

מסכת
ביצה
דר לג

DAF YOMI4 KIDS

Inside the Daf



On a Festival, wood may be used for kindling fire, not for cleaning teeth

The משנה brings a disagreement between רבי אליעזר and the חכמים (Sages). רבי אליעזר allows one to take a splinter of wood on a טוב (Festival) and use it as a toothpick. The Sages disagree. They hold that, on a Festival, wood may only be used for kindling fire to cook food, not for other purposes like cleaning teeth.

Why do the Sages not allow wood to be used as a toothpick? Rashi explains the reason. Wood is usually used for making utensils, which is not allowed on Festivals. Wood should therefore be considered מקצה, "set aside" from being used on a Festival. The Sages, however, allowed wood to be used for kindling fires to cook food on a Festival. But they did not allow wood to be used for any other reason.

רביא says something similar. Long slender pieces of wood or metal ("pokers") were used to stir coals fueling a fire. רביא rules that a woman may not enter a woodshed to take a piece of wood to use as a poker. This is because wood may not be used for anything other than kindling.

Also, wood that cannot be used for kindling, for example, a wet branch, is מקצה and may not be used on a Festival. Even though the wet branch works as fuel for a large fire, since it is not useable for a normal fire, it is "set aside" from being used on a Festival.

A מדות Moment

Once again, there was a fight at recess. Once again, it was started by Justin.

Justin had an anger problem. Almost any little thing could set him off. Today it was someone bumping into him accidentally on the basketball court. Justin flipped out, yelling at the one who pushed him and calling him names. Finally, a teacher came to take Justin inside.

"I hope he stops behaving like that one day," said Josh.

"Forget it," said Isaac, "that kid's hopeless!"

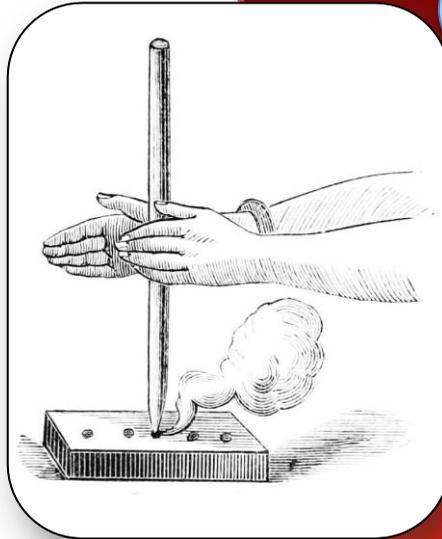
"Don't say that," said Josh. "In today's גמרא, רבי אליעזר says wood that is sitting your yard can be used for a toothpick on Festivals because 'everything in one's yard is prepared' to be used for any need on a Festival. This has a special meaning. Everyone is 'prepared' and ready to be righteous. They just need to be guided in the right direction."

(אור פני משה)

WORDS OF THE DAY:
אֵיכָּא דְאָמְרִי
"THERE ARE THOSE WHO SAY"

Starting Fires

Not only is cooking allowed on a Festival, but adding kindling to a fire for cooking is also allowed. But what about creating a new fire? Are we allowed to start a fire for cooking?



The גמרא explains that starting a fire from scratch is not allowed on a Festival because you are creating something new. Anything new that didn't exist before the Festival but was created on the Festival is מקצה and may not be used. This type of מקצה is called נולד (born).

The משנה says one may not "bring out" (that is, "create") fire from wood or rocks. This is done by creating friction by rubbing pieces of wood or stone against each other. One may not use water to start a fire. Rashi explains that water can be used to start a fire by placing it in a glass dish in the sun. The dish acts as a lens to focus the sun's heat. If straw is placed near the glass, it can catch fire.



Did You Know...

An animal may not be led by a stick on a Festival. This may be because the stick is "מקצה," or, "set aside" from being used for anything except as fuel for a fire. Also, by leading an animal with a stick, it looks like one is taking the animal to the market to sell.



The משנה speaks of starting a fire with earth. How is this done? The משנה may be talking about pyrophoric substances found in the earth. A **pyrophoric substance** is something that spontaneously ignites when exposed to air. Cerium, an element found in the earth's crust, and powdered iron, aluminum and magnesium are pyrophoric.

Games



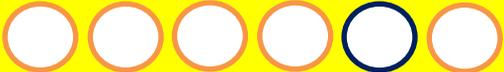
Mystery Word

Use the clues from our *daf* to find the word in blue

First part of the Talmud



Festival



רבי



אינא



Review Questions – ביצה דף ל"ג

1. Who holds that wood can only be used for kindling on Festivals?

2. May one start a *new* fire on a Festival?

3. Give a reason why an animal may not be led by a stick on a Festival?
