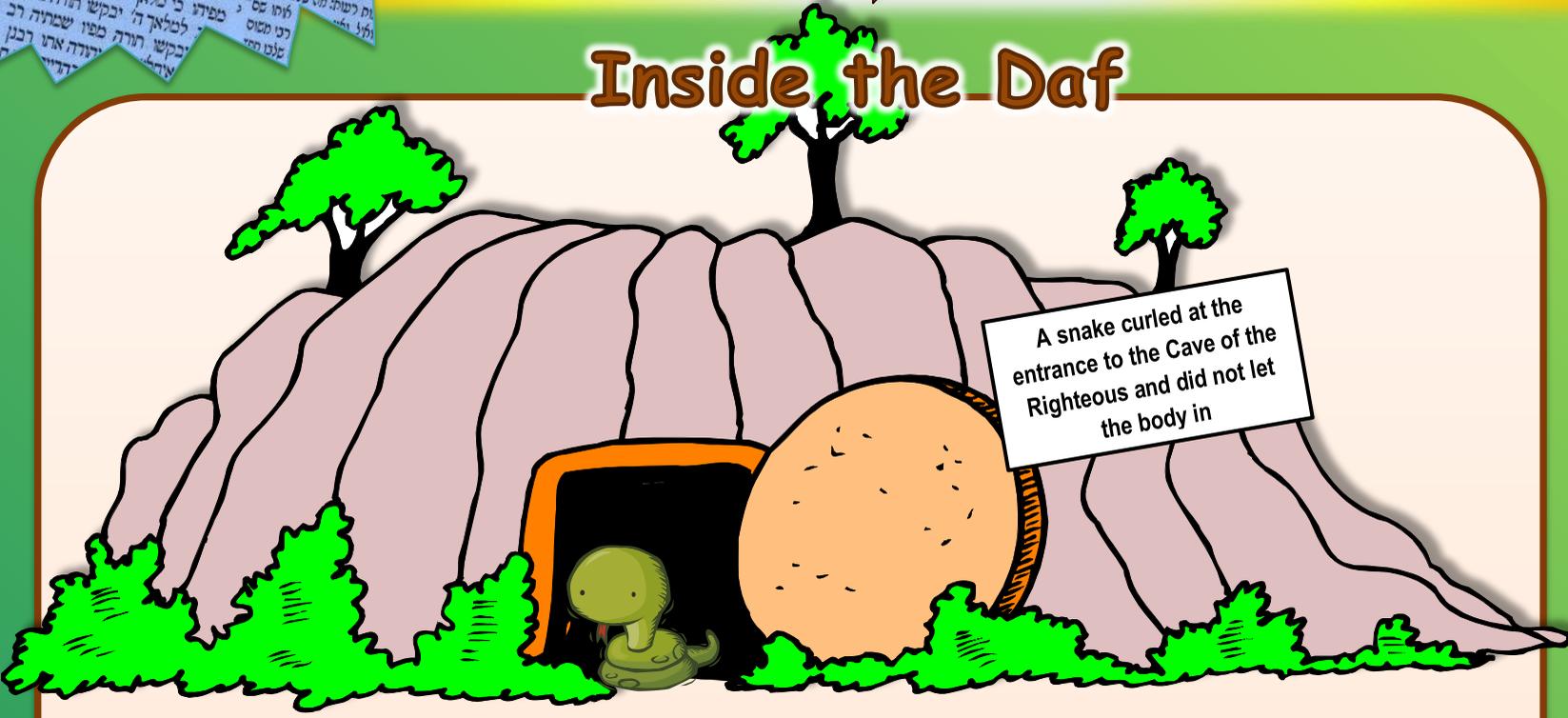


Thursday, August 28, 2014
ב' אלול תשע"ד

מסכת מועד קטן דף י"ז

DAF YOMI 4 KIDS

Inside the Daf



There was once a young Torah scholar who had done something terrible in private. The rabbis wanted to excommunicate him, the problem was he was the teacher to all the students and rabbis in the community!

רבי יהודה sought advice about what should be done.

רבה בר בר חנה said, "If a Torah teacher is like an angel, with a proper character and a good reputation, then one should learn Torah from him. If, however, he is not like an angel, people

angel, people should not learn Torah from him!"

When he heard this, רבי יהודה excommunicated the young scholar.

