

A MITZVA DILEMMA FOR THE SHABBOS TABLE



THE ACCIDENT IN THE AIRPORT

By Rabbi Yitzi Weiner

Eli, an Israeli businessman, often conducted business in Europe. One day, when he was leaving Oslo, Norway, he got stuck in traffic. He reached the airport very close to his departure time. Eli was visibly Jewish, wearing a yarmulke and tzitzis, and was running through the airport to catch his flight.

While running, Eli accidentally knocked down a vase outside an expensive furniture store. Feeling terrible, Eli entered the store and was met by the store owner who said, "You just broke my vase. I expect you to pay for it." Eli was very apologetic and replied, "I'm so sorry. How much was the vase?" The owner replied, "It costs €100." Eli reached into his pocket, took out his wallet, and gladly paid the amount.



MIND OVER MATTER

The opening verse of our Parsha reads "You shall be holy because I, HaShem your GD, am Holy". How does one become holy?

The Hebrew word 'kadosh' which translates as 'holy' also carries the meaning 'dedicated'. So when a person designates his cow to be an offering it becomes 'kadosh', the cow becomes holy as well as it becomes dedicated to the Temple service. By extension, when a person dedicates his entire life to serving HaShem he becomes a 'kadosh'. The implication of becoming a 'kadosh' is that all one's actions are measured by the question of 'Does this action serve HaShem?'. If enjoying an extra portion of ice cream receives a negative response then that second serving will be rejected. This does not mean one should live a life of abstinence. Quite to the contrary, one must give his body what it needs in order to serve HaShem with a healthy body, both physically and emotionally sound. However, it does mean keeping all the natural tendencies of the body in check. It requires knowing what is permitted and in the spirit of HaShem's service and maintaining control over the body.

Our Sages explain this opening verse that HaShem is telling us that if you make yourselves holy, you have made me holy and if not the reverse is true. The reason for this is because HaShem attached Himself to us and how we behave will be reflected in HaShem.

To appreciate this concept the Malbim offers the following explanation.

The Mishna (Avos d'R Nosson 31:3) teaches that everything HaShem created

As he was about to leave to catch his flight, the store owner blocked him and said, "Hey, you're not done. You made a mess in my store. Now take a broom and please clean it up." Eli responded, "I'm really sorry, I'm in a rush. I have to catch my flight. Could you please have one of your employees clean it up? I've paid for the broken vase." The man insisted, "No, you made a mess. You have to clean it up. Is this how Jewish ethics teaches you to behave?" Eli, still apologetic, said, "I'm really sorry, I'm in a big rush. If you don't have an employee to do it, can you please ask an airport employee?" The store owner threatened, "If you don't clean it up, I'm going to scream, and everyone will see that this is what Jewish people do; they break things and run away without cleaning up."



Eli wasn't sure what to do. On one hand, he didn't want to cause a commotion and a potential chillul Hashem. But on the other hand, the man was being unfair. Eli had paid for the vase. Did he really have an obligation to clean up as well?

Later, Eli brought this question to Rabbi Zilberstein. What was the right thing to do? Should Eli clean it up to avoid a chillul Hashem, or should he proceed to the gate to make sure he doesn't miss his flight?

See Upiryo Matok Bamidbar page 52

in His world he created in Man. Man as a miniature universe. All the energies, forces and qualities that are found in the universe are found in Man. Nefesh HaChaim actually explains that only after the universe was complete did He create Adam so that Man would receive all the parts of the universe within himself.

Malbim takes this parallel one step further. Just as the universe has its laws of nature which govern it but HaShem sits above the universe and controls it how He wishes even if He needs to override those natural laws, so it is with Man and his body. Man's body is governed by its own set of natural laws and they push him in certain directions but Man, with his Godly soul, sits above his body and controls what should be done. Man is able to override those natural laws and do as he wishes.

Malbim explains that HaShem controls the large world in

the manner that Man controls his own miniature world, as follows. If Man, using his Godly intellect controls his body in ways that override his natural tendencies, then HaShem using His Intellect, controls His universe against its natural tendencies. If however, Man allows the natural laws governing his body to direct him and does not take the reins of control, then HaShem follows suit and allows the natural laws of the world to govern the world and HaShem Presence becomes hidden.

Hence, the words of our Sages become alive. If we live our lives with holiness, namely, with dedication to serving HaShem even at the expense of controlling our bodily tendencies, then we make HaShem Holy, namely, then He too, is dedicated to controlling the natural tendencies of the world to serve us. However, if we do not make ourselves holy the reverse is true.

