

BHKids

CHESHIVAN



ISSUE #9



Be'Ezrat
HaShem
www.BeEzratHaShem.org

Hi, kids!

Some people like sunny days and hot weather, not chilly, cold, rainy weather like how it's getting now. I must admit, I do love the sunshine. But rain is crucial to the environment.

Rainy days might not be so fun, but for plants, animals and actually for everyone and everything that benefits the rain, a rainy day is a good day. So, curl up with some hot cocoa and read this magazine.

Enjoy!

Miriam Tamar

Questions or comments are welcome to be sent to bhkids@beezrathashem.org

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And much more...

Doing Mitzvot with Danny



Hi kids!
 Now that the cold weather is settling in, nothing beats a hot, delicious supper.
 Before we start eating, let's make a Brachah. Come on!

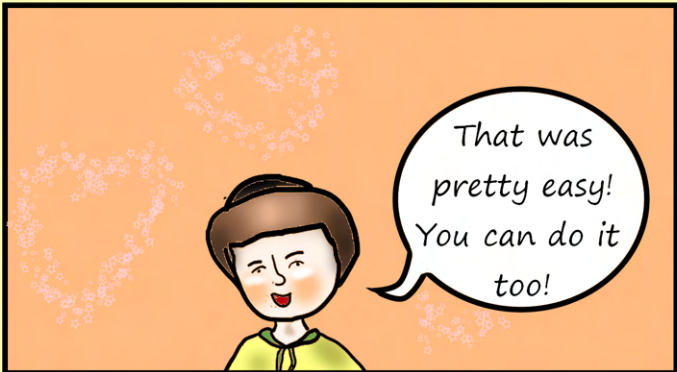


Don't forget to wash your hands before eating any type of bread



"Baruch Atah HaShem Elokeinu Melech HaOlam Asher Kidshanu b'Mitzvotav v'Tzivanu Al Netilat Yadayim"

"Baruch Atah HaShem Elokeinu Melech HaOlam HaMotzi Lechem Min HaAret"



TIP:
 Before making the Brachot, ask someone in the room to say "Amen" after your Brachah, so they can get a Mitzvah too!



Elephant



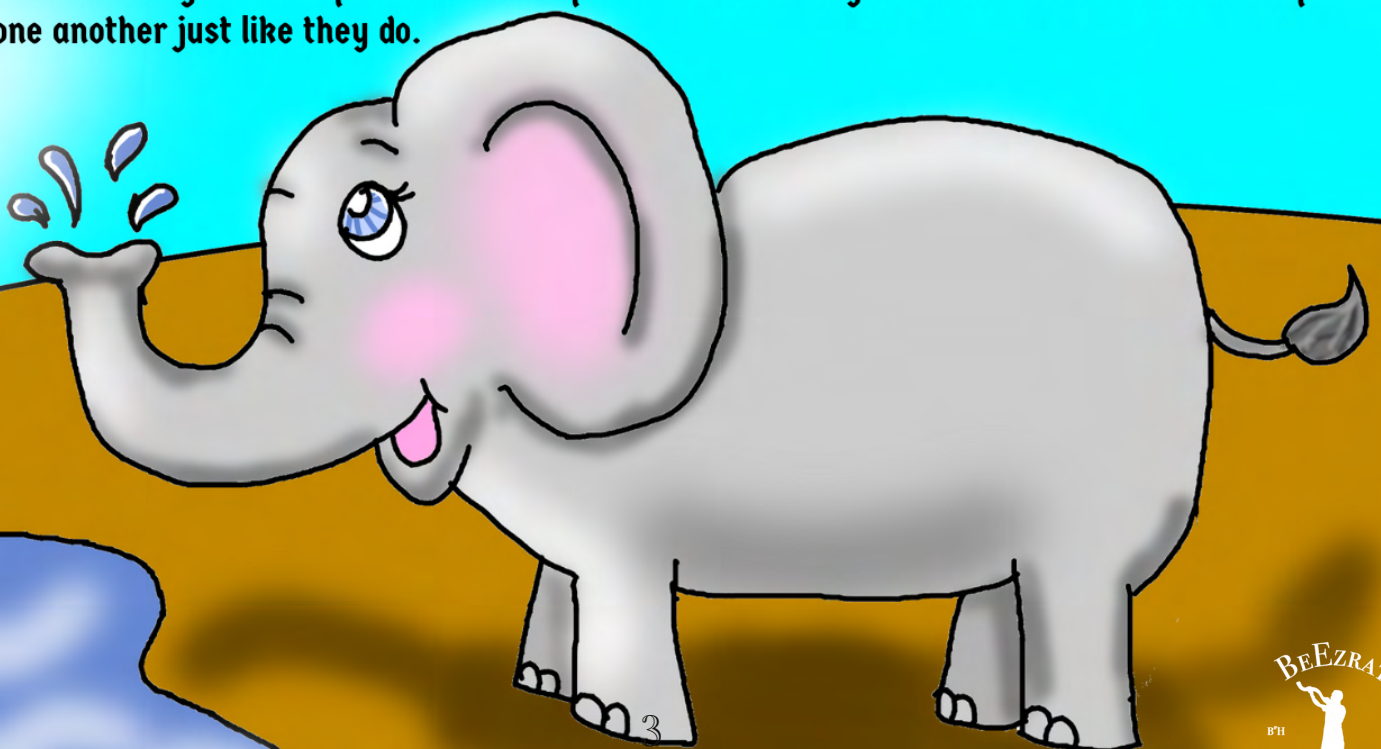
Elephants live in groups called herds, and they always care for each other. The mother protects and takes care of her baby, but aside for that, the aunts, grandmother and other female elephants in the herd, all give a hand, or in this case – a trunk, to the mother.

