

## DVAR TORAH

#### **FUR NOT SURE**

Which of these is not like the others:

A couch Coffee A bed

A Table

A sink

If you said coffee, ding! Ding! Ding!!!

Clearly, in a list of furniture, coffee doesn't belong on that list.

So now let's peek over at this week's parsha, The Torah's big theme in this portion is the construction of the Mishkan, which is the portable, lego-style temple that our ancestors built while traversing the desert. In this portion, we're introduced to all the vessels- the furniture and permanent fixtures of the Mishkan. We meet the Shulchan (the table for the show- bread), the

#### **CONTINUED ▼**

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### Deep Thoughts

Salt is the only rock that's socially acceptable to eat.



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## DVAR

#### **CONTINUED**

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2 altars, the holy ark itself, the wash basin and of course the menorah. Getting really detailed about the donation process, the Torah describes the raw materials that were donated to be used in the building process:

Gold, silver, copper, blue wool, purple wool, red thread, linen, animal skins, wood, oil for lighting the lamps and spices for the incense, precious stones for the priestly vestments.

Again I ask, which of these do not belong? All the materials are for building. Wood and the various metals were all to be used in crafting the fixtures that made up the mishkan. The threads and animal skins were used in creating the many curtains and tapestries that made up the walls and ceilings. The precious stones and still more of the textiles would be used to manufacture the uniforms that would be used fore the temple service.

It seems to me that lamp oil and incense spices, while important, don't belong in this conversation. They belong with animals for sacrifices. They belong with flour, wine, and birds that would be used to make offerings to God. They are not fixtures, they are consumable. It's the difference between a steering wheel and gasoline. So why are oil and spices included on the donation list for building materials?

Rabbi Moshe Feinsein makes an insightful observation:

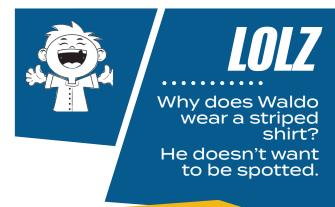
Look at almost any organization, say a synagogue or school. The initial building campaign comes with much excitement and enthusiasm (or as Shnooky Shapiro would say, enthusialism). It's (relatively) easy to get donations, dedications, contributions, endowments, grants and allocations. That's when it's new. Give it enough time, and it gets harder and harder to energize people to continue giving.



"You mean you need money to pay the electric bill? Don't you have a new wing you want to build or something? No, I don't want to pay for you to eat wings. Just to build them."

The Torah, by including lamp oil and spices in the 'building campaign' teaching us a valuable lesson. The maintenance is just as important as the initial building, and it would be wonderful if we could motivate ourselves to approach it with the same energy as for a new, exciting project.

This is not only true of donations. There are many times we get motivated for a big change or important undertaking, and then let the inspiration fizzle. Be the Menorah oil and the incense spices. Consistency with the excitement of novelty.







## PARSHA L PARSHA

a brief summary of the weekly Torah porshon

#### **PARSHAS TERUMAH-**WE BUILD A LEGO HOUSE

- God commands Moses to collect donations from anyone who is motivated to bring.
- The needed materials were gold, silver, copper, blue, purple and red wool, linen and goat skin, dyed ram skins, tachash skin and shitim wood, oil, spices and precious gemstones.
- We are commanded to use these materials to build a sanctuary for God. This would be a moveable sanctuary, that could travel with the Jews in the desert.
- The 'Aron- Ark' was made to house the stone tablets, and was made of wood and gold. It had a solid gold top, with the images of two angels.
- The 'Shulchan- Table' is also wood, covered with gold, and is made to hold the twelve special loaves of bread eaten by the Kohanim.
- The menorah is made of solid gold. No pieces melded together, but actual one continuous piece. It was so complicated that Moses needed to watch a YouTube tutorial on how to interpret the Ikea manual.
- The Mishkan is usually translated as 'Tabernacle' which is silly because nobody has ever heard that word, unless they live in Utah.



- The main sanctuary within the Mishkan, called the 'Ohel Moed,' is made of wooden beams and covered with skins.
- The 'Mizbayach- Altar' is wood covered with copper, and had a long ramp leading up to it.



### Question of the Week

How many body parts are referenced in the construction of the Mishkan?



This week's Parsha describes the construction of the Mishkan. The washbasin was made out of copper mirrors. Some of the skins may have been made from a creature similar to a unicorn. The Menorah was made of pure gold, and God showed Moses a fiery Menorah. There are spices that are burned as smokey incense. The showbread was likely more similar to matzah than actual bread.



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



How much do you love being Jewish?





## STUMP THE RABBL

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.

## BEAGIVER A CLASSIC STUMP REPRINTED FROM 2017

Hi Rabbi,

I just had my Bat Mitzvah and I got a whole bunch of presents:D

Someone told me I have to give away a bunch of it to charity:(

Is it true? Do I have to give charity? Why doesn't G-d just take care of the people? Why does he need me?