As we wonder what a single individual Jew can do to assist our people in Israel, especially the soldiers who are in harm's way, this opening verse offers an answer.

Have a wonderful Shabbos.

Paysach Diskind



SHABBOS: CELEBRATING HASHEM'S CREATION

FLATWORMS: MANY FROM ONE

During the plague of Frogs, our Sages teach that there was one giant frog, and every time the frog was hit, it would shoot out another frog, until one frog created many multitudes of frogs. That was a miracle, and we don't know of anything similar in our times, but there is one fascinating creature that is a bit reminiscent of that frog. Imagine a creature that when cut in half, it turns into two creatures. If you cut it into four pieces, it turns into four whole creatures. Please meet the amazing flatworm.

Flatworms might not look like much, but they hold the key to one of nature's most jaw-dropping tricks: regeneration. Imagine you're a flatworm, and oh no!—you've just been split into two. No problem! Each part of you can regrow into a completely new flatworm, just like the original. This isn't a magic trick; it's all thanks to their incredible stem cells called neoblasts.

These neoblasts are the keys to the amazing miracle of regeneration. When a flatworm is split, the neoblasts kick into high gear, dividing and multiplying to replace lost parts. They gather around the wound, forming a regeneration blastema—a sort of construction site where new cells start to build all of the flatworm's missing pieces, from muscles to nerves, even new eyes!

As the flatworm's blueprint lays out the plans, these cells don't just grow willy-nilly. They follow the original design, turning into exactly what's needed and where it's needed. This ensures that every regenerated flatworm is a perfect copy of the original, complete with all the necessary organs tucked into a flat, streamlined body.

Not all flatworms are created equal when it comes to their regenerative abilities. Some are better at it than others, depending on their species, the environment, and even what they eat. Factors like temperature and hormones can also affect how well and how fast they regenerate.

And before you ask—no, not all worms can pull off these regenerative feats. Earthworms, for instance, can sprout new tail seg-

ments if they lose some, but they can't regenerate a whole new worm from a tiny piece. That's a trick reserved for our flatworm friends.

Why do we care about a bunch of squiggly worms? Because, scientists believe that they hold secrets that could one day let us unlock regenerative medicine for humans! By studying how flatworms regenerate, scientists hope to learn how we might coax our own cells to repair injured organs or regrow lost limbs.

Every piece of a flatworm's regenerative puzzle is a clue for scientists. Understanding these clues helps us dream up new ways to heal humans and other animals. It's not just about growing new limbs but also about curing diseases by regenerating healthy cells where they're needed most.

Flatworms don't have complex brains, but what they do have is astonishing. They possess a centralized nerve net or a simple brain that lets them process information and learn from their experiences. Experiments have shown that these worms can remember where to find food and avoid danger, displaying a memory retention that's remarkable for their biological simplicity.

Without true eyes, flatworms use photoreceptors to sense light, helping them navigate their environments. These simple structures can detect changes in light intensity, guiding flatworms away from danger or towards potential prey. Additionally, flatworms communicate chemically through pheromones, signaling mates or alerting others to threats.

Although flatworms may sound cute and harmless, the truth is that many flatworms are notorious for their role as parasites. Flatworms are highly resistant to antibiotics and have been connected to the spread of epilepsy and schistosomiasis. Some flatworms can manipulate their host's immune response, ensuring their survival and continuation of their species. The diseases they cause impact millions globally.

Thank you Hashem for your wonderous world!

