

NAGEELA SHABBOS

Have-a

Acharei Mos 5781
April 23rd, 2021

SEASON 5 EPISODE 26

a kid friendly publication of Nageela West Coast Joyfully Jewish Experiences



Time Traveling Temple Service

by Rabbi Dani Locker

My wall clock has stopped working. I still haven't fixed it, because it never seems to be the right time. In all seriousness, time is a big part of everything we do. In Jewish practice, we're always thinking about time. What TIME is Shabbat candle lighting (we even have a section on this very page dedicated to candle lighting time)? How much TIME did it take to bake those Matzos? Hopefully under 18 minutes! What TIME does the fast end? How MANY MINUTES did the Rabbi go overtime on his speech? Yet, once in a while, it's good not to be tied down to time. Let me explain what I mean.

This week's Torah portion begins by telling Aaron, the very first Kohein Gadol (high priest, KG for short) that he may not go 'at

any time' into the holiest section of the Temple. It was too holy even for the holiest Jew. The typical explanation is that he may not enter any OTHER time, except on the holiest day, Yom Kippur. Yet the wording of 'at any time' is a little hard to read.

Based on an interesting reading by Kli Yakar, here's another interpretation. The Jewish people may not be worthy of forgiveness, and therefore, as our representative, the Kohein may not go AT ANY TIME, period. The only way he may enter is if we bypass time. On Yom Kippur, we don't eat or drink, we don't really do ANYTHING that requires

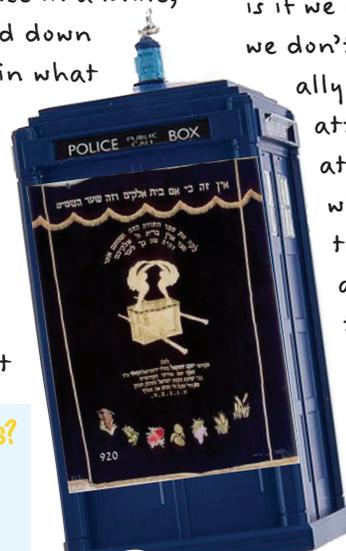
attention to time. In fact, we attempt to resemble angels who are beyond our concept of time. By kind of forgetting about time, the KG may enter the HOH (Holy of Holies).

The



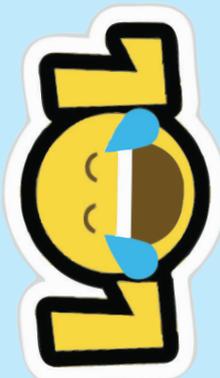
Candle lighting

Honolulu	6:35
Scottsdale	6:46
Henderson	7:03
Las Vegas	7:04
San Diego	7:06
Irvine	7:10
Los Angeles	7:13
Reno	7:27
Oakland	7:34
Park City	7:56



Didja know you can sponsor an episode of Nageela Shabbos? Contact us for details! You just might change your life!

continued on next page



Why did the golfer wear two pairs of pants?

In case he got a hole in one.

OUCH! GRRRRROAAN!
Have a better joke and want a shoutout in Nageela Shabbos? Just email it to dlocker@nageelawest.org

truth is, the whole concept of repentance and forgiveness requires time to be set aside. Forgiveness is time travel. The way God does forgiveness, anyway. He doesn't just forego punishment; if done right, God will actually erase history, and make it as if we didn't do anything wrong to begin with (shall we have the debate about which version of time travel this works with?)!

This may be what the Torsah means. The KG may not enter the HOH at any TIME. It is only when we forget about time that we become worthy, and he may enter the inner sanctum.



IF YOU ENJOY WASTING TIME, IS IT EVEN POSSIBLE TO WASTE TIME?

