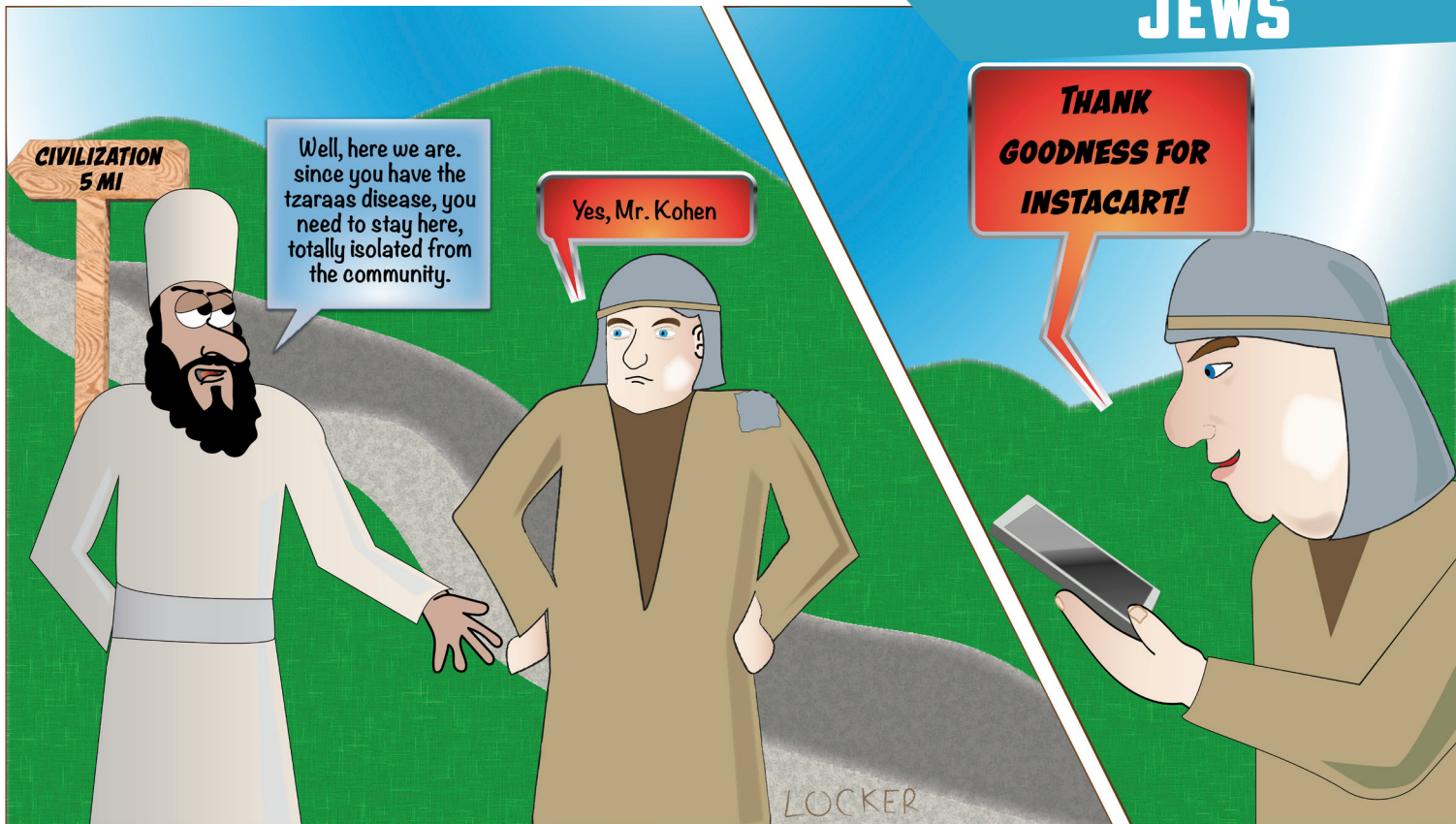
Have a Nageela Shabbos,

The Rabbi



Note & Disclaimer: We call this 'Stump The Rabbi' for fun, but that's not really the point. The goal is to learn something important in an interesting way. The answers here should not be taken as halachic decisions. You should always ask a competent Rabbi personally.

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wonderful Pesach!**

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Orin Cohen
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Tahel Simchon
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Nageela Shabbos is a weekly publication
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