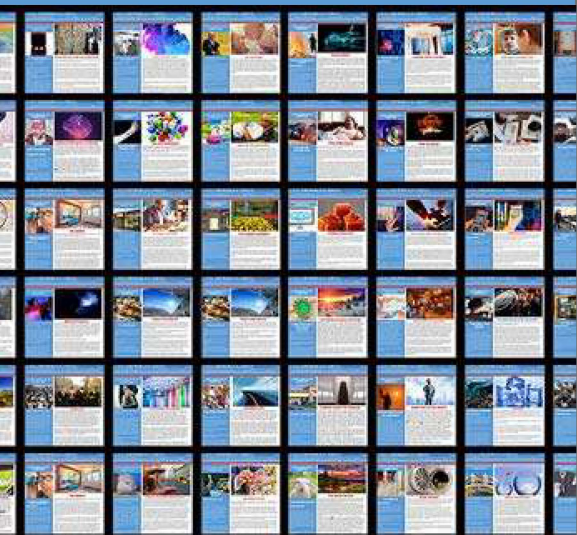


A MITZVA DILEMMA FOR THE SHABBOS TABLE



A TABLE TALK DILEMMA

By Rabbi Paysach Diskind

Purim day is a day on which we give much tzedaka which brings us to the following true story.

Achim, the organization which Baltimore is fortunate to have as their arm to reach out to the Russian speaking Jewish population, will be holding their annual campaign a week and a half after Purim.

TableTalk is a production of Achim to benefit the general community by bringing interesting conversations and even some pleasant arguments to the Shabbos table. Since TableTalk has become popular and enjoyed by hun-



REPLACING BAD WITH GOOD, FOR GOOD!

There is a running theme throughout the Megillah; everything is turned around from very bad to very good. The cursed Haman is replaced by the blessed Mordechai. The wicked Vashti is replaced by the blessed Esther. When we think of being saved from a tragedy through a miracle we thank HaShem for neutralizing the bad situation and resolving it without any consequences. The notion that the evil itself turns to good is noteworthy. It is also noteworthy how much significance our Sages ascribe to Purim. They teach us that once the Geula will come, the other holidays will become less significant but Purim will lose none of her significance. What is it about Purim that stands out?

The destiny of this world is to become the resting place for HaShem's Presence. In order for that to happen all of mankind will recognize the Yichud of HaShem, the Oneness of HaShem or the Unity of HaShem. In order to accomplish this it is necessary for a series of events to happen which will demonstrate HaShem's absolute Sovereignty.

To appreciate the Unity of HaShem it is critical to be able to discern various sources of energy and after these series of events occur it becomes clear that HaShem is the source of all those varied energies. In this way, our appreciation of how His Power is absolute - higher than all the other powers we discerned before. If, however, there was only one source of energy to begin with, our sense of appreciation of HaShem's Unity would be diminished. Only after we see multiple energies and all are seemingly significant, and then HaShem rises above them, His Unity is magnified many

dreds of families, Achim thought it would be good idea to use it as their medium of reaching the community.

This brings us to our question. Achim would like to attach an envelope to each and every TableTalk to encourage the readers of TableTalk to contribute to Achim. Can they do this without encountering any halachic problems?

On one hand, perhaps an envelope is muktzah since it is designated for mail and in this case to send money. In which case, it should not be attached to the TableTalk since TT is read primarily on Shabbos.

