

Daf Review – Berachos 63

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Gemara:

- Recounts story where Dovid had an opportunity to kill Shaul but chose to spare his life because Shaul was exceptionally modest in his bathroom practices; however Dovid was ultimately punished for (i) cutting off a corner of Shaul's garment (and Dovid was, therefore, unable to benefit from the warmth of garments later in his life), and (ii) calling *Hashem* an "inciter" (so *Hashem* caused Dovid to err in taking a direct count of the Jewish people, which brought a plague upon the nation).
- Discusses certain practices re: proper respect for the *Beis Hamikdash* (*B"H*) and a *shul*:
 - *Shortcuts* – should not use *B"H* (or *har ha'bayis*) as a shortcut; same with a *shul*, unless (i) did not initially enter to use a shortcut, or (ii) the path preceded the *shul*.
 - *Spitting* – spitting is not permitted in the *B"H*; however, it is permitted in *shul*, as spitting is compared to (i) wearing shoes (which is not allowed in the *B"H*, but permitted in *shul*) or (ii) conduct in one's home (where one would be *makpid* on others using his home as a shortcut, but would not be *makpid* on others spitting or wearing shoes in his home)
- Although there are earlier sources for greeting people with the *shem Hashem*, Boaz was the first to institutionalize this. **Malbim** explains that Boaz saw the people needed *chizuk* and, therefore, wanted to infuse the *shem Hashem* into daily life (using the principle of *eis la'asos la'Hashem heifeiru torasecha*)
- Two juxtapositions of *parshas sotah*:
 - *Nazir* – one who sees the *sotah* process will swear off drinking wine
 - *Teruma* and *Ma'aser* – failure to give *kohen/levi* their required gifts will, ultimately, cause one to end up needing the services of a *kohen* for something else (*sotah* process for his wife). This is because, by not giving *T&M*, a person is being stingy and, one who is stingy with money is likely to be stingy in other areas as well – mainly, with his emotions (if husband isn't sharing emotions/love with his wife, the marriage unravels).

Inspiration:

Halachos re: *shul* learned out from the home – we should beautify a *shul* the same way we beautify our homes, and make the *shul* a piece of our identity.

Teachings of Hillel and Bar Kappara – (1) Life is not about doing what you want to do, but it's about filling a need (no need to teach in a place where there are already many teachers); (2) if you see something that needs to get done, roll up your sleeves and take the *achrais* to do it yourself (be a *gever* in the place where there are none).

"B'chol d'rachecha da'eihu, v'hu ye'yashar orchosecha" – Always ask, is this what *Hashem* wants me to do; if yes, your "path will be straightened" – this is not meant as a miraculous event, but if you have the proper mindset, your ways/decisions will be *yashar*.

"Kol ha'marpeh atzmo mi'divrei torah, ein bo koach la'amod b'yom tzarah" – Need to build up your spiritual resiliency when times are good, and then you will have the strength to weather the storm when times of *tza'ar* come. If you wait until the tough times to reach out to *Hashem*, your *torah*/spirituality may not be strong enough to sustain you.