



Today's Daf In Review is being sent l'zecher nishmas Habachur Yechezkel Shraga A"H ben R' Avrohom Yehuda

Taanis Daf Chuf Gimmel

MAASEH SHESHALCHU L'CHONI HAMAGUL...

- A Braisa relates the story told in the Mishna about Choni Hamagul. That they came to ask him to daven for rain, that he drew a circle and promised that he would not leave the circle until Hashem brought rain, that it started to drizzle and his talmidim told him, "It seems that Hashem is making it rain just enough so that you can be released of your oath, but not in a way that it will help us survive", that Choni then said to Hashem that he asked for heavier rain, that the rain came down in a torrential downpour to the point that no drop was smaller than a lug, that his talmidim then said this rain will destroy the world, that Choni then said to Hashem that he asked for rain of blessing, and that the rain then came down nicely. It continued raining to the point that the people asked that he daven for the rain to stop. He said, "I have a tradition that we don't ask for the stopping of too much good. However, bring me a par for a Shelamim". They brought him the par. He placed his hands on it and said, "Hashem, the Yidden can't handle too much bad or too much good. May it be Your will that the rain stop and that there be relief in the world". A wind came, blew away the clouds, and the sun began shining. **Shimon ben Shatach** sent to him, if you were not the great Choni, I would put you in cheirem for speaking this way to Hashem. However, what should I do, when you act like a misbehaving child to Hashem and yet he answers you!
- **R' Yochanan** said, Choni Hamagul was always bothered by the pasuk that says "b'shuv Hashem es shivas tziyon hayinu k'cholmim", which suggests that one can sleep for 70 years (the length of Galus Bavel). He didn't understand how one can sleep for 70 years. He was once traveling and stopped to eat. He saw a man planting carob trees. The man explained that these trees would take 70 years to grow. Choni fell asleep where he was. Hashem made rock form around him, which hid him from view. When he awoke, he saw a man picking carob from the trees! He said, "It must be that I just slept for 70 years!" He also saw that his donkey had given birth to generations of offspring. He went back to his house and asked, "Is Choni's son still alive?" They told him he was not, but a grandson is still alive. He then went to the Beis Medrash and heard the **Chachomim** saying, "The learning today is as clear as it used to be in the days of Choni". He said, "I am Choni". They did not believe him, and did not respect him as Choni deserved to be respected. Choni davened to Hashem that he should die, and he did. **Rava** said, this is what people mean when they say, "Either give me friends or give me death".
- **Abba Chilkiya** was Choni's grandson. When the people needed rain, they would go to him to daven for them, he would daven, and it would then rain. It once happened that the **Rabanan** sent 2 messengers to ask him to daven for rain. They found him working in the field, and greeted him. He did not greet them warmly in return. He kept working. In the evening, he took his shovel and some wood and carried it on one shoulder and carried his cloak on the other shoulder. He also walked barefoot the entire way and only put on his shoes when he walked through water. When he passed a thorny bush, he lifted his clothing, thereby exposing his legs to the thorns. When he reached his town, his wife was there to greet him, all dressed up. When he reached his house, he first allowed his wife to go in, then he himself went in, then he allowed the messengers to come in. He sat down to eat and did not invite the messengers to eat with him. He cut the bread and gave one piece to the older children and 2 pieces to the younger children. He then privately told his wife, "These **Rabanan** have come to ask us to daven for rain. Let's go to the roof to daven before they ask us, and then, if Hashem sends rain, we can make believe that we had nothing to do with it. They went to daven on opposite corners of the roof. Clouds began to appear over his wife's corner before his. He then went back down and asked

the **Rabanan** why they had come. They said, “The **Rabanan** sent us to ask you to daven for rain”. He said, Baruch Hashem you don’t need me, because Hashem has already sent rain. They told him, “We know you davened for the rain, and that is why it has rained, but we have questions about the way you did things today that are bothering us”. They proceeded to ask him regarding every aspect mentioned above, and he explained himself:

- He didn’t greet them because he was a hired worker and did not want to waste the time that he was supposed to be working.
- He carried the cloak on a separate shoulder, because it was a borrowed cloak, and it was not borrowed to be used as a cushion for his packages, only to be worn.
- He only wore his shoes in the water, because the rest of the way he could see where he was stepping and could do without the protection of shoes (he was very poor and wanted to use the shoes as little as possible).
- He exposed his legs to the thorns rather than have them rip his clothing, because his skin would heal, and clothing does not.
- His wife came to greet him all dressed up so that he should not have the desire to look at any other women.
- He let his wife go in before himself, because he didn’t know the **Rabanan** well, and didn’t want to leave her outside with them alone.
- He didn’t invite them to eat, because they knew that he had limited food and would have declined, so he didn’t want to extend an invitation he knew would be declined and then have them indebted for having been invited.
- He gave the older children one piece of bread, because they were home all day and had eaten something already. The younger children were in Yeshiva and had not eaten, so he gave them 2 pieces.
- His wife’s tefilla was answered first, because she would give bread to poor people and he would give money. Since she would give more immediate benefit, she was answered first. Also, he would daven that the resha’im should die, and she would daven that they do teshuva.
- **Chanah Hanechba** (the “hidden one”) was a grandson of Choni. When the world was in need of rain, the **Rabanan** would send little children to him. They would pull at his robe and beg him for rain. He would daven to Hashem, “Please bring rain for the sake of these children, who don’t even realize the difference between one who can’t give rain and Hashem, Who does bring rain”.
 - He was called “The Hidden”, because he was very careful to fully cover himself when going to the bathroom.
- **R’ Zrika** said to **R’ Safra**, look at the difference between the great **Rabanan** of Bavel and those of Eretz Yisrael, in regard to the way they would daven for rain. **R’ Huna and R’ Chisda**, who were of Bavel, would gather people to daven publicly for rain. **R’ Yona** the father of **R’ Mani** would hide the fact that he was davening for rain, even from his family.
 - **R’ Mani** was once being harassed by the Nasi’s people. He cried at his father’s grave that he was being harassed. When these people were riding by the grave, their horses froze in place, and did not move until they accepted upon themselves to cease the harassment.
 - **R’ Mani** once complained to **R’ Yitzchak ben Elyashiv** that the wealthy people of his in-laws’ house were harassing him. **R’ Yitzchak** said, “Let them become poor”, and they became poor. **R’ Mani** later complained that they now bother him for financial support. **R’ Yitzchak** said, “Let them become wealthy”, and they became wealthy.
 - **R’ Mani** once complained to **R’ Yitzchak ben Elyashiv** that he did not find his wife to be attractive. **R’ Yitzchak** said, “She should become pretty”, and she became pretty. **R’ Mani** later complained that she now has become haughty because of her beauty. **R’ Yitzchak** said, “Let her become ugly again”, and she became ugly.
 - Two talmidim once asked **R’ Yitzchak ben Elyashiv** to daven that they should become smart. He told them, “I used to have the power to do that, but I no longer have that power.”