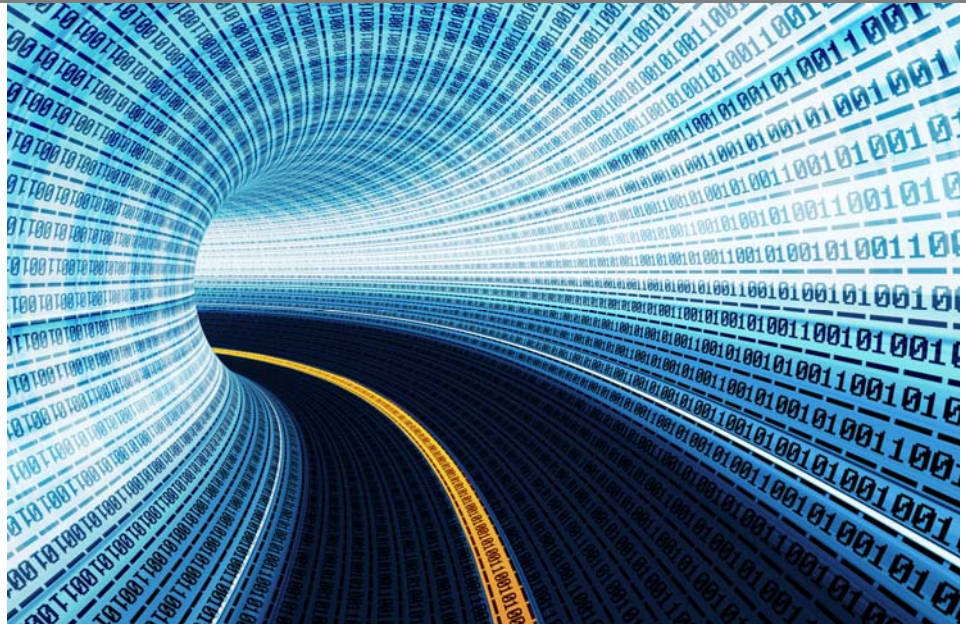


A MITZVA DILEMMA FOR THE SHABBOS TABLE



“THE STOLEN IPHONES”

By Rabbi Yitzi Weiner

This week’s Torah portion discusses the Mitzva to return something that one may have stolen.

This is a way to do teshuva for the sin of stealing.

This leads us to the following interesting true question.

Philip and Ben were two friends who went to a Sunday morning Hebrew school. (Shameless advertisement before our Charidy campaign: A Hebrew school very similar to

THE DIRECT LINE

This week’s Parsha begins the third book of the Torah, the book of Vayikra. The name “Vayikra” is actually the first word of the Parsha, “Vayikra el Moshe...”. It means “And He called to Moshe and said to him...” referring to HaShem’s calling to Moshe to prepare himself for the forthcoming prophecy. The Talmud teaches us that this was the manner in which HaShem always spoke to Moshe. He first called him and then began the message.

To fully appreciate the import of this fact, it is important to compare Moshe’s prophecy with that of the other prophets. Rambam, among the greatest leaders of the Jewish people, teaches us that before any prophet was able to receive prophecy he needed to put himself in to an intense state of meditation. Only after achieving a certain level of ecstasy did HaShem’s Spirit rest upon him. Although all prophecies were the message of HaShem, they were nevertheless limited to the level of preparation of the prophet and subject to his understanding.

Moshe’s prophecy was different. Moshe did not have to prepare himself for the prophetic message. HaShem simply called him and began the message. There was no input on Moshe’s part. It is for this reason that Moshe was always “on call” and needed to maintain his level of spiritual purity on the highest level for the event of a “call” from Above.

This is the reason why other prophets were not required to maintain such a high level of spiritual purity since they would never receive any “calls” until they first prepared themselves.

Achims's Sheves Achim) One morning they spent much of Hebrew school sending each other pictures on their new iPhones. Mrs. Katz, their teacher, warned them a couple of times but they did not stop. Finally Mrs. Katz confiscated the phones, and put them in her desk drawer.