Thank you, Claire Harity

Dear C Harity

First of all, Mazel tov!!! A Bat Mitzvah is a great time to join the Jewish tradition of giving. In fact, the very origins of the Jewish people are strongly connected with giving. Abraham and Sara, our great ancestors earned a reputation for kindness. They went so far as to keep openings on all four sides of the tent (which would've been funny if their tent was an octagon) to show people passing by that they were welcome. The Torah has a whole bunch of commandments that instruct us to give to different types of people at different times.

This week's Torah portion is Terumah. In it, the Jews are told to give donations to help build the Mishkan, which was basically the lego version of the Holy Temple, if lego was life sized and included gold, silver and ornate tapestries. People came forth and donated all kinds of valuable things, and didn't get anything in return. Why did G-d ask them to do this? If He wanted a temple, couldn't He have just magically made one appear without taking the people's stuff? Um, yeah. That was a rhetorical question. Of course He could have. So why did we have to contribute? Let's take a look at a quote in the Talmud which might help us understand.

A Roman governor once asked the wise Rabbi Akiva, "If your God loves the poor, why does He not provide for them? For example: Suppose a human king was angry with his slave, imprisoned him and ordered that he was not to be provided with food and drink; and then a



offers him to drink. When the king hears of it, won't he be angry with him?" This is our question. G-d could have taken care of a poor person. If He didn't, that should tell us that person is not deserving! Rabbi Akiva's answer is awesome (not that he needs my approval)!

He replied, "If a king imprisoned his own son, and then a person feeds him and offers him drink. When the king hears of it, will he be upset? Of course not, he'll reward him!" Rabbi Akiva also explained to this governor that the reason G-d does not provide for poor people is in order to give us the privilege of taking care of them. Sure G-d could've built the Mishkan all by Himself. But He wanted to give us the chance and the privilege of doing it for Him.

During one of our first years at Camp Nageela West, we had no stage for our plays, so I bought wood and tools and built a somewhat flimsy, but useable stage. My son must have been about two years old, and he wanted to help me. I gave him a light wooden hammer and he 'helped' me by banging the wood in random spots. Trust me, it wasn't actually helpful, but it was good for him to 'help' Dad. G-d does not need our help to take care of all the problems in the world. World hunger? Easy peasy. Tsunamis and earthquakes? Piece of cake. Poverty? No problem at all... He doesn't just fix all these problems because He wants to give US an opportunity to 'help' Him. To be His partner in fixing the world, in creating a better place to live. When we do this, we become more like Him. As the Talmud says, "More than the rich person does for the poor person, the poor person does for the rich person." That means, the giver just gives up a few dollars, or a few minutes of his time. What he gains is a lifetime of meaning, and an eternity of bliss.

Jewish tradition has always promoted the idea of giving ten percent of our earnings to charity. The type of charity is up to you! Use some of it to support Torah study by giving to a Jewish school or synagogue. Use a portion to help support families who don't have enough to eat. Perhaps some of it should go to paying for medical bills for seriously ill children. There are so many opportunities for G-dliness out there! Take advantage and make yourself even more awesome!

The truth is, in life, there are givers and there are takers. It is far more satisfying and more meaningful to plant yourself in the first category. Be like G-d. Be a giver.

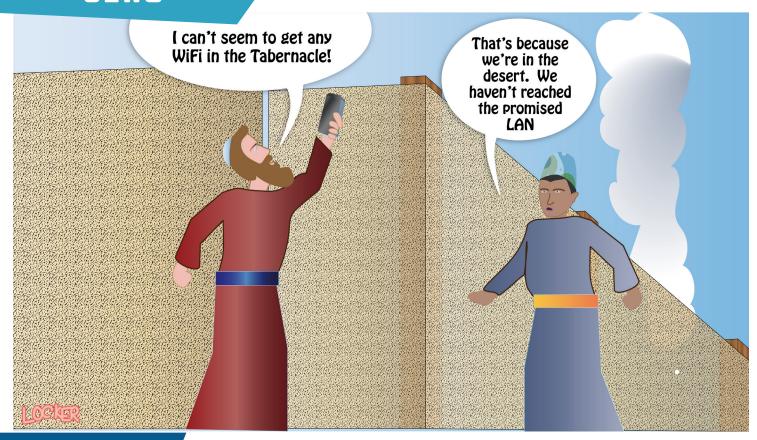
Have a Nageela Shabbos,



**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.

The Rabbi

# PICKLE





#### Mazel Tov!

Heartfelt Mazel tov to Liram Mizrahi upon your Bar Mitzvah!



### Lefty Power

Ehud ben Gerah was the leader of the Jewish people for a period of time around 3,000 years ago.

He's best known for liberating our people from the tyrannical Moabite king Eglon. As a lefty, he was able to sneak a short sword past the TSA agents, hidden on the wrong side. He assassinates Eglon and the Jewish people have peace for decades after that.

He is part of a group of leaders known as 'shoftim' or judges.



**QUESTION ON PAGE 2** 

# Answer of the Week

There are a bunch! Ribs, face, hands, thighs, shoulder and head!

All are referring to different parts of the Mishkan's construction. For example, the base of the Menorah is called the 'thigh.'



#### **Happy Birthdays!**

Eenbal Bromley Jasper Goldlang Asher Leventhal Oreya Gazala Eliyahu Lugasi Shlomo Zachai

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