LAF YOMI

Bekhorot 45 · November 02, 2026

ON TODAY'S DAF

Bekhorot 45 carries on מומין אלו — the blemishes that bar a kohen from the avodah. The mishnah catalogues bow-legs, webbed toes and extra fingers; the Gemara derives them from שבר רגל and שבר יד, then asks whether an extra finger counts toward a corpse's רוב מנין. From there: 248 limbs in a man and 252 in a woman, the six-fingered giant of Shmuel, left-handed kohanim, and Reish Lakish on whom tall and short should marry.

עשו דבריהם כדברי נביאות · THE PROPHECY DEFENCE



1. Rav: an extra finger with bone and flesh but no fingernail, not lined up with the rest, is tamei by touch and carrying — but not by ohel. If it is a limb, it should be tamei in a tent too; if not, it should not be tamei at all.

“Rabbi Yochanan: עשו דבריהם כדברי נביאות — treat their words like prophecy. 'I don't understand it, but I'll accept it.”

— Rabbi Elefant

In the daf: Bekhorot 45a · עשו דבריהם כדברי נביאות — Rabbi Yochanan's prophecy defence · Hear it in the shiur: Rabbi Moshe Elefant · 14:18

צירים ודלתות ומפתח · THE KEY THAT DISSOLVED



2. Rabbi Yishmael's students boiled a zonah sentenced to burning and counted her limbs: 252, not 248. 'Perhaps you examined a woman,' he says — 'the verse added her two hinges and two doors.' Rabbi Akiva adds a third: a key.

“If there is a key too, they should have found 253, not 252. The answer: the key is so tiny that while she was being boiled, it dissolved.”

— Rabbi Elefant

In the daf: Bekhorot 45a · צירים ודלתות ומפתח — hinges, doors, and the key · Hear it in the shiur: Rabbi Moshe Elefant · 25:51

שש ושש עשרים וארבע · DOES THE TORAH TEACH ARITHMETIC?



3. The pasuk describes the Philistine giant: six fingers on every hand and six toes on every foot — שש ושש עשרים וארבע, twenty-four in all. Rabba asks: why spell out the total?

“Does the pasuk teach multiplication — six times four is twenty-four? Yes: without שש ושש, only one hand might have six; without twenty-four, five here, seven there.”

— Rabbi Elefant

In the daf: Bekhorot 45b · שש ושש עשרים וארבע — does the verse teach multiplication? · Hear it in the shiur: Rabbi Moshe Elefant · 29:48

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כמותך ירבו בישראל · THE BLESSING, REINTERPRETED



4. A six-fingered man came before Rabbi Tarfon, who blessed him: כמותך ירבו בישראל — 'May there be many like you in Israel.' Proof, says the Gemara, that he held extra fingers a praise.

“Rabbi Yossi: that is not what he meant. He really said כמותך יתמעטו ממזרי ונתיני בישראל — 'May mamzerim decrease.' If only every mamzer had an extra finger!”

— Rabbi Elefant

In the daf: Bekhorot 45b · כמותך ירבו בישראל — Rabbi Tarfon's blessing · Hear it in the shiur: Rabbi Moshe Elefant · 31:13

איטר · KICK THE WALL



5. A left-footed man doing chalitza: which foot does the shoe come off? The poskim test which foot he leads with — but in Israel most men marched in the army, left, right, left, right.

“A dayan told Rabbi Elefant the fix: tell him 'kick the wall' without saying why, and see which foot he uses. The army trained his march — nobody trained his kick.”

— Rabbi Elefant

In the daf: Bekhorot 45b · איטר בין ביד בין ברגל — the left-handed kohen · Hear it in the shiur: Rabbi Moshe Elefant · 36:06

גבוה לא ישא גבוהה · THE MAST AND THE FINGER



6. Reish Lakish advises: a tall man should not marry a tall woman, a short man should not marry a short woman, a pale man should not marry a pale woman, a dark man should not marry a dark woman.

“Why? Lest they have a child who is a תורן — a ship's mast — or a child just the size of a finger. Rav Elyashiv later relied on this to permit hormone treatment.”

— Rabbi Elefant

In the daf: Bekhorot 45b · גבוה לא ישא גבוהה — lest they have a mast · Hear it in the shiur: Rabbi Moshe Elefant · 43:49