

Wednesday, November 12, 2014
יום חמישי 12 בנובמבר 2014

מסכת
יבמות
דף לט

DAF YOMI4 Kids

Inside the Daf

The Torah gives a choice. If someone dies childless, his brother may either 1) perform **יבום** (levirate marriage) and marry the dead brother's widow, or, 2) perform **חליצה**, the shoe-removal ceremony which frees both the living brother and the widow from having to marry one another.

But nowadays, the living brother does not even have a choice to perform **יבום**. **חליצה** must always be performed, instead. Why may they not perform **יבום**?

In the old days, people who performed **יבום** had their hearts in the right place; they wanted to perform the Torah commandment to marry the widow of their dead brother. Nowadays, if people were to perform **יבום** they would not have this in mind.

As the great sage, **אבא שאול**, says, if someone performs **יבום** because he is attracted to the beauty of his brother's widow, or because he wants to be known as a married man, or for any other reason other than to just perform the **מצוה** of **יבום**, it is as if he has sinned.

Since most of us would not perform **יבום** only wanting to perform the **מצוה**, **יבום** is no longer performed.



Did You Know...

According to one opinion, the **חליצה** of an older brother is preferred over the **יבום** (levirate marriage) of a younger brother.



אבא שאול says that, nowadays, we do not perform **יבום**.

More than One Living Brother

If a man dies childless, his living brother performs **יבום** (levirate marriage) with his brother's widow.

But what if there is more than one living brother? Which one performs **יבום**?

The **מצוה** teaches that the **מצוה** of **יבום** falls on the oldest living brother. If the oldest brother does not want to perform the **מצוה**, we see if one of his other brothers would like to. If no other brother wishes to perform **יבום**, we tell the oldest brother, "It is your **מצוה**. Do **יבום** or **חליצה**!"



The **משנה** also teaches that if the oldest brother tells us to

wait for his younger brother to grow up and ask him if he wants to perform **יבום**, we don't wait. Instead, we tell the oldest brother, "Do **יבום** or **חליצה**!"

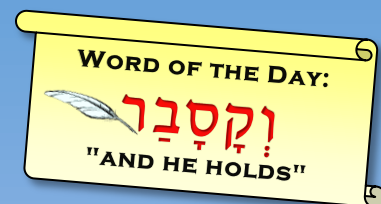
The same goes if the oldest brother tells us to wait for another brother to come back from overseas. We do not wait. We tell him, "Do **יבום** or **חליצה**!"

A Moment

"Shragy," called his mother, "it's a lovely day. Have you delivered your care packages yet to the old age home?"

"No, I'll do it tomorrow," said Shragy.

"The **מצוה** teaches that we don't delay performing a **מצוה** (commandment). When the opportunity arises to perform a **מצוה**, take it! Don't look for ways to push it off."



Games

יבמות דף ל"ט – Review Questions

1. Why do we not perform **יבום** nowadays?

2. If there is more than one living brother, which one performs **יבום**?

3. According to one opinion, what is better than the **יבום** of a younger brother?

AMAZING

Help the brother come back from overseas