At the end of the day, when Mrs. Katz wanted to return the iPhones, the phones were missing from her drawer. Someone apparently stole them. That night, Philip and Ben's parents both called Mrs. Katz and told her that she was responsible for paying for them. Mrs. Katz responded that she had the right to take away the distracting phones and she was not responsible for the theft that another person did.

Do you think Mrs. Katz has to pay for the phones?

Answer to last week's question "The Yard Sale"

A similar case is discussed in Veharev Na Volume one page 274. It seems that the seller is allowed to accept the higher price.



Why was Moshe's prophecy so distinctly different? The answer is because Moshe's prophecy was the mode of transmission used to communicate the Torah. The Torah is the uncontested Word of HaShem in which He expressed to us the expectations He has from us. The Torah is the document upon which HaShem structured the world. The Torah is the marriage contract between Himself and His beloved people. The transmission had to entirely from Him based on nothing else but His transmission. There could be no element of human input whatsoever.

The Word of HaShem did not come from within the mind of Moshe but rather from outside of Moshe. The word of HaShem was in no way provoked by him. "Vayikra" underscores HaShem as the Speaker and Moshe purely the

listener. There was no room for any input from Moshe.

The commitment that our people have to HaShem's Torah is built upon this understanding. We recognize the Torah as the explicit expression of HaShem where every word and every letter, every nuance and every subtlety is designed by HaShem and is there to teach us.

How fortunate we are to have HaShem's Torah, the basis of our relationship, given to us in the most unambiguous form of transmission!

Have a wonderful Shabbos.

Paysach Diskind

This Sunday will be launching our Charidy Campaign to raise \$150,000. If you support the work of Achim, please respond generously at unidy.org/achim



SHABBOS: CELEBRATING HASHEM'S CREATION

Your *kidneys* are the primary filtration and removal plant in your body. They are your blood cleaning organs. Your kidneys consist mainly of *nephrons*. *Each* one is a capillary cluster with a coiled tube attached to it. There are over a million of them in your kidneys! As the blood passes through the capillary cluster, water and waste products filter through the capillary walls and into those tubules. Most of that waste water is cleaned and returned to the blood. Your kidneys, then, are like a million little thinking machines, each one of which knows just what to remove from the blood and what to leave in it.

The waste fluid drains out into a col-

THE KIDNEYS

lecting basin in each kidney called the *renal pelvis*. From each one, a tube leads down into the *bladder*. When the bladder fills to about 200 cc [12.2 cu inches], it sends a signal to the brain to void the *urine*. How can a bag send a signal? How does it know to do it at the right time? How thankful must we be!

YOUR KIDNEYS ARE LIKE A MILLION LITTLE THINKING MACHINES, EACH ONE OF WHICH KNOWS JUST WHAT TO REMOVE FROM THE BLOOD AND WHAT TO LEAVE IN IT.

BETTER SACRAMENTO THAN TO LAKEWOOD

Rav Aharon Kotler, the Rosh Yeshiva of the Lakewood Yeshiva, was well known for his honesty. The following story depicts how his son, Reb Shneur Kotler, followed in his footsteps, with an incredible lesson in honesty and bitachon.

There was an individual who lived in California, who gave a small yearly donation to the Yeshiva. One year, the Rosh Yeshiva decided to visit this man, in the hopes that he would give a substantial donation. They spoke over the phone, and the man seemed interested, so the Rosh Yeshiva made the trip. The two men had a very pleasant visit. The donor was impressed, and implied that he would give a larger donation than usual. He said he would send a check shortly. Reb Shneur flew home confident that the trip had been very worthwhile.

The next day, the Rosh Yeshiva received a phone call from a law firm. They explained to him that the donor had passed away the previous day, and left a check, made out to Lakewood Yeshiva, on his desk. The problem? The check was blank. The lawyers explained, "this man had no living relatives, all of his millions will go to the state of California, if no one else claims it. There is a check made out to you sitting on his desk. You can enter any amount that you'd like." The Rosh Yeshiva said, "please send us a check for \$100, the exact amount that he gave yearly. It would be wrong to take anything more than what he has given in the past. We don't know what his plans were."



Achim is dedicated to *Connecting Jews Together*
as well as *Together Connecting Jews* to the Ribono shel Olom.

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