

## A MITZVA DILEMMA FOR THE SHABBOS TABLE



## THE OFFICE SNACK STATION

By Rabbi Yitzi Weiner

This week is Pesach. As we know, on Pesach there is a mitzvah to destroy chametz. One way we can fulfill this mitzvah is by selling our chometz to a non Jewish person which leads us to the following interesting story.

Yaakov lived in Eretz Yisrael. One year he and his family went to be with family in the United States for Pesach. Before Pesach, Yaakov made sure to sell all the chometz in his house, through his Rav.

Erev Pesach, a few hours before the final time to sell chometz, Yaakov remembered that he had a large stash of chometz in his office. He had totally forgotten about it and had not sold it.



## SWEETER THAN REVENGE

On Pesach we will celebrate our Exodus from Egypt for an entire week. The first and last days of the holiday carry special significance. The first day is the day that we actually left Egypt. The last day celebrates our crossing the Red Sea and the destruction of the entire Egyptian armed forces.

On every day of Pesach we recite Hallel. When we recite Hallel it must be said with great joy as it is our expression of appreciation to HaShem for the wondrous salvation He performed for us. There is however a distinction between the Hallel of the first days of Pesach and the rest of the days. On the first days of Pesach we recite Hallel in its entirety whereas on the last days of Pesach we omit two paragraphs. The reason for this distinction is because on the first days we celebrate the actual exodus and the great miracles that occurred on our behalf. The balance of holiday does not have anything distinct about them and hence they do not warrant the greater expression of joy.

The problem is that the last day of Pesach celebrates the destruction of the Egyptian military and the total decimation of Egyptian power. Is that not a basis for a greater level of rejoicement?

In response to this question, the Talmud relates what transpired on that seventh day of Pesach when the Egyptians were destroyed. The angels in Heaven wanted to sing praises to HaShem but HaShem turned to them saying "My creatures are being destroyed and you offer words of joy?!" Even though our people did recite the Shiras Hayam, the Song of the Sea, that was because they were just saved from a miserable

He was about to pick up the phone to ask a local Rav if he could sell that chometz when his wife reminded him of the fact that in Eretz Yisrael, Pesach had already begun.

“Yaakov, can we sell the chometz that’s in the office?”, she asked. “In Eretz Yisrael it’s already Pesach so the chometz is already Assur Behana’a, you can’t benefit from it. How can we sell that chometz? Is it permissible to sell it now, when we are no longer allowed to benefit from it?”

“Good point”, Yaakov told his wife, “but perhaps it doesn’t go by where the chometz is, but rather where we are. Perhaps even though the chometz is in Eretz Yisrael, nevertheless, we the owners are in the US, it can still be sold.”

The question was eventually brought to Rav Zilberstein. What do you think?

Can the chometz be sold even though it is already Pesach in Eretz Yisrael?

See Chashukei Chemed Psachim Page 244



end.

The angels, however, who were not saved should not be reciting praises to HaShem upon the destruction of His creatures. Even when HaShem brings salvation to His beloved people there is still an element of sadness before HaShem. This is the reason that Hallel on the last days of Pesach remains shortened.

How are we to understand this? Are we not entitled to enjoy the sweetness of revenge against an enemy who for 100 hundred years enslaved us?

Perhaps the greatest theme in our beautiful holiday is that we became the servants of HaShem through this exodus. To put this in context; when Pharaoh released us from his servitude HaShem assumed ownership of us. We never really became freed people, rather we went from being servants to Pharaoh to be-

coming servants of HaShem. Freedom is defined by not being enslaved to another mortal being or to a material object. Being enslaved to the Source of all Existence is freedom.

The sweetness of revenge is the restoration of one’s self worth. A person’s self worth is diminished when he is subjected to another person. With revenge that self worth is restored, hence it is very sweet.