When a member of the herd dies, all the other elephants in the herd are sad. They pet the body with their trunks, then they stand guard, making sure no predators try to eat the body. The elephants brush the body with mud and dust and cover it with branches and leaves. Then they stay there for a while, gazing at the elephant covered in leaves. The herd keeps roaming around, but about a year later, they come back to the same spot where they left their friend and cover it with more branches and leaves. They stay there for a while and then head their ways.

On the other hand, when a new calf (baby elephant) is born in the herd, the entire herd rejoices. They make playful rumbling sounds and spread the news. Everyone is happy for the mother. They gently pet the new baby with their trunks.

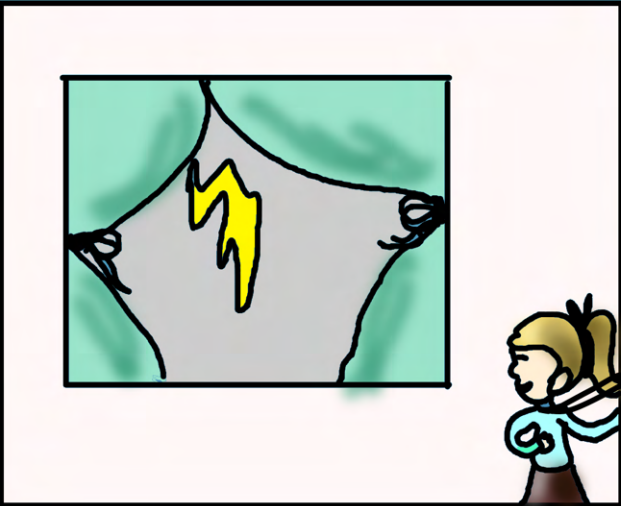
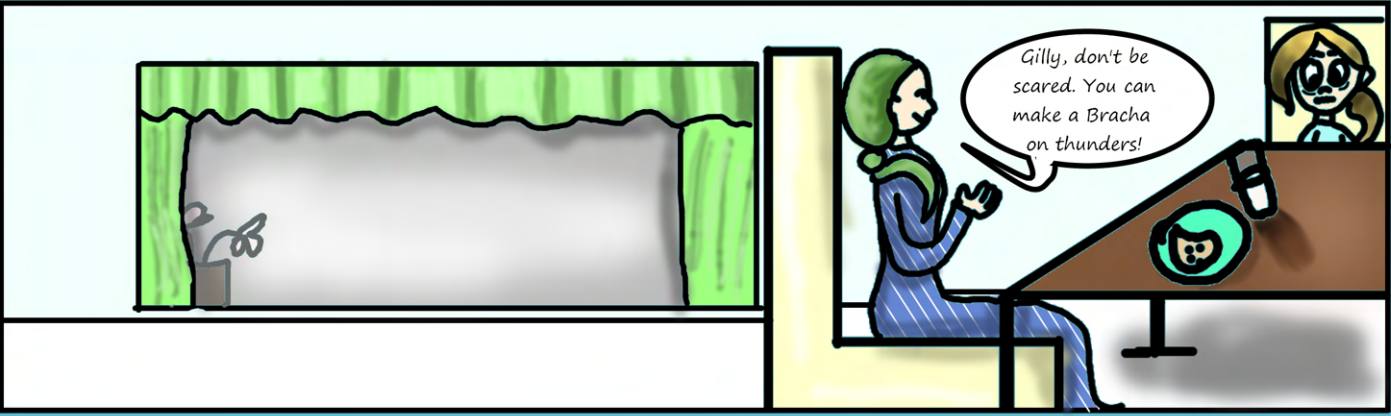
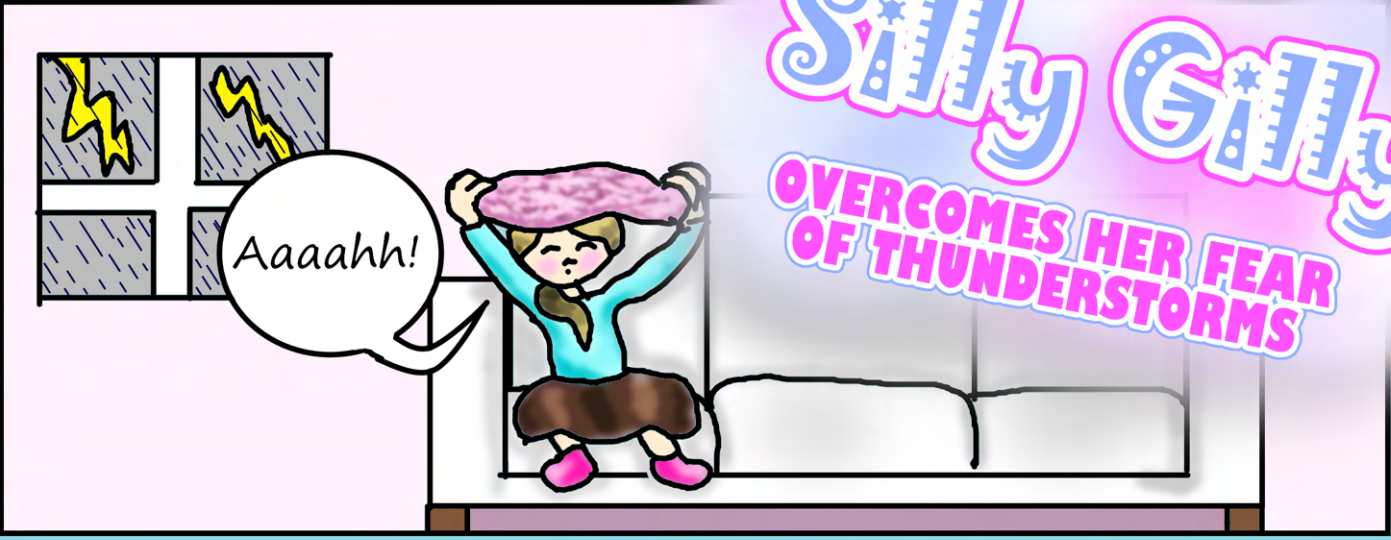
Does this all sound familiar? Elephants act the way humans do; protecting the young, mourning the death of another one, helping each other out and rejoicing the birth of a new baby.

Let's take a good example from the elephants. Let's always care for each other and help one another just like they do.



