

מסכת
תענית
דף ג

DAF YOMI 4 KIDS

Inside the Daf

During the rainy season (see pg. 25), we must mention the rain in the daily עמידה prayer.

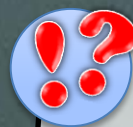
א בריתא teaches that, unlike rain, dew and winds do not have to be mentioned in the עמידה prayer. If one wants to mention them, however, one may.

א רבי חנינא explains that we do not have to mention dew and winds because they never cease to exist since the world can't survive without them.

We know that dew never ceases to exist from a story involving the prophet אליהו (Elijah). The prophet told the king that Hashem was about to send rain after years of drought, but did not mention that He was also going to send dew. This is because the dew never stopped falling, even during the drought.

א רבי יהושע בן לוי explains that we know winds are never withheld from the world because winds are compared to the Jewish people (see זכריה ב, Zech. 2,10). Just like the world cannot exist without wind (because the heat and humidity would be unbearable) so too, the world cannot exist without the Jewish people.

The גמרא later explains that only normal winds are never withheld from the world. Strong winds are, at times, withheld from the world.



Did You Know...

Even though strong winds are necessary for the world because they separate chaff from grain, this process may also be done by a sieve. This means strong winds are not absolutely necessary for the world.

A מדה Moment

"Excuse me, sir," said the boy at the door. "I'm collecting charity for a Jewish school. Would you care to make a donation?"

"I don't have enough money for charity!" said the man as he stood in the gold plated lobby of his mansion. "If I give to you, how will I afford my luxury cruise to Zanzibar?"

"The גמרא says the world cannot exist without winds. Winds come from all four directions. This could be understood to mean the world cannot exist without four things: Repentance, prayer, charity and Torah study. If any of these 'ingredients' is missing, the world can't exist."

"I see," said the man. "By giving charity to a Jewish school, I give charity, create Torah study and prayer...but what about repentance?"

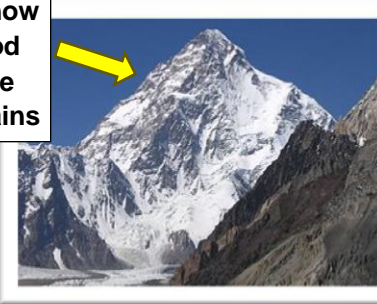
"That's for each person to do by himself," the boy said.

(שליה, תולדות אדם, רמזי אותיות לחתימת ההקדמה, יז)

Right As Rain

The Talmudic sages discuss the benefits of some weather patterns:

רָבָא: Snow is good for the mountains



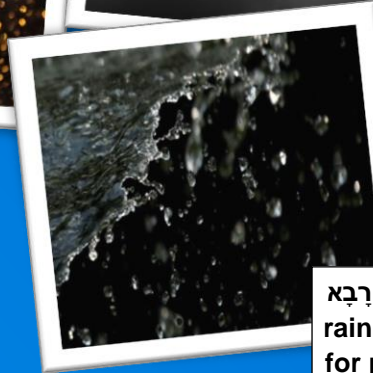
רָבָא: Heavy rain is good for trees



רַב יְהוּדָה: Clouds after a rainfall are almost as good as the rainfall itself



רַב יְהוּדָה: Sunshine after a rainfall is as good as two rainfalls

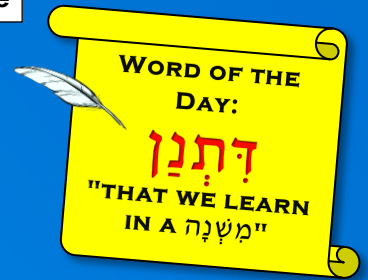


רָבָא: Gentle rain is good for produce



רָבָא says snow is good for the mountains. When rain falls on mountains, it soaks for a bit and then runs off as the ground becomes saturated. Snow, on the other hand, is a slow release source of moisture that soaks more thoroughly and deeply into the mountains. Snow also contains nutrients such as nitrogen and sulphur, and, according to recent studies, there are more of these nutrients in snow than in rain.

(Mark Bernskoetter, based on University of New Hampshire's Dept. of Natural Sciences)



תענית דף ג' - Review Questions

- Which two elements do we not have to pray for?

- List two weather patterns and what they are good for.

- Which element of weather are the Jewish people compared to?

Games

WHICH ONE DOESN'T BELONG? WHY?

- Rain, Dew, Winds
- Strong Winds, Rain, Dew
- Sunshine after rain, Clouds after rain, Lightening after rain
- רַבִּי יְהוֹשֻׁעַ בֶּן לֵוִי, רַב יְהוּדָה, רָבָא
- Sunshine, Clouds, Dew