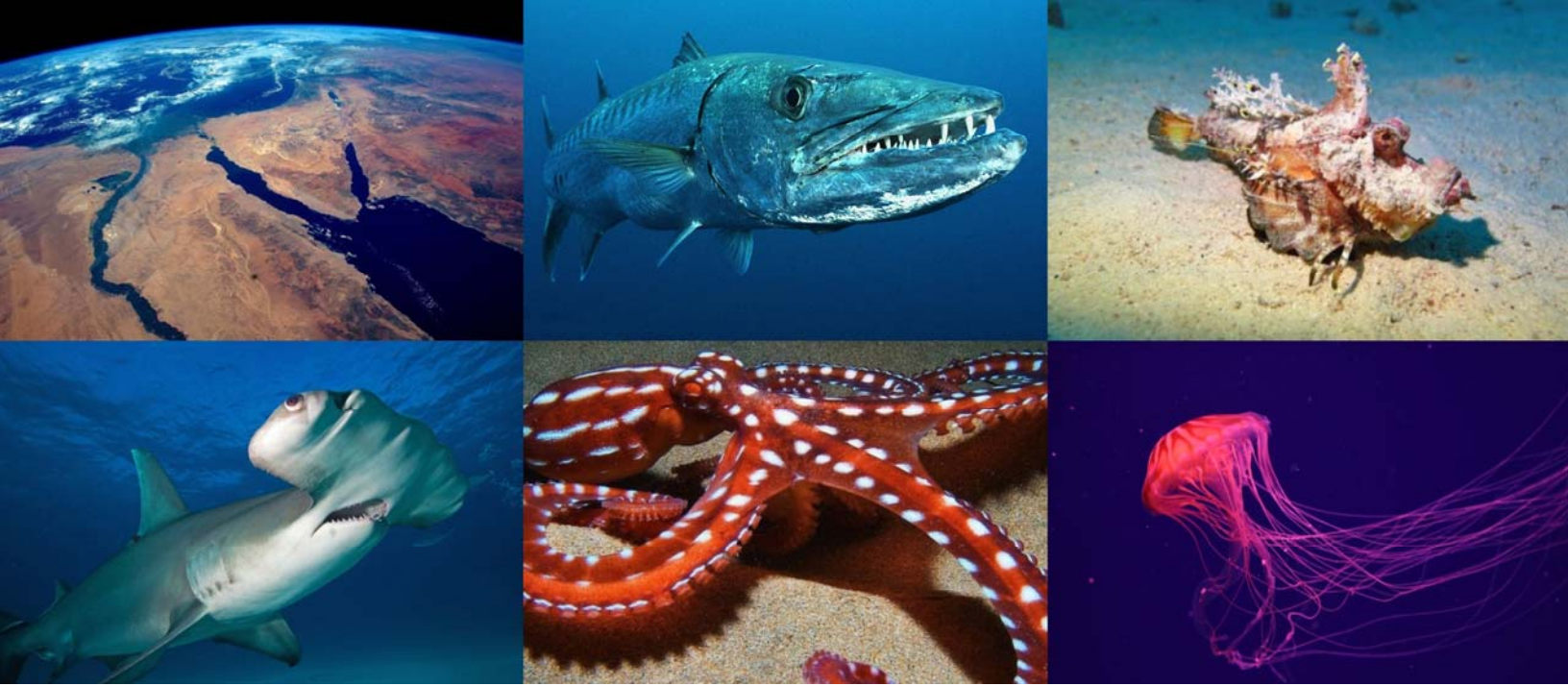
On the last days of Pesach, when the Jew appreciates that he has been chosen by the Creator of the Universe to serve Him, there is nothing that parallels such value. The self worth of this Jew has no parallel. Everything else is insignificant.

On this holiday of Pesach when we were elevated to becoming servants of HaShem, there is nothing sweeter than that!

Have a safe and wonderfully sweet Pesach.

**Paysach Diskind**





PICTURED CLOCKWISE FROM THE TOP LEFT: THE NILE RIVER, THE GULF OF SUEZ, THE GULF OF AQABA, AND THE RED SEA AS SEEN FROM SPACE, GREAT BARRACUDA, RED SEA WALKMAN, HAMMERHEAD SHARK, WHITE SPOTTED OCTOPUS, AND BIOLUMINESCENT JELLYFISH

### SHABBOS: CELEBRATING HASHEM'S CREATION

#### WHAT WE MIGHT HAVE SEEN AS WE WALKED THROUGH THE SEA

The Meam Loez describes many of the miracles that happened when the Yam Suf split. One of them was the fact that the water turned into a transparent wall. The Bnei Yisrael were actually able to see into the ocean as they walked through.

The Red Sea has two protrusions above it. One is the Gulf of Suez, and the other is the Gulf of Aqaba. Many authorities are of the opinion that the part of the Red Sea that the Bnei Yisrael walked through was the Gulf of Aqaba.

Let's explore some of the fascinating sea creatures that inhabit the Gulf of Aqaba and the Red Sea. We don't know, but it is possible that these are creatures that the Bnei Yisrael might have seen as they walked through the sea.

**The Great Barracuda.** This fish is usually about three feet in length and weighs 19 lbs. Exceptionally large specimens can reach almost five feet and weigh over 51 lbs. It is a voracious predator and hunts by ambush. It relies on surprise and short bursts of speed up to 27 mph to overrun prey. Females can release about 5,000 to 30,000 eggs. Barracuda attacks on humans are rare, although bites can result in lacerations and the loss of some tissue.