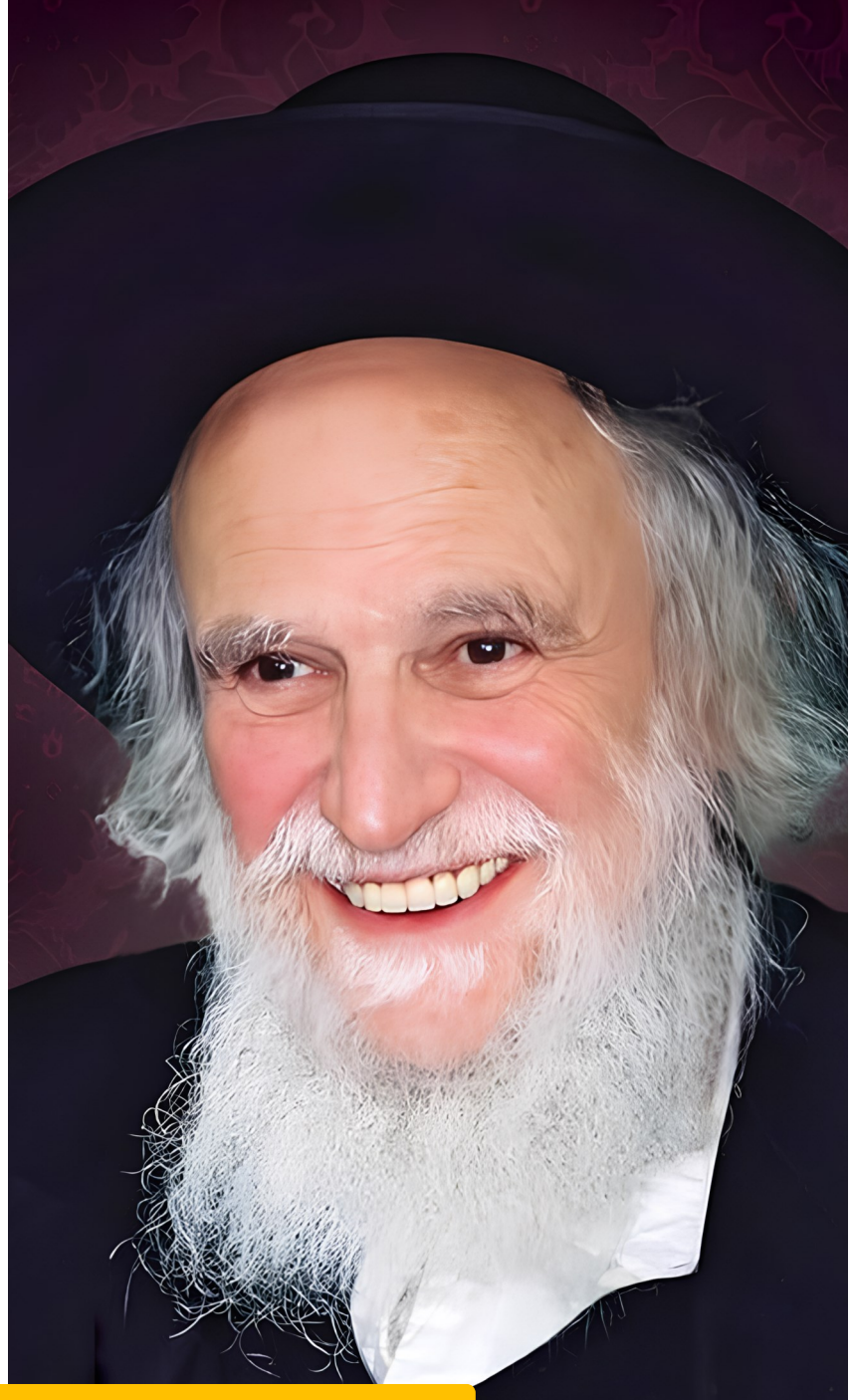
HE TOOK TWO SPOONS IN HAND AND BEGAN DRUMMING

Rav Yair Erlanger told over the following story:

I once attended the wedding of Rav Shmuel Auerbach's talmid who as a youngster had learned to play the drums. As the dancing reached its crescendo, the chassan, remembering his long-ago avocation, shed his jacket and sat down on the bandstand to play the drums, much to his friends' delight. It was certainly unconventional behavior for a ben Torah, and from afar, his new father-in-law looked on with dismay: Was this the chassan he'd chosen for his daughter? Reb Shmuel looked over at the father-in-law and noted his look of consternation. Later, when Reb Shmuel and the father-in-law were seated together at the head table waiting for the main course, he took two spoons in hand and began "absent-mindedly" drumming on the table to the beat of the dinner music. Looking up to find the father-in-law watching him, he excused himself with a sheepish grin, "I like the rhythm..."

Rav Yair, who watched this all unfold concluded: I still remember the great relief visible on the father in law's face.

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THE ANSWER

Regarding last week's question about the agent who made the deal to sell the supermarket on Shabbos, Rav Zilberstein (Upiryo Matok Vayikra Page 373) writes that because the actual sale was not done on Shabbos, it is not considered ma'aseh Shabbos, and the sale can go through. The agent is also entitled to his commission. However, Rav Zilberstein writes that it would be proper for the local beis din to fine the agent to give half of the commission to needy people who normally are shy about accepting tzedakah.

This week's TableTalk is dedicated in honor of the recent marriage of our children
Ahron and Sheindel Kreymer
and as a zechus that **Matvey Kreymer** should be gezunt und shtark

From Lev and Olga Kreymer



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