

מסכת סוכה דף לד

DAF YOMI4 KIDS

Inside the Daf

Many of us know that for the four species we take on the holiday of סוכות, we use one אֶתְרוֹג (citron), one לוּלָב (palm branch), three הֲדָסִים (myrtle branches) and two עֲרָבוֹת (willow branches). But it may surprise you to learn that רַבֵּי עֲקִיבָא says we only take one of each!

The reason we take the amounts that we do is based on a careful reading of the Torah's wording (see ויקרא כג,מ, Lev. 23,40):



Regarding עֲרָבוֹת (willow branches), the Torah commands us to take "עֲרֵבֵי נָחַל", "brook willows." Here, "willows" appears in the plural. Since the minimum plural number is two, the Torah is commanding us to take two עֲרָבוֹת.

When the Torah tells us to use a לוּלָב (palm branch) it tells us to use "כַּפֹּתֵי תְּמָרִים", "branches of date palms". The word for "branches" (כַּפֹּתֵי) can also be read "כַּפֶּת", "branch" meaning we should take only one palm branch.

For an אֶתְרוֹג (citron), the Torah commands us to take a "פְּרֵי עֵץ הַדֵּר", a "fruit of a beautiful tree." Since פְּרֵי (fruit) is in the singular form, it means we take only one אֶתְרוֹג.

The Torah uses three words when telling us to take הֲדָסִים (myrtle branches): "עֲנַף עֵץ", "a branch of a braided tree." This hints that we should use three הֲדָס branches.

Worthy Willows

We learned yesterday that we may not use rounded עֲרְבוֹת as willow branches for the four species. These rounded עֲרְבוֹת are called "צַפְצָפָה" (possibly *Populus euphratica*, or Euphrates Poplar)

The גְּמָרָא gives us three signs to tell apart a regular עֲרְבָה from a "צַפְצָפָה" (see picture):

1. The stem of עֲרְבוֹת are red. Stems of צַפְצָפָה are white
2. Stems of עֲרְבוֹת are long. Stems of צַפְצָפָה are round.
3. עֲרְבוֹת have smooth edges. צַפְצָפָה edges are serrated like a sickle.



A מְדוּת Moment

"Hey, Nossan," said Robbie, "Were you at Gadi's bar mitzvah? Did you see all the candy and the cakes at the sweet table?"

"That's nothing!" said Nossan. "At my bar mitzvah I'm going to have twice as much candy and cookies and cupcakes on the sweet table! It's going to make Gadi's bar mitzvah look like a simple birthday party! Not only that but I'm also going to have a bigger band and –"

"– And is that what's so important?" someone interrupted. It was the school principal, Mr. Goldberg, who had been overhearing the whole conversation.

"I learned today in daf yomi that a צַפְצָפָה plant, which grows high on the mountain, is invalid for using in the four species. An עֲרְבָה plant, which grows near a lowly river, is valid for the four species. What does this teach us? That Hashem respects the lowly among us, not those who are haughty and boastful."

(שפת אמת. סוכות תרל"ו)

WORDS OF THE DAY:

נִפְקָא מִיְנָה

"THE PRACTICAL DIFFERENCE"

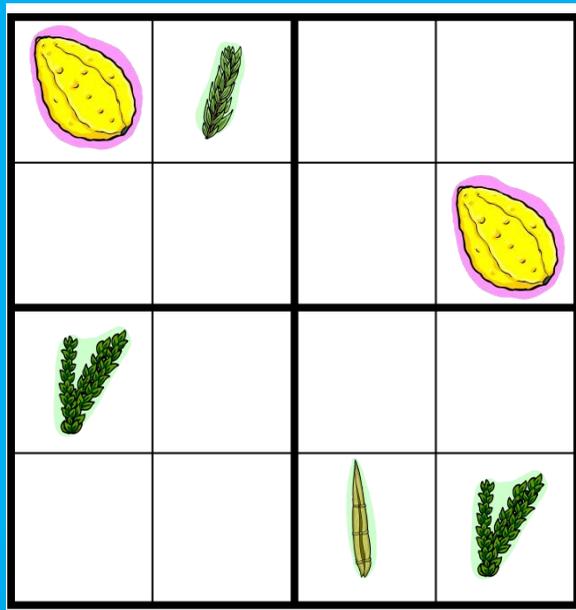


Did You Know...

rules that all three הַדָּסִים used for the four species may be missing their tops. Once when רַב יְהוּדָה merchants raised their prices for הַדָּסִים with tops, רַב יְהוּדָה threatened to tell the public that they could use הַדָּסִים without tops...unless the merchants lowered their prices!

SUDOKU

Place the pictures in the squares so that there is only one of each in each column and row



Games

Review Questions – ל"ד סוכה דף

1. How many of each of the four species are needed?

2. What are the three differences between an עֲרְבָה and a צַפְצָפָה?

3. What may הַדָּסִים be missing, according to רַב יְהוּדָה?