



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

### Bechoros Daf Ches

- A Braisa says, non-kosher fish produce babies internally whereas kosher fish lay eggs. All creatures that give birth can nurse and all creatures that lay eggs gather food to feed their babies, except for the bat that lays eggs and is still able to nurse. Dolphins can reproduce with humans. **R' Yehuda** explains that dolphins are the "bnei yama" (creatures that are half man and half fish). All creatures whose beitzim are on the outside produce babies internally whereas creatures with beitzim on the inside lay eggs. [Q: We have learned that **Shmuel** said that the goose and the wild goose are kilayim with each other, and **Abaye** explained this is because the wild goose has its beitzim on the outside and the goose has its beitzim on the inside, and yet we know that both of these lay eggs!? A: Rather, the Braisa must mean that male creatures that have their eiver on the outside produce babies internally and those that have them inside lay eggs.] Creatures that have tashmish by day give birth by day and creatures that have tashmish at night give birth at night. Creatures that have tashmish by day and by night give birth by day and by night. An example of a creature that only has tashmish by day is the chicken, that only has tashmish by night is the bat, that has tashmish by day and by night are humans and creatures similar to them.
  - **Q:** Why is this important to know? **A:** For the ruling of **R' Mari the son of R' Kahana**, who said that if one checked a chicken's nest on Erev Yom Tov and saw no eggs in it and early the next morning found an egg in it, it is mutar to eat on Yom Tov, because it must have been there before nightfall and he just didn't see it.
    - **Q:** But if he had checked well how can we say that it was really there!? **A:** We must say that most of it emerged from the chicken before nightfall and then went back in and then came out during the night. This would be mutar to eat on Yom Tov according to **R' Yochanan**.

The Braisa says, creatures that have tashmish in the same way and have gestation periods of similar times can interbreed and nurse the offspring of each other. All creatures have tashmish with the male's face facing the back of the female's neck, except for 3 creatures that have tashmish facing each other – fish, humans, and snakes.

- **Q:** Why are these three creatures different? **A:** **R' Dimi** said that in EY they explain it is because the Shechina spoke to these 3 creatures.
- A Braisa says that camels mate back to back.
- A Braisa says, a chicken lays an egg after 21 days (of having been with the rooster). The comparable among the trees is the Luz tree (whose fruit takes 21 days to develop). A dog has a gestation period of 50 days, and the comparable among the trees is the Tus tree. The pig has a gestation of 60 days and the comparable among the trees is the apple tree. The fox and many sheratzim have a gestation period of 6 months, and the comparable among the trees is grain. A small tahor animal has a gestation period of 5 months and the comparable among the trees is the grapevine. A large non-kosher animal has a gestation period of 12 months and the comparable among the trees is the date tree. A large kosher animal has a gestation period of 9 months and the comparable among the trees is the olive tree. The wolf, the lion, the bear, the leopard, the bardelis, the elephant, the ape, and the monkey have a gestation period of 3 years and the comparable among the trees is the bnos shuach. The "efeh" (a type of snake) can only give birth from when they are 70 years old, and the comparable among the trees is the carob tree. The carob tree, from the time it is planted until the time it bears fruit, is 70 years, although the gestation period of the fruit itself is 3 years. The snake has a gestation period of 7 years, and there is no comparable among the trees for this wicked creature. Some say that the comparable is the "mochsasim".