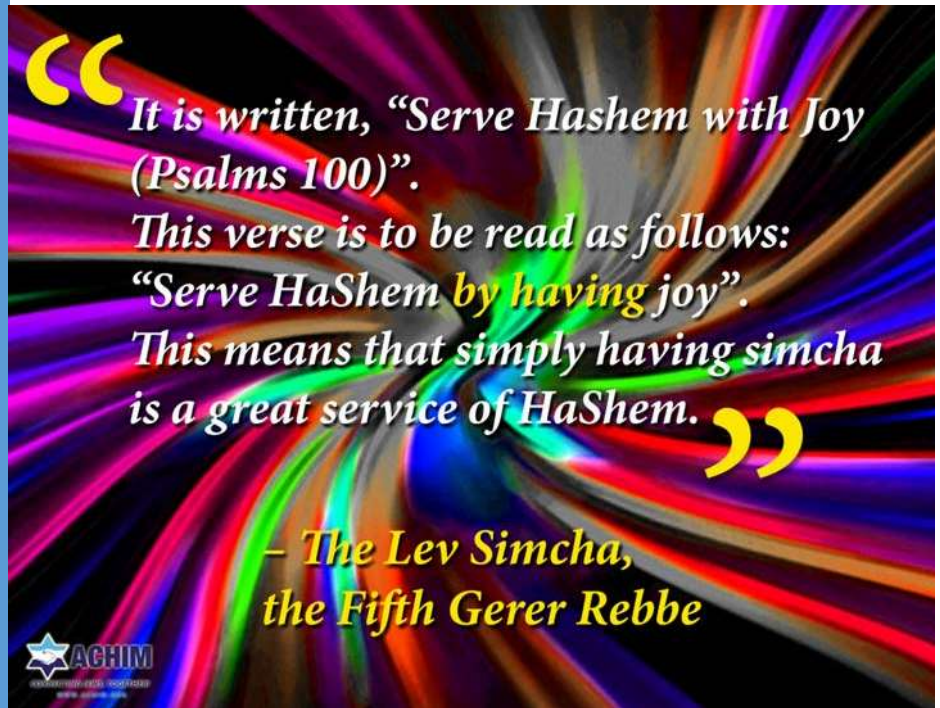
However, on the other hand, since it is delivered to the shuls on Wednesday, people could detach it before Shabbos.

Another consideration is that perhaps an envelope is not muktzah at all as it could be used to hold papers and divrei Torah in which case there should be no problem at all?

What do you think?

You can speak to me if you have an answer to this dilemma. :-)

If you have a true mitzvah dilemma that you would like us to share, please email it to rabiweiner@gmail.com



times over.

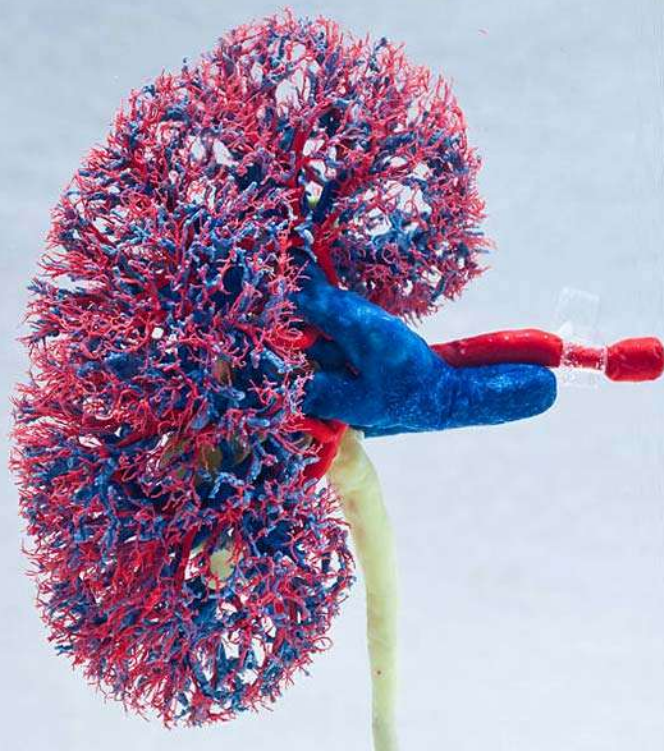
In order to demonstrate His Unity, the series of events must include a revolution against HaShem and He decimates the uprising thereby demonstrating His superiority. However, there are two methods to vanquish the revolutionaries. One method is to simply destroy them with brute strength. The second method involves more cunning, but is much more effective. Allow the revolutionaries a successful revolution and grant them free reign to do as they wish and only after they have become drunk with victory, then clobber them to pieces. The second method carries in it a liability. Once the revolutionaries have the upper hand who says the stronger one will be able to vanquish them. However, if the superior one is HaShem and everything is within His control then certainly the second method demonstrates far greater control.

