

Inside the Daf

To become Jewish, it is not enough to just "want" to become a Jew. There is an official conversion process that must be done.

We are taught that three judges are needed to supervise a conversion. We learn this from the פסוק (verse) that says, "תורה אחת ומשפט אחד יהיה לכם ולגר הגר אתכם", "there shall be one Torah and one *judgement* for you and for the convert" (במדבר טו, טז, Num. 15,16). In Jewish law, "judgement" cannot be done with less than three judges. Conversion then must be done in front of three judges.

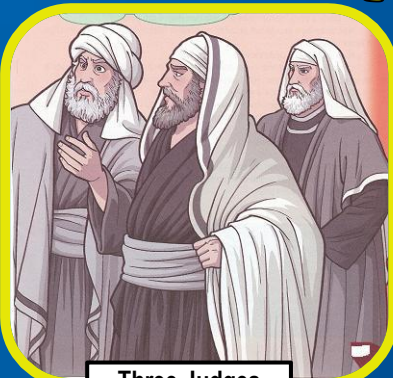
Conversions may not be done at night. That's because they are "judgements" and judgements are performed only by day.

A man converting to Judaism must undergo a circumcision and immerse in a מקוה (ritual bath). A woman convert need only immerse in a מקוה.

What if a man became circumcised but did not immerse in a מקוה? Does his conversion work?

The חכמים (Sages) rule that without the immersion the conversion is meaningless, but רבי אליעזר says that even if he does not go into a מקוה, the conversion is still valid. After all, when our forefathers left Egypt, they circumcised themselves but did not go into a מקוה! (See יהושע ה, ה, Josh. 5,5).

Conversion Conditions



Three Judges



Immersing



Circumcision

Cooked by Non-Jews

אָבאָ arrived in Gavla and couldn't believe his eyes. He saw that the Jewish residents were eating lupines cooked by non-Jews. The Sages had decreed that בִּישׁוּל עַכּוּ"ם, food cooked by a non-Jew, was prohibited to eat.

אָבאָ reported this to רַבִּי יוֹחָנָן. רַבִּי יוֹחָנָן told him, "Go tell them that since they are not learned in Torah, they may not eat the lupines cooked by non-Jews."

The גְּמָרָא explains that strictly speaking, the lupines should be permitted to eat. The rule is, one may eat food cooked by a non-Jew if that type of food wouldn't be served at a king's table. Lupines are not fit to be served at a king's table and therefore may be cooked by a non-Jew. Even so, רַבִּי יוֹחָנָן said the residents of Gavla may not eat the lupines in case so that they wouldn't come to treat the prohibition of בִּישׁוּל עַכּוּ"ם lightly and come to allow other foods to be cooked by non-Jews.

WORD OF THE DAY:

גּוֹפָא
"ITSELF"

Lupines

A מְדוּתָה Moment

"Imma, can I go to Nossan, Shimmy and Dani's house today?"

"Aren't those the three boys who were suspended from school last week and who are always getting into trouble?"

"Uh....yeah."

"No, you should stay away from that crowd. A nazirite is not allowed to drink wine. Even though he may come *near* wine, when he approaches a vineyard we call out, 'Go around! Go around! Do not come near the vineyard!' We say this so that he won't succumb to temptation. We can learn how important it is to distance ourselves from anything that can lead us to do something wrong, such as staying away from the wrong crowd of people."

בִּישׁוּל עַכּוּ"ם. Food cooked by non-Jews. The Sages decreed that certain foods cooked by non-Jews may not be eaten by Jews. This was to prevent intermingling with non-Jews which might lead to intermarriage.



Did You Know...

In the times of the Talmud, a king decreed that whoever did not pay his taxes would be a slave to he who paid the taxes for him!

Games

Review Questions – יבמות דף מ"ו

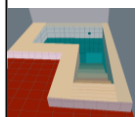

- Name two of the things a man must do to convert to Judaism.

- What strange thing were the people of Gavla doing?

- In the times of the Talmud what could happen to someone who did not pay his taxes?

SUDOKU

Place the pictures of the things needed for a conversion so that there is only one of each in each column and row. Do you know what the pictures mean?

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