

Ki Seitzei 2015

1.

Burying feces

Nachlas Tzvi page 499

“You shall have a place outside the camp, and to it you shall go out. You shall have a shovel in addition to your weapons, and it will be that when you sit outside, you shall dig with it; you shall go back and cover your excrement. For Hashem, your God, walks in the midst of your camp to rescue you and to deliver your enemies before you; so your camp shall be holy, so that He will not see a shameful thing among you and turn away from behind you.” (23, 13-15)

"ויד תהיה לך מחוץ למחנה ויצאת שמה חוץ. ויתד תהיה לך על אונך והיה בשבתך חוץ וחפרתה בה ושבית וכסית את צאתך. כי יקוק אלהיך מתהלך בקרב מחנך להצילך ולתת איביך לפניך והיה מחנך קדוש ולא יראה בך ערות דבר ושב מאחריך."

The reason that feces must be covered up is in order that one would be permitted to pray, recite berachos and learn Torah. An additional reason is as follows; in order not to cause pain to others. A bad smell will cause others discomfort. The simple reason why feces must be covered up is stated in the pasuk, because Hashem is in your camp.

The question arises, why was this command specifically given then, and not forty years earlier when the Jews received the Torah? The Gemara (Avoda Zara (5b) and Yuma (75)) relates the reason why; the Jews were complaining about the mann. Rashi explains that they were fed up with the mann because they wouldn't need to use the restrooms after consuming the mann. Therefore during the duration of the forty years that the Jews were in the desert they didn't need to be informed of the halachos regarding burying ones excrement, because they didn't excrete. However, once they started to eat regular food and they began to excrete they therefore needed to know the halachos of burying feces.

The reality is that Hashem did the Jews a big kindness by giving them the mann. Rashi explains that in order to excrete the Jews would have to walk a far distance. The mann saved them time and energy. We must be careful not to neglect the good and be ungrateful for the good that Hashem bestows upon us. The Jews in the desert were very lucky that Hashem took care of their physical needs. The Gemara in Pesachim (118) relates that Hashem providing our sustenance is as difficult as splitting the yam suf.

2.

Tzitzis

Shemen Hatov chalek alef page 296

“You shall make for yourselves twisted threads on the four corners of your garment with which you cover yourself.” (22, 12)

"גדילים תעשה לך על ארבע כנפות כסותך אשר תכסה בה."

The Imrei Noam explains that the four corners correspond to the four basic necessities everyone has; eating, drinking, sleeping and procreating. The excess strings allude to the concept of unnecessary extra luxuries. We must be careful not to be overly involved in any of the aforementioned four necessities etc.