When we left Egypt, HaShem simply clobbered Pharaoh and the Egyptians. It was with the greatest plagues that Mankind has ever seen but it was limited to the first method. When HaShem brings the world to its destiny, it will be through the second method. He will allow the revolutionaries to taste the sweetness of success and they will drink their cup of victory until they become intoxicated. At that point, HaShem will use their victory to overthrow them. The world will witness how what seemed to be an apparent revolution against HaShem was actually coordinated by HaShem Himself in order to throw them over.

The significance of Purim lies specifically in the reversal of Haman's successes into the trap in which Haman met his demise. This is the holiday that will be played out in our final redemption. Every evil itself will be turned to good. Haman is replaced by Mordechai and Vashti is replaced by Esther. It will be clear that there really is no evil at all. It is all a scheme by which we will recognize the absolute Unity of HaShem.

Have a freilichin PURIM and a very wonderful Shabbos!!

Paysach Diskind



SHABBOS: CELEBRATING HASHEM'S CREATION

THE ADVISORS

How many tubules (tiny tubes) are in the fist-sized kidneys?

Amazingly, each kidney has 100,000,000 tubules! One hundred million!

Each tubule has its own filter. So that results in two hundred million parts! But that is not the end. Each filter has two molecules: one instructs its filter to slow down and the other instructs its filter to hurry up. And so, each filter seems to have a “gas pedal” molecule as well as a “brake pad” molecule!

But it is really even more complex than merely slowing down or rushing. Anyone who has problems with kidneys is aware that he must have a blood test at least once a month in order to know what the amounts of certain parts of blood are in his bloodstream. For instance, the electrolytes (potassium, phosphorus, sodium, calcium, magnesium, etc.) are very important and if they are out of sync, a kidney patient must eat foods or refrain from eating foods that help bring said electrolytes in sync.

Let us look at potassium. The bloodstream needs between 3.5 and 5.1 micrograms of potassium. If a patient doesn't have enough potassium, his muscles will have strange tremors non-stop until enough potassium is introduced into the bloodstream. On the other hand, if a patient isn't careful and potassium is built up to high levels in the bloodstream, it will cause incredibly painful muscle cramps at 6 micrograms.

If the potassium reaches 8 micrograms it can cause the heart muscle to fail and results in death, **סו ושלום!**

What “saves” the normal healthy person from either tremors or cramps?

Amazingly, the kidney has a vein which goes through each kidney and that kidney vein tests our blood every second of every day!

The vein then “informs” each of the stop/start molecules for each of the electrolytes! That is, at one minute, after you may have eaten two bananas, your kidney vein will alert the 100 million “gas pedal” molecules to use the filters to quickly remove any excess potassium from your bloodstream. But on another day, when you haven't eaten enough bananas, your kidney vein will alert the 100 million “brake pad” molecules to keep every drop of potassium in your bloodstream!

It is no wonder that our Sages say that the kidneys are the source of eitzah, advice. They have the insight of what is good and needed and what is not needed. Sometimes something is good and another time the same thing is bad.

We thank Rabbi Yisroel Meir Vogel for contributing this article. May HaShem bless him with much good health and nachas for many years.

JOIN ME FOR A DRINK. THIS WILL HELP YOU

A poverty-stricken villager once came to the nearby town of Koznitz on Purim in order to hear the Megillah. The Scroll was read by Reb Yisrael, the celebrated Maggid of Koznitz, and as the simple fellow listened to the story he beamed with joy. When the service was over the Maggid approached him with a smile and said, "Aren't you from the village over there, that is part of my region? So why didn't you bring me Mishloach Manos?" The poor fellow did not know what to answer. At home there was not even enough bread for his half dozen children, so where was he to find the wherewithal for buying Mishloach Manos for the Maggid? Reb Yisrael continued, "Look, today is Purim! Come along with me and have a little sip of something!" "This will help you".