Silly Gilly

OVERCOMES HER FEAR OF THUNDERSTORMS



MAMA RACHEL

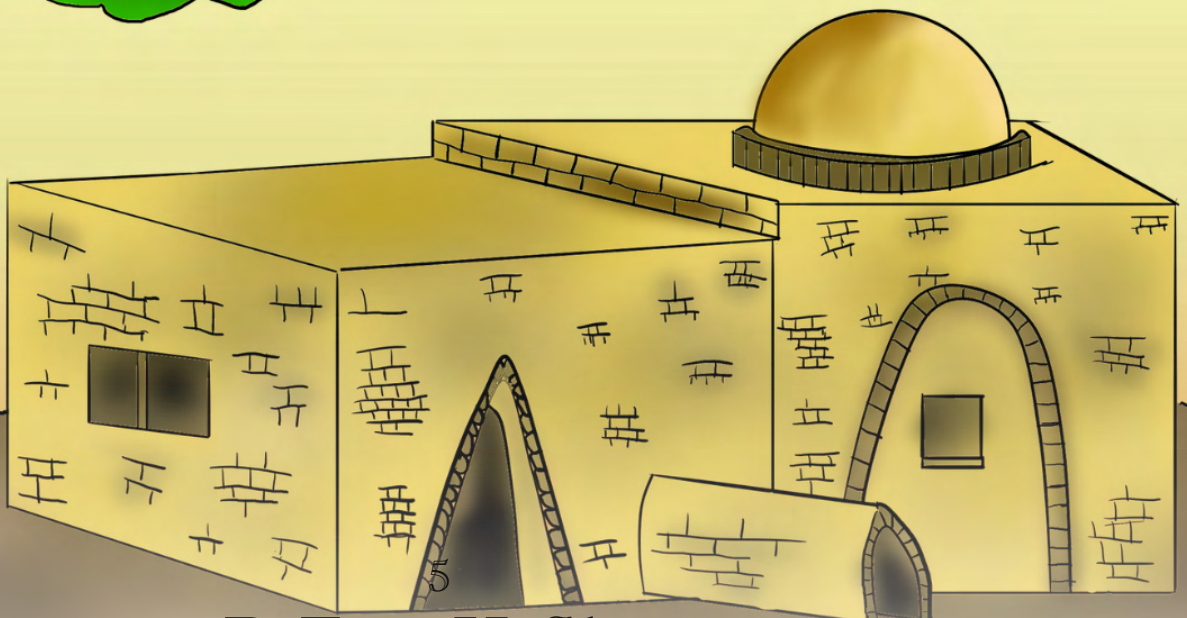
Rachel Imenu passed away on the eleventh of Cheshvan.
Who was she and what was her merit to be the only one to make
HaShem forgive Am Yisrael and promise her “Your children will
return to their borders”?

In Beit Lechem in Eretz Yisrael,
There's the tomb of our mother Rachel.
On the way to Canaan, in the middle of nowhere,
She passed away and was buried right there.

Centuries later the reason will be known,
Why she was buried there all alone,
And not in the Cave of Machpela like all the others;
Our three other Matriarchs and our three Forefathers.

When Yaakov Avinu looked for a wife,
Rachel was the one with whom he wanted to spend his life.
But since her father was a liar, Yaakov was afraid,
That he would give him the older girl, Leah, instead.
So he secretly told Rachel signs she should say,
About which he'd ask her on their wedding day.

The wedding day arrived, Rachel was excited.
She was going to get married with a Tzadik! She was delighted.
But oh, no! What was happening now?
Rachel was confused, she didn't understand how,
But Leah stood there in a beautiful bridal gown.
The aisle was waiting for her to go down.



Rachel understood with tears in her eyes,
That her father could not stop with his lies.
He switched her with Leah, her older sister,
And turned Rachel's wedding day sad and bitter.
She won't marry a Tzadik, he'll soon be taken,
Leaving her grieving, and her heart broken.

All of a sudden, Rachel realized,
That Leah would be very surprised,
When Yaakov asks her about the signs he had said,
And Leah won't know what to answer in the end.
She'll be so embarrassed, her face will turn pale,
Although it was a scam, she couldn't let it fail.
To Rachel, more important than her life was Leah's pride.
She couldn't watch her being humiliated by her side.

The wedding was starting, here's the groom!
But Rachel pulled Leah into a quiet room.
In a shaking voice, swallowing her tears,
She quickly whispered the signs in Leah's ears.