- **Q:** How do we know that this is the length of the gestation period of snakes? **A:** **R' Yehuda in the name of Rav** said we learn it from the pasuk that says the snake will be cursed more than all beheimos and all chayos. This teaches that just as the beheima is cursed 7X more than the chaya – referring to the donkey, whose gestation period is 12 months, which is 7 times more than the cat – so too the snake has a gestation of 7X that of the beheima, which makes it 7 years.
  - **Q:** Maybe instead say that just as the chaya is cursed 3X more than the beheima – referring to the lion, which has a gestation period of 3 years, or 3X times that of the donkey – so too the snake is cursed 3X more than the chaya – 3X more than the lion, for a gestation period of 9 years!? **A:** Since the pasuk first says beheima and then chaya, it must mean that the snake is cursed more than the beheima which is cursed more than the chaya.
    - **Q:** Maybe say that it refers to the goat (which has a gestation period of 5 months) that is cursed 3X more than the cat, which would then mean that the snake is cursed 3X that of the goat, for a gestation period of 15 months? **A:** The pasuk says “from all the beheimos”, which means it is cursed more than the longest gestation periods of all the beheimos – which is that of the donkey. **A2:** This is a curse and the Torah is teaching that it is the most that can be darshened into the pasuk.
- The Caesar asked **R' Yehoshua ben Chananya**, how long is the gestation period of snakes? He answered, it is 7 years. The Caesar asked, the sages of Athens mated snakes and they gave birth after 3 years!? **R' Yehoshua** said, the sages didn't realize that those snakes were already pregnant for 4 years when they mated them. He asked, pregnant snakes don't mate and these snakes did (which means they could not have been pregnant)!? **R' Yehoshua** said, snakes are like humans in that they mate even when pregnant. The Caesar asked, the sages of Athens are smart and surely knew what they were doing!? **R' Yehoshua** said, we are smarter than them. The Caesar said, if you are smarter, go win them in debate and bring them to me. He asked how many sages there were, and was told there were 60. He told the Caesar to make him a ship with 60 rooms, and each room should have 60 seats. **R' Yehoshua** then went and tricked a butcher into showing him where the sages of Athens were in hiding, and he showed it to him disguised as a casual worker, because showing others where the hiding place was would otherwise be punishable by death. **R' Yehoshua** saw that there were guards on the outside preventing people from entering and guards on the inside to prevent the sages from leaving. If footprints were found entering they would kill the outside guards and if footprints were found leaving they would kill the inside guards. **R' Yehoshua** put on his sandals backwards, making it look like footprints of someone who left, and they killed the inside guards because of that. He then put them on regular and made footprints entering, and they killed the outside guards based on that. He found young sages sitting above and older ones sitting below. He said if I greet the elders first, the young ones will kill me and if I greet the young ones first the older ones will kill me. He went in and said, “Shalom to you”, without directing it to either group. They asked him, what are you doing here? He said, I am from the Jewish sages and want to learn from you. They said, we should learn from you! He said, if you best me you can do to me whatever you want, but if I best you, you must all join me for a meal on a ship. They agreed. They said to him, if a man proposes to a woman but the family does not agree to the marriage, why should he go to an even more prestigious woman to look for a match? **R' Yehoshua** stuck a nail into the lower part of the wall but it did not penetrate. He then stuck it higher on the wall and it penetrated. He said, the same is with this man – it may be his mazal to find a match with this more prestigious family. They then asked **R' Yehoshua**, if a man lends money and is not paid back so he must take property from the borrower, why should he go and lend money again? **R' Yehoshua** said, if a man cuts reeds

and can't lift the bundle and so must wait for help from others, he will continue to cut more so that when the help arrives he will be able to take full advantage of the help. So too, this lender should look for a more trustworthy borrower to be able to profit from. They said to him, tell us a totally untrue statement. He said, there was a male mule that gave birth and the baby was born with a note around its neck that said that there was a lien on the father's house for 100,000 zuz. The sages asked, a male mule can't give birth! He said, that is why this is a patently untrue statement. They then asked him, what can one use to preserve salt? He said, with the afterbirth of a male mule. They said, but a male mule doesn't give birth!? He answered, salt doesn't have to be preserved! They said to him, build us a house in the air. He said a Name of Hashem and he was lifted into midair. He told them, give me bricks and cement and I will build it! They then asked him, where is the middle of the world? He pointed to a spot and said "here". They asked him, how can we confirm that you are correct? He said, bring a measuring tool and measure! They then said to him, we have a well in the desert and want you to bring it to the city. He told them, spin me ropes out of bran and I will use it to pull the well here. They said to him, we have a broken millstone that we want you to repair. He said, make me threads of stone and I will use it to stitch the stone. They asked him, how does one harvest a row of knives growing in the field? He said, with the horn of a donkey. They said, a donkey doesn't have horns! He said, knives don't grow in the field! They brought him two eggs and said, tell us which is from the black hen and which is from the white hen. He brought them two cheeses and said, tell me which is from the black goat and which is from the white goat. They asked him, when a chick dies in an egg, where does its spirit leave from? He said, it leaves from the same place that it came in. They said to him, show us a keili that is not worth its depreciation. He unrolled a mat of reeds that was too big to fit into the doorway, and told them to break apart the doorway so that the mat can fit – he said this mat is an example of a keili that is not worth the depreciation that will be done. Having bested the sages of Athens, **R' Yehoshua** brought them each onto the ship, each into his own room. Each one saw that the room had 60 seats and reasoned that the other sages would be joining him (and was therefore comfortable and confident). He then told the captain to set sail, and as they were leaving **R' Yehoshua** took some earth from Athens with him. As they passed a whirlpool he filled a pitcher of water from it. They then went to Rome and he brought the sages to the Caesar. The Caesar saw that they looked like meek and humble men and said these must not be the sages. **R' Yehoshua** took out the earth from Athens and threw it in front of the sages. When they smelled their earth they became arrogant to the Caesar. He told **R' Yehoshua** to do with the sages as he pleased. He took the water from the whirlpool and threw it into an empty barrel and told them "Go fill this barrel and then you can leave". They kept filling it with water and the water was constantly swallowed by the waters of the whirlpool. Eventually their shoulders dislocated and they were destroyed.