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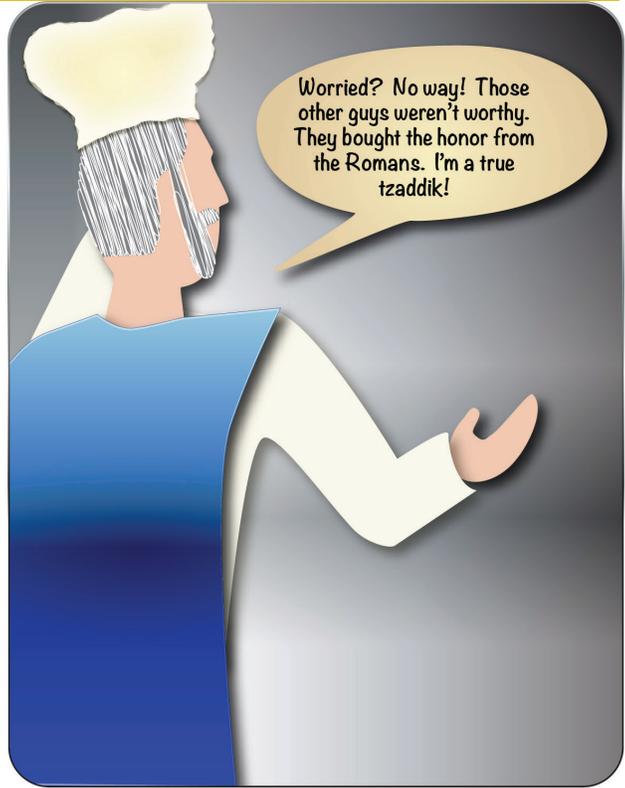
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Stump the Rabbi is a forum where kids can ask ANY Jewish question.

Have a question? Please send it in to stump@nageelawest.org

Questions here are real. Names and some wording have been changed.

Note: We call this 'Stump The Rabbi' for fun, but that's not really the point. The goal is to learn something important in an interesting way.



#168 Would You Like Some TEAS?

Hi Rabbi,

You can't fool me! A few weeks ago you said that only members of the animal kingdom can possibly be unkosher. Then, you sneakily slipped in a line that well, maybe there are some other things... spill please. Can you tell me any other rules of what may or may not be eaten?

Thanks,

Helene Unger

*Continued from last week

If I'm not Kosher, I'm gonna wine!



Dear H. Unger,

You have sharp ears. Or eyes. Or nails. Something is sharp alright. It seems odd that all- natural grape juice would be unkosher, or a box of pasta with a Kosher symbol on it might be a problem (what, really? Read on)! The truth is Kosher is much more complex than simply not eating bacon, and keeping separate dishes for meat and milk. Actually, the Torah doesn't use the word 'Kosher' at all when describing the rules for what is eaten. Sometimes the words used are 'animals which may be eaten' and sometimes the Torah uses the words 'pure' or 'not pure.'

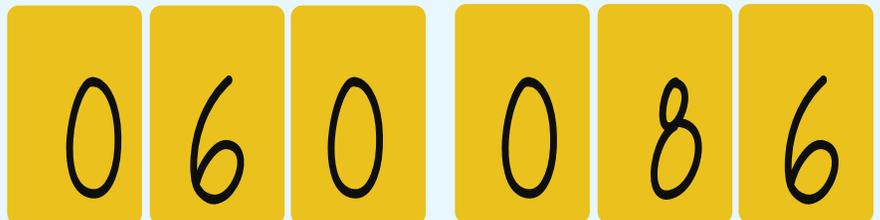
There are a whole bunch of different systems which all combine together to make what we usually call Kosher food, but really it's "Torah Eating Approval System." TEAS for short. At this point, I'll bring in a few more details of TEAS that you may or may not have heard of.

1. Orlah- When trees are planted, their fruits should not be eaten for the first three years. Most trees don't give fruit for a couple of years at least, so it's usually only a problem if the tree was uprooted and replanted.

2. Terumah and Maaser- The bad news, this one is complicated. The good news, it only applies to stuff grown in Israel, so if you're reading this in the US, you have very little to worry about. You see, every fruit, vegetable and grain grown in the land of Israel had certain Torah taxes. These taxes weren't collected by the government. The IRS (Individual Respect System) was used, meaning if you respected a particular person, you would give your gift directly (provided they fit into the categories I'm about to list). These collections went to the Kohanim and Leviim, who were basically the spiritual and rabbinic leadership of the people (it was basically a publicly funded salary, but it was given by the individual) and also to poor people.