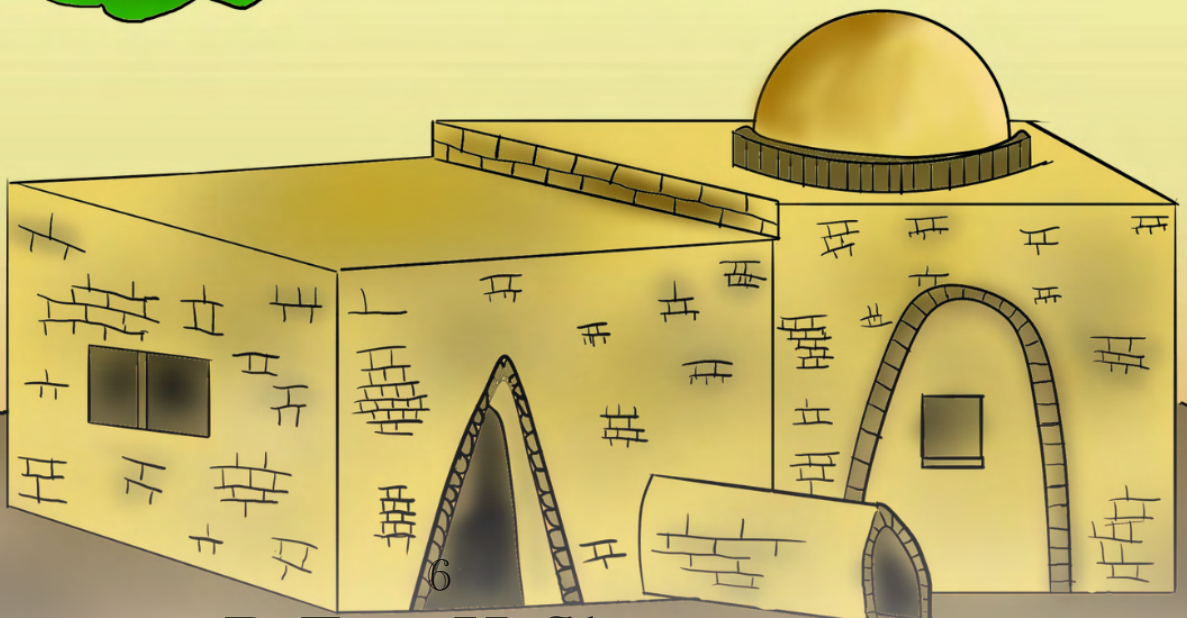
Rachel was devastated, her heart was crying bitterly,
But she was happy for her sister sincerely.
She gave up her chance for a good life,
By being Yaakov Avinu's wife.
About her own anguish she did not care,
Embarrassing her sister she would never dare.

Later on, Rachel found out excited,
To marry her too, Yaakov had decided.

Years went by, Am Yisrael sinned, oh boy!
HaShem sent enemies, the Beit HaMikdash to destroy.
They killed and took captives, they tortured and beat,
The Jews were miserable and had nothing to eat.
They walked by Rachel's grave, with tears in their eyes,
"Mama Rachel, please help us!" were their cries.

Rachel prayed to Hashem, with a cracking voice,
"Please save my kids and make them rejoice!
Remember how I sacrificed without hesitation,
And show everyone how deep is your compassion!"

HaShem said, "Don't worry, Rachel, wipe off your tears,
Your kids will get back home with happiness and cheers.
If your life for your sister you were willing to give,
So am I also willing my children to forgive.



Friends

Forever

If your friend gets bullied, don't just stare,
stand up for your friend, show that you care.
Sticking up for your friend is the right thing to do,
A Mitzvah for me and a Mitzvah for you!



MarCheshvan's Secret: Caring for Others

The month of Cheshvan is also called MarCheshvan. 'Mar' in Hebrew means bitter. The reason is that in the month of Cheshvan we have no holiday/Jewish occasion at all.

In the month of Cheshvan, we start asking for Rain in our prayers. In Israel it's on the 7th of Cheshvan, and outside Israel it's on the 5th or 6th of December.

Why do we start asking for rain only then and not before?

Back when the Beit HaMikdash was built, the Jews used to go up to Yerushalayim three times per year to bring sacrifices before HaShem at the Beit HaMikdash. That was on Pesach, Shavuot and Sukkot. They used to walk all the way to Yerushalayim, and then after the Chag (holiday) ended, they would have to walk back to their houses.

