



A MITZVA DILEMMA FOR THE SHABBOS TABLE



THE TWO GROCERY STORES

By Rabbi Yitzi Weiner

Nachman lived in Eretz Yisrael and owned two successful businesses across the street from each other. One business was a grocery store, and the other was a home goods store. Eventually, Nachman wanted to cut down on his business and move to chutz la'aretz to be with his extended family. He decided to sell his household goods business and keep the grocery store.

After a search, he found a potential renter named Moshe, who wanted to lease the property. Moshe agreed to a five-year lease on very favorable terms.

Moshe initially ran a household supply store but soon realized that it wasn't doing well financially. After consulting some experts, he decided to change the business. Rather than a home goods store, he was going to open a grocery store. He invested in and advertised the grand opening of his grocery store, which was across the street from his landlord's grocery store.



GODLY INTELLIGENCE CANNOT BE ARTIFICIAL

The sixth chapter of Pirkei Avos is dedicated to the principles of Torah study. This chapter teaches us the 48 qualities one must have in order to gain an acquisition of Torah. Many of these qualities include fear of HaShem, humility, patience, feeling the pain of another person and many other qualities you would expect to find in a tzadik. Why should the acquisition of Torah require qualities of personal refinement?

The answer lies in understanding that the Torah is something quite different from a discipline of knowledge such as math, physics and chemistry. The latter are simply a complex set of knowledge which can be mastered by someone who diligently studies the material. If someone is a great tzadik and studies diligently he will not be a greater physicist than if he were a decadent bum.

Torah, however, is different. Torah is the reflection of the knowledge of HaShem. Before creating the world, HaShem first created the Torah and from the Torah He created the world. The Torah reflects the creative power of HaShem. The one who has an acquisition of Torah has acquired the creative power of HaShem. It therefore follows that to acquire Torah one must be Godly.

As Jews, we recognize that Man is not a member of the material world who carries a neshama. Rather Man is a member of the world of intellect who currently finds himself in a material container. The difference is if Man can become Godly. If the former is correct there is nothing Man can do to make himself Godly because he is not a member of the base material world. However, if the former is

MITZVA MEME

“When you change
the way you look at things,
the things you look at change”



Eventually, word reached Nachman, the landlord. Nachman met with Moshe and said, “I can’t believe you. Are you trying to compete with me on my own property?”

Moshe said, “I spoke to a rabbi, and he said it’s not a problem of unfair competition or hasagas gevul. There’s plenty of business to go around, and each of us can have a good, successful livelihood.”

Nachman replied, “OK, it could be that’s permitted, but it was clearly understood when I gave you this lease that I wouldn’t want you to compete with me in my own store.”

Moshe responded, “This was never discussed in the lease. I’m not breaking any terms of the lease, and I don’t see why you could forbid me from selling groceries.”

Nachman insisted, “It’s obvious you can’t compete with me on my own property. It’s clearly not what I intended when I signed this lease with you. If you insist on selling groceries, I need to ask you to leave the property.”

Moshe replied, “But it’s permitted according to halacha to have the grocery store.”

Nachman asked, “But did you tell the Rav that your landlord is your competitor?”

They agreed to bring this question to a Rav.

What do you think? Is the owner allowed to kick the renter out of the lease if he created a competing store, even if it was permitted halachically? Or do we say that as long as he didn’t break the lease, he is allowed to have any store he wants?

What do you think?

correct Man can most certainly become Godly.

Many of the qualities enumerated in the sixth chapter reflect Godliness. The reason one must have those qualities is because without being Godly the Torah cannot become theirs. With diligence one may master the content and the knowledge of Torah but he will not be a master of his Torah. The creative and transformative power of the Torah will not become his.

We may very soon see the day when the greatest professors of the sciences will be computers with artificial intelligence. Those computers will truly have a greater acquisition of knowledge than any man. However, with regards to Torah, no matter how advanced AI becomes it will never acquire Torah because Torah requires Godliness. Knowledge may be artificially produced but only Man can achieve Godliness.

The Talmud teaches us that the study of Torah should be done with fear of G.D and trembling, with awe and sweat because the Torah has to be studied in the same context as we were in when HaShem gave us the Torah. Just as when our people stood at Sinai with the Shechina atop the mountain there was fire and thunder and tremendous sounds and the people were terrified, so too, when we study in the comfort of a Beis Medrash we must relive that experience of fear and trembling. Why?

The reason we must try to relive that experience is because when we study Torah successfully with the hope to acquire it, we must be ready to receive it from HaShem. Becoming Godly can only happen when HaShem Himself grants it. Only if we are in the context of Mount Sinai can we anticipate HaShem delivering Godliness to us.

Through our Shavuus experience may HaShem grant us the strength we need to achieve the moral character necessary to acquire His Torah.

Have a wonderful Yom Tov and Shabbos.

Paysach Diskind



SHABBOS: CELEBRATING HASHEM'S CREATION

HERRING

Last week we learned about flounder and halibut. Today, we're diving deep into the ocean to discover the amazing qualities of another popular Jewish fish, herring.