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Stump the Rabbi

continued

It was (and still is) forbidden to eat your food until your terumah and maaser were separated for their intended recipients. Believe it or not, if you buy Israeli oranges or tomatoes, completely raw, they are likely 'unkosher'. You can contact your local Rabbi for info on how to fix that problem if you have it. Other than the rare tomato or Jaffa orange (which you aint gonna find in Cali), there aren't many other Israeli products available in the US. Last I check-ed, Bamba doesn't grow from the ground.

3. Bishul Yisrael- Take perfectly Kosher food items, mix them only with other kosher food items which are allowed to be mixed, use only a Kosher pot, and it's still unkosher. HOW? There's a Talmudic decree that Jews may not eat food (certain foods, anyway) cooked completely by someone who isn't Jewish. You might be thinking about your favorite restaurant's chef who might not be a Jew... have no fear! If a Jew turns on the fire or takes any part in the cooking process, it's all good. Any food with a reliable Kosher certification has taken care of this problem, and restaurants with a mashgiach have instituted this rule as well.

4. Post- Passover Chametz- If a Jew owned bread or other chametz items during Passover, those items may not be eaten. That means, even if your box of Cheerios or Rigatone has a reliable Kosher

symbol, it may be a problem if the store or warehouse owned it over Passover! If that chametz was reliably sold to a gentile over the holiday, then it's OK. If your local grocer or baker is Jewish owned and doesn't sell their chametz, it might be something to speak with them about. FYI, most of the large national chain stores are safe to buy chametz right after Passover.

5. Uncovered wine- stop wineing. Seriously, stop... Wayyyyyy back when most gentiles worshipped statues and trees and stuff, they also would bring blood sacrifices (fun!). As everyone who brings blood sacrifices knows (anyone? I have no idea), pouring wine is always part of the ceremony. Because of this, the ancient sages decided we shouldn't drink wine handled by anyone who isn't Jewish, or who doesn't keep the Torah. Even in 2021 when the chances of anyone we know pouring wine over an alter to some deity is incredibly unlikely, we make sure raw wine isn't handled by people who don't keep the Torah. Wine that is cooked is fine (in halachic terms, that's called Mevushal, and most kosher wines will say whether they're mevushal or non- mevushal). This unusual and little-known rule is why perfectly natural grape juice requires kosher certification, and why juice boxes are often not kosher.

6. Fish and meat- something is fishy with this rule, which tells us not to mix fish and meat. The great philosopher and doctor Maimonides says the reason is because it's dangerous. Other authorities

disagree, but all agree that following TEAS doesn't allow meat to be eaten together with fish. Some sephardic communities don't eat fish with dairy either, but as that would mean no cream cheese and lox, or tuna melts, don't ask me to start following those customs!

Is your head spinning yet? Remember, the purpose of this publication is simply to make you aware of information, not to be a practical guide. If you are confused, nervous, dizzy or nauseous, you should have some (kosher) Gatorade, you're probably dehydrated. Also, just speak to a competent local Rabbi who knows all the issues and how to properly deal with them all. As you know, you can always give me a call and I'll help ya out.

Have a Nageela Shabbat,

the Rabbi



Best wishes to our friends and family members celebrating this week...

Daniel Anson
Hunter Burd
Max Burd
Maia Zelkha

Nageela West Coast

breaks the mold of old school Jewish outreach by providing out-of-the-box social and educational programs for Jewish children across the West Coast. Through afterschool activities, weekend retreats and our signature summer camp, we engage elementary and middle school children in a fun and meaningful experience. Our "questions encouraged" mindset makes Nageela a comfortable learning and growing environment for Jewish children of all backgrounds.

Want to stay in the loop? Text the word NAGEELAWEST to 22828



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