When רבי יהודה died, and the young scholar wanted to be released from his excommunication.

"Go to the community leader, רבי יהודה the Prince," said the rabbis to the young scholar. "He can release you from your excommunication."

The young scholar followed

the rabbis instructions, but רבי יהודה did not lift the excommunication.

As the scholar was walking, he was bitten by a bee and died. His body was brought to the Cave of the Righteous, but a snake curled at the entrance and did not let the body in. He was then brought to the Cave of the Judges where he was allowed burial because, even though he had sinned, he had done so privately and hadn't shamed Hashem's Name openly.

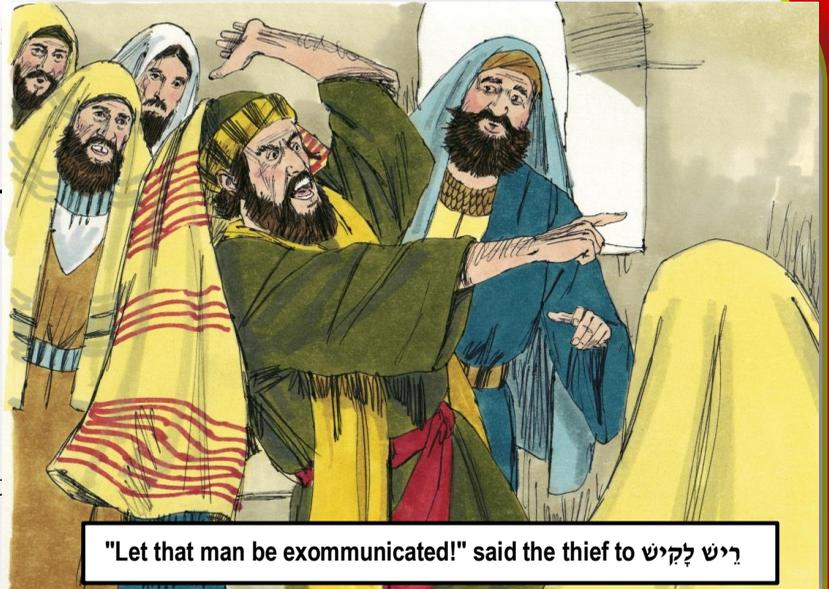
WORDS OF THE DAY:
לְכוּלֵי עֲלָמָא
"TO THE WHOLE WORLD"

Who Excommunicated Me, Anyway?

The scholar, ריש לקיש, was once guarding a orchard of fig trees. A man came by and started eating the figs. ריש לקיש scolded the man for stealing, but the thief did not listen.

Finally, ריש לקיש exclaimed, "Let that man be excommunicated!"

"Just the opposite!" shouted the thief. "Let ריש לקיש be excommunicated! If I've stolen from you, you should sue me in court to get your money back. But I don't deserve an excommunication!"



When ריש לקיש came to the rabbis, they told him that ריש לקיש's excommunication was not valid...but the thief's was! Now that ריש לקיש was in a state of excommunication, he was told that only the thief could cancel the ban.

"But I don't know who he is!" said ריש לקיש.

"In that case," said the rabbis, "go to the נָשִׂיא, the community leader. It was taught in a בְּרִיתָא, if someone does not know who excommunicated him, he should go to the נָשִׂיא who may lift the excommunication."

A מְדוּת Moment

"Ethan," said Rabbi Hoffingblatt. "This is the third day in a row you haven't done your homework. I'm going to have to keep you in for recess. I'm going to miss my break, too to supervise you."

"Why?" asked Ethan.

"I take my example from מֵר זוטרא חסידיא. Whenever he would excommunicate a student, he would excommunicate himself, too. We learn that we should suffer along with our students and not take their punishments lightly!"



Did You Know...

A maidservant once excommunicated a father who was hitting a son old enough to hit back. She said the father was "putting a stumbling block in front of the blind," by putting the son in a situation where he would be tempted to sin by hitting his father back!

Games

Review Questions – מועד קטן דף י"ז

1. Why was the young Torah scholar accepted in the Cave of Judges?

2. If someone was excommunicated, but doesn't know by whom, how can he get the excommunication lifted?

3. Who did a maidservant once excommunicate?



How many words can you spell with these letters?

(There are at least 500!)

EXCOMMUNICATION