Herring fish are pelagic creatures, meaning they live in the open sea beyond the low tide mark. You'll primarily find them in the temperate, shallow waters of the North Pacific and North Atlantic Oceans. Herring play a crucial role in the marine food web. They are a major food source for a variety of predators, including bluefin tuna, sharks, seabirds, and marine mammals like dolphins and whales. Additionally, herring are consumed by humans in various forms: fermented, pickled, smoked, and dried. In fact, their rich, oily flesh makes them perfect for these preservation methods.

Herring fish is particularly suitable for pickling due to several key factors. Herring is an oily fish with a high-fat content, which helps it to absorb the pickling brine effectively. This fat content also enhances the flavor and texture of the pickled fish. The natural flavor of herring pairs well with the typical spices and ingredients used in pickling, such as vinegar, sugar, onions, and various spices like cloves and bay leaves. In addition, historically, herring has been abundant in the North Atlantic and Baltic Seas. This availability made it a staple in many coastal communities in Europe and North America, and pickling was needed to preserve it, in an era before refrigeration.

Herring has been part of human culture for thousands of years. Many coastal communities rely on herring not only as a food source but also for their economic value. In the Northeast U.S., the Atlantic herring fishery is economically significant, with strict management plans in place to ensure sustainable harvesting.

One of the most remarkable features of herring is their ability to form enormous schools. In the North Atlantic, schools can reach up to three billion fish, occupying up to 4.8 cubic kilometers! This tight formation helps them evade predators and ensures their survival in the vast ocean. Atlantic herring can live up to 15 years. The size of herring fish varies by species, but adults can range from 8 to 15 inches in length.

Did you know that herring can move up to ten times their body length per second? This incredible speed allows them to escape predators swiftly. Moreover, herring have excellent hearing, which is vital for detecting the approach of danger. Their quick reactions and sharp hearing make them one of the ocean's most alert inhab-

itants.

Herring are easily recognizable by their bright silver bodies with a bluish or greenish back. They have a soft, single, and spineless dorsal fin, a small head, and a protruding lower jaw. Unlike many fish, herring do not have a lateral line, which is a sense organ used to detect movement and vibration in the water. Their sleek, streamlined bodies make them efficient swimmers.

Herring have a varied diet that includes zooplankton and phytoplankton. They are known to eat copepods, arrow worms, krill, mysids, pteropods, annelids, pelagic amphipods, smaller fish, and larvae. This diverse diet supports their rapid growth and ability to form huge schools. Interestingly, they swim with an open mouth to filter-feed on plankton.

Herring reproduce through spawning, with females laying between 20,000 to 40,000 eggs on the sea bed. These eggs have a mucous coating that allows them to stick together and to any sediment or debris. Continuous microturbulence is necessary for the survival of herring eggs, which incubate for 11 to 40 days depending on the temperature. Atlantic herring, for instance, can spawn every month of the year, depending on their location. Because the schools of herring can be so massive, schools of herring can produce dense carpets of eggs on the ocean floor.

Herring are not only important in the wild but also as a staple in various cuisines around the world. Fermented herring, such as Swedish surströmming, is a traditional food in Sweden. In the Philippines, dried herring is a common breakfast item. Pickled herring is popular in German, Nordic, and Baltic cuisines, while kippered or smoked herring, often known as red herring, is a favorite in the British Isles.

Herring are packed with nutritional benefits. They are rich in omega-3 fatty acids and vitamin D, which are essential for a healthy diet. These nutrients help support heart health, brain function, and overall well-being. The by-products of herring, such as fish oil and fishmeal, are also valuable in various industries.

Final fun fact: Did you know that sardines are just young herring? Anchovies are also in the same family.

Thank you Hashem for your wondrous world!

SEE THE GOOD OF YERUSHALAYIM

Rav Mordechai Schwab would always try to see things positively. It is possible that by nature he was not naturally positive. However, he certainly made seeing things positively a part of his avodah. He would try to point out the positive aspect of a situation. When talking about Eretz Yisrael or Yerushalayim he would quote the verse (Tehillim 128:5) stating "U're'eh b'tuv Yerushalayim", see the good of Yerushalayim.

Once, on a visit to Yerushalayim, he met an acquaintance who was complaining that he just came back from Kever Rochel and was very upset to see a woman visiting the holy site with her dog. Rav Mordechai appeased him by explaining that he is not viewing the situation correctly. A better approach is to think that Kever Rochel is so inspiring that even a woman who doesn't realize the inappropriateness of visiting such a holy site with her dog goes there for inspiration.

From Rav Mordechai Schwab; A Tzadik In Monsey, By Yehoshua Schwab, Published By Adir Press,



THE ANSWER

Regarding last week's question about the matching dresses, Rav Zilberstein (Upiryo Matok Deva-rim Page 128) wrote that the mother does have the right to ask that all the dresses be replaced because she bought them as a set and the set was defective.

This week's TableTalk is dedicated "with gratitude to my wife **Janice** upon our 55th wedding anniversary, to **the Eibershter** that we're still all there, and to our audiologist **Dr. Miriam Singal** that we're still all hear."

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