

DAF YOMI4 Kids

מסכת מועד קטן דף ה

Inside the Daf

Taking care of public needs (צרכי רבים) is allowed on חול המועד. A בְּרִיתָא describes how these needs were taken care of in the past.

Messengers of the בֵּית דִּין (Rabbinical court) used to go out on חול המועד and clear the public roads of thorns. They would repair these roads and market streets.

In fact, if the בֵּית דִּין does not make these repairs and someone gets injured on the thorns in the road, or was not able to escape from someone chasing them because the roads were not in good condition, the בֵּית דִּין is responsible for any injury that would happen. After all,

the Torah says that if the בֵּית דִּין does not deal with cases of murder, "blood will be upon [them]" (דברים יט, י, Deut. 19,10).

Another example of צְרָכֵי רַבִּים is making sure all of the מְקוּאוֹת (ritual baths) have the proper amount of water. A מְקוּהָ must have at least 40 סָאָה (about 88 gallons, or 332 liters) of water. If they do not, messengers of the בֵּית דִּין must direct a water channel into the מְקוּהָ so that it fills up to its proper level.

Taking care of public needs are so important that we may even dig a new water cistern for the public should it need one for drinking water on חול המועד.

WORDS OF THE DAY:

תָּנוּ רַבָּנָן

"THE RABBIS TAUGHT
IN A בְּרִיתָא"

Public Needs (צרכי רבים)



Repairing Roads



Clearing roads of thorns



Measuring מְקוּאוֹת (ritual baths)

Marking Graves



On חול המועד, one is allowed to mark a grave site so that כְּהֲנִים do not come near and become טָמֵא, or, impure (כְּהֲנִים are not allowed to be near a dead body since this makes them impure).

The גְּמָרָא looks for a source in תַּנְיָיָא (Bible) for protecting people from becoming טָמֵא.

רַבֵּי שְׁמַעוֹן בֶּן פִּזִּי says that Hashem verbally told מֹשֶׁה (Moses) to protect people from becoming טָמֵא. Centuries later, the prophet יְחִזְקֵאל (Ezekiel)

mentioned it in a prophecy and said, "when one sees a human bone, he shall build a marker by it" (יחזקאל לט,טו, Ez. 39,15).

רַבֵּי יִנְאִי says that we mark graves as part of the commandment to not place a stumbling block in front of the blind (see ויקרא יט,יד, Lev. 19,14). This commandment tells us we cannot cause someone to do a sin. It also means that we have to *prevent* people from doing sins. Therefore, we should mark graves to prevent כְּהֲנִים from coming near and becoming impure - a serious sin for a כְּהֵן.

A מְדוּתָא Moment

Michael and David liked going for bike rides on Sunday afternoon. David was alarmed one day when Michael told him to stop. David came to an abrupt halt and saw Michael run a few feet behind them, pick up a large rock from the middle of the bike path, and throw it off to the side.

"Why did you do that?" asked David.

"For the same reason the בֵּית דִּין (Rabbinical court) used to clear the roads of thorns on חול המועד. If someone would get hurt on the thorns, the בֵּית דִּין would be responsible for the injury. I don't want any other biker to bike into the rock, fall and hurt themselves."



Did You Know...

רַבֵּי יִנְאִי had a student who would ask him hard questions every day. However, during the month before each Festival, the student would not challenge his teacher in class because the classes were very public and the student didn't want to embarrass יִנְאִי.

Games

מועד קטן דף ה' - Review Questions

1. Give an example of a public need we may do on חול המועד.

2. Why may we mark a grave on חול המועד?

3. What did רַבֵּי יִנְאִי's student not do for a month before a Festival?

Crazy Arrows

Find the arrow that gets the כְּהֵן away from the cemetery