With the help of the little sip and the refreshments that he was given in the home of the Maggid, together with the joy he felt at being privileged to be there in the company of the Maggid's disciples, he became daring of spirit. He went from there straight to the house of a wealthy wine merchant, where he knocked on the door and told the householder, "A happy Purim to you, sir! Would you be so good as to give me a bottle of choice wine on credit? Without a doubt I will pay you, but just in case I don't - isn't it Purim today?" The merchant obliged; so off strode our villager to a nearby shop, where he said: "A very happy Purim, my friend! Two or three shiny apples, if you don't mind. It goes without saying that I will pay. But if I don't, - why, it's Purim today!" Off he went, buoyant and carefree, to the Maggid. "Rebbe, I've brought you Mishloach Manos!" he said, with the confidence of a man who knows the taste of success. "Well done," said the Maggid. "And remember to bring Mishloach Manos every Purim!"

On his way out, cold reality hit him hard. "My poor family are famished, and haven't the slightest inkling of today's Purim joy," he said to himself. "I'll have to do something about it!" So he headed straight for the vendor of vodka, where he again used his tried and tested formula, and then used it once more for a hot loaf of bread and yet again for a few fat herrings. With these luxuries under his arm he ran all the way home, kicked the door open, and announced as if he were the town crier: "It's Purim today! Purim today!" His wife and children were hardly used to seeing him in such spirits. Perhaps his grinding worries had put him out of his mind, G.d forbid? But he put their minds at ease by laying out the royal spread on their rickety table, and saying: "Eat, drink, and be merry, because it's Purim today!" The ragged family ate their fill, and then, as if animated by a breath of life, they sprang up from their places and danced around their cottage kitchen, singing lustily: "Today is Purim! It's Purim today!"

But a thud on the door soured their idyll. "Don't open!" whispered the villager to his wife. "It's most probably one of those gentile peasants who has come to disturb our Purim joy." The gentile knocked repeatedly. "Don't worry," said the villager's wife. "I think it's only old Ivan who always comes around wanting to sell potatoes." Opening the door, she was shocked to see the state old Ivan was in, beaten and bruised, and bleeding on all sides. Feeling sorry for him, they gently washed and dressed his wounds, and raised his spirits by letting him share their ration of bread and vodka. "You saved my life," he muttered. "There was only a hairsbreadth between me and death." He went on to tell them how his only son had beaten him up and thrown him out of his own house. Had they not come to his help, he would surely have died of his wounds out there in the snow. "Now listen here," he said after he had rested a while. "Since my only son has proved to be a cruel murderer, and you poor folk had pity on me, come along with me to the forest and I will show you a big treasure. It's the money I saved, and was going to give my son before I die. Now it's yours - a gift from me!" The villager followed the limping gentile into the forest, where he was shown a certain tree under which, he said, the money was hidden. A few days later the gentile died as a result of his wounds. The villager later went out to the spot he was shown, dug near the tree - and was suddenly a rich man.

And every Purim after that he would call on the Maggid, and give him Mishloach Manos with an open hand and a glad heart.



THE ANSWER

The answer to the question about the tzedakah collector will be shared next week. Have a joyous Purim!

Consider sponsoring an issue of TableTalk. Every week 410 hard copies and more than 1300 digital copies are enjoyed by hundreds of families and loads of really fun kids.

To do so, contact paysach@achim.org.

To receive a digital copy each week, subscribe at ACHIM.ORG

Ben Jessurun Agency



bjessurun@allstate.com • 410-443-0771

Shabbos, Table Talk & Goldberg's Bagels.

מעין עולם הבא



1500 Reisterstown Rd. | Baltimore | 410-415-7001 | www.goldbergsbagels.com

the dippery

AVAILABLE AT 7 MILE MARKET