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KID FRIENDLY TORAH MAGAZINE
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JOYFULLY JEWISH EXPERIENCES

.....
SEASON 9, EPISODE 26
.....

PARSHAS EMOR 5785

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.



Torat Scene-A-Eye

This features an AI generated picture that has numerous hints to the weekly parsha. This week's is about Parshas EMOR

DVAR TORAH

GRITIRON

.....

On Dec 23, 2003, Brett Favre played one of the best games of his life. This hall of fame QB and 3 time MVP came out in a Monday Night Football game against the Oakland Raiders and threw for nearly 400 yards. In the first half alone he reached 311 yards and 4 touchdowns, astonishingly good numbers. But that's not why this day is remembered by Green Bay Packers fans. It was one day after Favre's father passed away from a sudden heart attack. This performance was a powerful display of resilience and grit, of the power of spirit and of clarifying priorities.

Really misplaced, damaging priorities.

Brett Favre is held up as the example of stepping up in the face of emotional turmoil, and there's no doubt it shows that effectively, but at what cost? Judaism teaches that a human's soul is connected to God, we're not merely organisms; mammals running around on Earth playing some sort of game. Because of this, we take the end of life seriously, and when a close relative passes away, we shut everything down to mourn properly. For the first little while until burial, even mitzvos are skipped. No prayer, no tefillin. Certainly no televised football matches.

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Deep Thoughts

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***If vegetarians eat
vegetables, what
do humanitarians
eat?***



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DVAR TORAH

CONTINUED

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TBH, I'm not here to judge Brett Favre. He's not bound by Jewish law, and I don't know what his emotional needs were on that day. But in the generous praise of his actions, I see a lack of appreciation for the seriousness of life and death. Let's imagine he had made a different decision, and gone to spend time with his family, mourning and remembering. What do you think the chances are that there would be a media parade praising his choice to have moral strength to mourn rather than perform for the entertainment industry? Yeah, I don't think so either.

Now let's flip this to a scenario where instead of a football game, we're discussing a really Earth shattering event. Maybe Superman is facing off against some alien invasion and he's the only one who can stop it, and then he finds out his father has passed away (I know, I know, Jor-El died years before; work with me here). In this case, of course he should put aside his intense emotions and even his appropriate honor for the deceased, and get on with the whole saving the world thing.

We see this split very clearly in the Torah. A standard Kohen- one of those guys from the family of Aaron, tasked with doing all the temple service and stuff- does not serve when he's lost a close relative. Even though there are few things more important than the service of a Kohen (dare I suggest, even football?), that all gets put aside for mourning. The Kohen will just have to miss his Monday night Terumas Hadeshen. But the story changes dramatically when we talk about the Kohen Gadol. He's who you might call the chief Kohen, High priest, Sorcerer Supreme- something like that. His service is so important, so vital, that even during the most intense stage of grief, when the burial has not yet taken place, he may not abandon his service. He plays on, and yes, he displays resilience and grit to do so.

Until it's meal time. Even the Kohen Gadol does not eat from the offerings when he's mourning, because his eating doesn't require his complete focus in the same way that his service does.

Priorities can sometimes be a tricky thing to determine. If you're just working with nothing but your own self- driven GPS, it's hard to know that you're making the right choice. For



Brett Favre, playing Football was a good thing. He earned a living for his family and entertained millions. Yet on that day in 2003, it conflicted with a different good, and perhaps one that was greater. Our job is to always try to select the good that is genuinely greater, as guided by the Torah, and by the info we get from the Fortress of Solitude (I'm referring to prayer, of course).

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LOLZ

.....
Most puns are cheesy,
but this is nacho
average joke!

QUICK FIX

The menorah in the Holy Temple contained enough oil to last all night. But how did they deal with the fact that nights are very different lengths at different times of year? In the winter, it might be 16 hours, while the summer months might only have more like 8 hours of darkness! What to do?

Rashi answers that enough oil was always put in for the longest nights, and sometimes there was leftovers.

Tosafos disagrees- that would be wasting oil every night! They maintain that the same amount of oil was always used. What was the solution? They adjusted the thickness of the wick. Thicker wicks burn more oil and they were adjusted so it would last the entire night but no longer.

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Torat Scene-A-Eye Explained

Let's see if we can figure out what AI had in mind this time. I see the Kohen's special garments, and the breastplate with the completely wrong amount of stones. There's a representation of the 7 species Israel is known for, except that one of them appears to be a rock.

The 2 loaves represent the two wheat loaves brought on Shavuot. The shofars are for Rosh Hashana and the candle is for the Menorah. I'm honestly not sure what the Rabbi reading a scroll is supposed to represent. Perhaps the enhanced Torah study of holidays, and perhaps the Kohen teaching Torah. Yeah, let's go with that, after all it's the main theme of the parsha.



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NA-NA-NAGEELA



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