

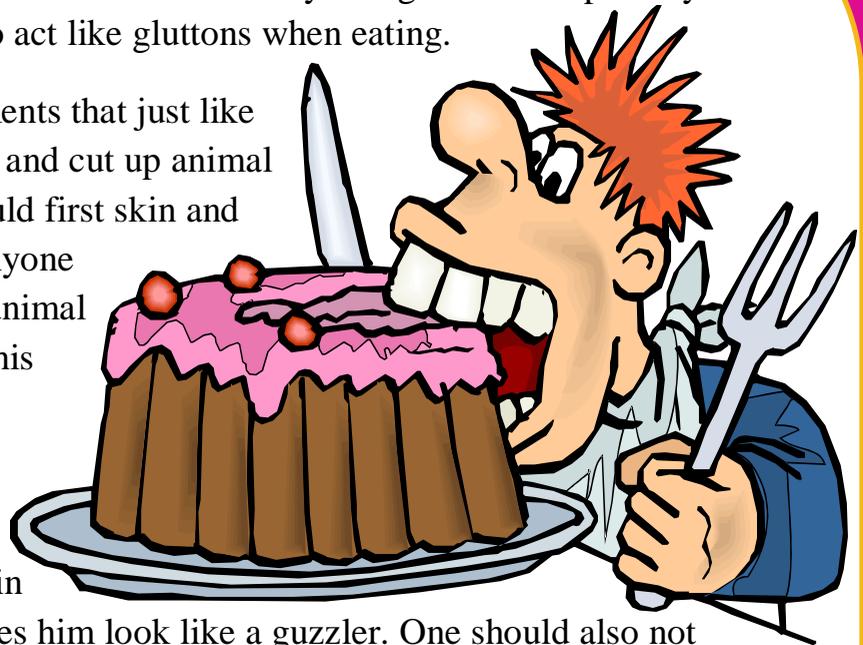
מסכת
 בריכה
 דף כה

DAF YOMI4 Kids

Inside the Daf

It is essential for a Jew to have good manners. Even the great rabbis of the מְשָׁנָה era saw fit to teach about proper table manners. They thought it was especially important to teach people not to act like gluttons when eating.

For example, רַמִּי בַר אֲבָא comments that just like the Torah commands us to skin and cut up animal sacrifices, so too a butcher should first skin and cut up animals before he lets anyone eat from it. Hurrying to eat an animal before it has been prepared in this way makes the eater look like a glutton.



A בְּרִיתָא teaches that one should not drink his entire cup in one gulp because doing so makes him look like a guzzler. One should also not drink his cup in many small sips. Rather, the middle ground is the best: two sips for an average cup.

רַמִּי בַר אֲבָא also shows us some plants in nature whose behavior we should imitate. The חֲצוּבָא plant is one example. When יְהוֹשֻׁעַ (Joshua) divided the Land of Israel among the Israelites, the חֲצוּבָא plant was used as a marker between properties. Its roots are deep and do not spread out onto another person's field. This means, if someone tried to uproot the חֲצוּבָא marker and plant it somewhere else, the original חֲצוּבָא would grow back showing the true boundary of the field! When thieves will be judged by Hashem, they will be criticized for not imitating the חֲצוּבָא tree which doesn't encroach on a field that is not its own.



Our מְקַרָּא teaches about plant called חֲצוּבָא. This could be the *urginea maritima* or, sea squill. This plant is native to the Mediterranean area, including Israel. A few parallel roots (fibrous root system) descend from the bulb downwards, and leaves and the inflorescence stalk ascend upwards. If the sea squill bulb is split by a human or animal, the bulb parts can reproduce vegetatively. This explains why the מְקַרָּא says the plant will regrow if removed.



Did You Know...

The מְקַרָּא teaches that the most brazen beast is the dog, the most brazen bird is the chicken (some say the goat is most brazen among the smaller animals) and the most brazen tree is the caperbush.

Brazen Nation

Why us? Why did Hashem see fit to give the Jewish people, of all the nations of the world, the gift of the Torah?

The Jewish people have the character trait of עִזִּית (brazenness). Since the Jewish people are so strong-willed, Hashem gave them the Torah to study to humble their hearts.

This explains why the Torah is called an "אֵשׁ דָּת," or, "fiery law" (דברים 10, 2). The Holy One, Blessed Be He said, "These people need a fiery law to be given to them," to humble them.

Others say that "אֵשׁ דָּת" means a "fiery nature" and refers to the Jewish people themselves. Since the Jewish people have a "fiery nature" Hashem saw it to give the Torah to them to subdue them. In fact, says the גְּמָרָא, the Jewish people are so "fiery" that had the Torah not been given to subdue them, no nation would be able to conquer them!

רַבֵּי שְׁמַעוֹן בֶּן לָקִישׁ says, among the nations, Israel is the hardest to defeat.

Games

There are 40 English words that can be made from the word **GLUTTON**.

How many can you find?

A מְדוּת Moment

"Alright! Food!" exclaimed Chezki as he bolted toward the food table at the *bar mitzvah*. Within milliseconds he was piling food so it was spilling over his plate. The food was hard won; Chezki had elbowed a dozen kids out of the way to secure his portion.

Chezki headed toward his table with his spoils. He poured himself a generous glass of soda and gulped it down like a marathon runner.

His older brother was more than a little embarrassed.

"Chezki," he said to his brother when no one else was around, "do you know that there are actually rules in Jewish Law about how one should eat?"

"Really?" asked Chezki, his mouth stuffed with a fistful of chicken.

"Yes, really," affirmed his brother. "The bottom line is not to eat like a glutton. Don't 'stuff your face' or guzzle down your drink in one shot. C'mon, you're supposed to show that Jews are a refined people, so be careful how you eat!"

WORDS OF THE DAY:

אֵי דִי וְאֵי דִי

"THIS ONE AND THAT

ביצה דף כ"ה – Review Questions

1. What sort of person should one not eat like?

2. Which character trait of the Jewish people made it best for receiving Torah?

3. Which beast is the most brazen?