**The Red Sea Walkman.** This fascinating but poisonous fish has a body color that is red or sandy yellow with light blotches, and very similar to that of the surrounding sandy or coral seabed in which it is found. The fish has venomous spines to ward off enemies. It is nocturnal and typically lies partially buried on the sea floor or on a coral head during the day, covering itself with sand and other debris to further camouflage itself. It has no known natural predators.

**The Hammerhead Shark.** As its name suggests, this interesting shark has a head the shape of a hammer. The positioning of the eyes, mounted on the sides of the shark's hammer head, allows 360° of vision in the vertical plane. This means that the animals can see above and below them at all times. Mating occurs only once a year for hammerhead sharks, and usually occurs with the male shark biting the female shark violently until she agrees to mate with him. Once the baby sharks are born, they are not cared for by the parents in any way. Usually, a litter consists of 12 to 15 pups. These baby sharks huddle together and swim toward warmer water until they are

old enough and large enough to survive on their own. Hammerhead sharks are known to eat a large range of prey such as fish, other sharks, squid, octopus, and crustaceans. Stingrays are a particular favorite. The stingray has a poisonous long barb. How do they eat stingrays? Their unique heads are used as a weapon when hunting down prey. The hammerhead shark uses its head to smash and pin down stingrays and eats the ray when the ray is weak and in shock.

**White Spotted Octopus.** This octopus grows to a total length of about 5 feet. The first pair of arms are about three feet long, and are much longer than the remaining three pairs. The arms are all connected by a shallow web. This octopus is red, with white blotches on its body, and paired white spots on its arms. When it is disturbed, its colour becomes more intense, which make it appear threatening to a potential predator. Its favored habitat is sand, rubble or seagrass meadows, and it sometimes buries itself under the sand. Its method of feeding is to move from one clump of coral to another. The octopus then wraps its mantle around a coral head and probes with its arms among the branches, searching for the small fish and invertebrates that seek protection there. It has been found that other predatory fish stay close to the octopus when it is feeding, pouncing on the small organisms that are flushed from the coral head by the octopus.

**Bioluminescent Jellyfish.** Its scientific name is *Pelagia noctiluca*. Both its tentacles and the bell are covered in stinging cells. Even recently dead, stranded individuals can sting. The sting causes pain that typically lasts 1–2 weeks, local redness, swelling and a rash. *P. noctiluca* are bioluminescent. This means they have an ability to produce a beautiful light that is visible to humans during the night. Light is emitted in the form of flashes when the medusa is stimulated by turbulence created by waves or by a ship's motion. This flashing is only of relatively short duration and gradually fades. The swimming ability of *P. noctiluca* is limited and as a result large swarms, also known as blooms of this species are occasionally carried by the wind or current to inshore areas, sometimes ending up stranded on beaches. On occasion, a swarm may cover tens of square kilometers and reach densities of more than 500 individuals in one cubic meter.

Just imagine, walking through the Yam Suf, seeing these creatures!

## THE DUMMY TANKS OF OKINAWA

Rav Yisrael Belsky Zt"l, the Rosh Yeshiva of Torah Ve-da'as offered the following parable as a source of chizuk for dealing with life's challenges:

During World War II, as the Allies planned their attack on the Japanese mainland, they encountered a problem. The Japanese had taken up positions on many Pacific islands that served as a barrier to any possible invasion. One island in particular, Okinawa, seemed very heavily fortified. Japan could not be invaded unless that island was first conquered. But to conquer it, it would be necessary for volunteers to come forward for what seemed a suicide mission. A group volunteered and made their way to the island for what seemed their certain death. However, upon reaching the island they discovered that many of the tanks, planes and guns that they had seen from afar were in fact dummy tanks, made of wood, straw, or carved lava rock, that were exact replicas of heavy weaponry.

Said Rav Belsky: When one faces difficult times and the challenges seem insurmountable, he should first determine the correct approach to the problem and place his full trust in HaShem. Then, he may be pleasantly surprised to discover that the challenges were not insurmountable, and in fact, can be dealt with and overcome.

From Rav Belsky, By Rabbi Shimon Finkelman, Published By Artscroll Mesorah. Reprinted with permission from the copyright hold-



### THE ANSWERS

Regarding the question of whether the Jewish nurse can hand out chametz sandwiches on Pesach, Rav Zilberstein answered that it seems that it is not permitted.

Every week we deliver 450 copies of TableTalk to the shuls of our community. If you find there are none at your shul please contact Paysach Diskind at 443.286.9338 or [paysach@achim.org](mailto:paysach@achim.org) and we will increase your shul's amount.

Every Shabbos table is entitled to TableTalk!

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](http://www.goldbergsbagels.com)



  
TOTAL CUSTOMER DEDICATION