

Inside the Daf

What would happen if a whole group of people would lie about who they are?


That's exactly what happened in the time of יהושע (Joshua). The גִּבְעוֹנִים (Gibeonites) were a group of idolaters who lived in the land of Canaan. When יהושע led the בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל (Children of Israel) into Canaan, Hashem ordered him to kill all of the idolaters in the land if they refused to abandon their idol worshipping ways.

The גִּבְעוֹנִים decided to lie. They told יהושע that they weren't from the land of Canaan at all. They said they were from a faraway land and were just passing through. Could יהושע spare their lives?

יהושע agreed to spare their lives and agreed to have them convert to Judaism.


When יהושע discovered that he had been tricked, he punished the גִּבְעוֹנִים. He decreed that they should have the lowly jobs of woodchoppers and water carriers. From then on, the גִּבְעוֹנִים became known as the "נְתִינִים" (Netinites).

The גִּמְרָא explains that דָּוִד הַמֶּלֶךְ (King David) decreed that the נְתִינִים were not allowed to marry Jews. We are told "the Gibeonites were not from the Children of Israel" (שמואל II Samuel 21,2) because they were not allowed to marry into the Jewish community.



Did You Know...

When King David looked into the cause of a famine, he suggested that it could have come as punishment for people who promise to give money to charity...but who don't deliver!



The גִּבְעוֹנִים Gibeonites became hewers of wood and drawers of water

The Famine and the Gibeonites

In the days of דָּוִד הַמֶּלֶךְ (King David) there was a famine that lasted for three years (see שְׁמוּאֵל ב' (I Sam. 21), פרק כא).

דָּוִד הַמֶּלֶךְ asked Hashem what the cause of the famine was. "It is for שָׂאוּל (King Saul)...for having killed the Gibeonites," was Hashem's answer.

From this answer, the גִּבְעוֹנִים understands that there were two causes for the famine. "For שָׂאוּל," means for not having given שָׂאוּל a proper eulogy when he died. "For having killed the Gibeonites" means that the famine came as a punishment for שָׂאוּל having killed the people of נֹב (Nob), the city of כְּהֵנִים (see I Sam. 22, פרק כב). These people gave jobs to the Gibeonites. When the people of נֹב were murdered, the Gibeonites lost their supporters. It was therefore as if שָׂאוּל had killed them, too.

A Moment מְדוּת

Simon had just hurt Ethan's feelings.

"Simon," said his teacher, "when you hurt someone's feelings, you also cause those around him to suffer."

"What do you mean?" asked Simon.

"We are told that when שָׂאוּל killed the people of נֹב who provided a livelihood to the Gibeonites, it was as though he had killed the Gibeonites themselves since they no longer had a way of supporting themselves."

"When we destroy one person we destroy everyone he supports. Remember that if you hurt someone's feelings; everyone around the person will also suffer, too!"

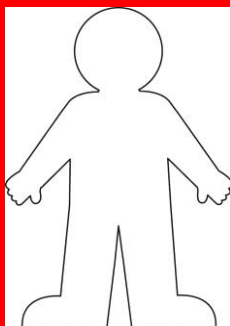


Games



DRAW IT!

The גִּבְעוֹנִים (Gibeonites) came to Joshua with tattered clothes and told him that they had come from a faraway land. Draw how they might have looked.



יבמות דף ע"ח – Review Questions

1 What is another name for the גִּבְעוֹנִים?

2. Did King Saul kill the Gibeonites? Explain.

3. What did King David think might be the cause of the famine?