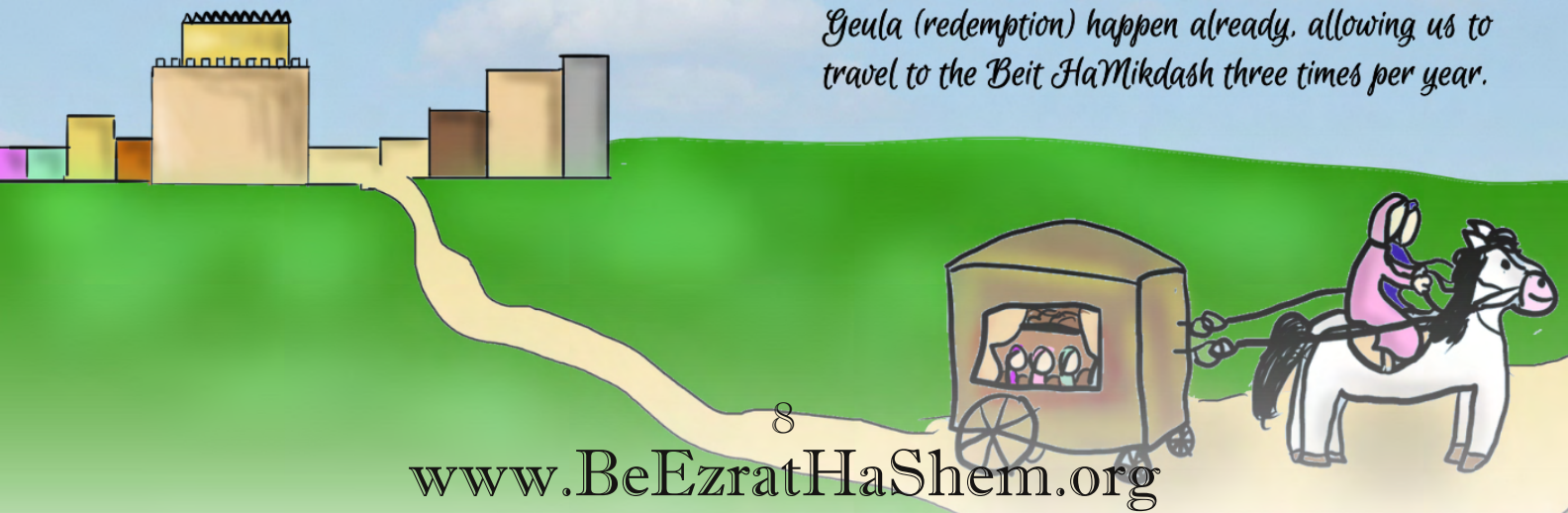
Around Pesach and Shavuot, the weather is nice and convenient for traveling, but around Sukkot it starts getting cold and rainy.

For the Jews who lived the furthest from Yerushalayim back then, the travel back to their houses took about 2 weeks, and that is why we wait two whole weeks from the end of Sukkot until we start praying for rain, giving them enough time to get to their houses safely before the rain season begins.

What a special nation we are! All of Am Yisrael used to wait with praying for rain, even though everyone needed rain to water their fields, just so that their brothers who lived far wouldn't suffer from the rain on their way back home from Yerushalayim.

Even today, when unfortunately, we don't have the Beit HaMikdash and no one travels to Yerushalayim to bring sacrifices before HaShem, we still wait with praying for rain as was set back then. This reminds us how special a nation we are.

Let's always remember to care for each other just like we would want others to care for us, and hopefully through that merit, we will make the Geula (redemption) happen already, allowing us to travel to the Beit HaMikdash three times per year.



Choni HaMe'agel



- In Eretz Yisrael a long time ago, there lived a very holy man named Choni. Choni was a great Tzadik who learned Torah all day. Nowadays, everyone knows him as Choni HaMe'agel (meaning 'Choni, The Circle Maker').
- What circle did he make and what was so special about it that he was named after that? If you're curious to know the answer, just keep reading.

It was another regular day in Choni's life. He was sitting in the Beit Midrash (learning hall) learning Torah, with nothing else on his mind. Inside the Beit Midrash he felt like he's in a different world. He didn't care about material and physical issues. He didn't care what he ate or drank. He didn't care about business or work. He didn't care about the dry and hot weather. He was completely concentrated in the Gemara he was learning. The sweetness of the Torah learning filled up his entire body and soul, and it seemed like nothing can interrupt this wholesome feeling.

However, at that time there was a big drought in Eretz Yisrael. It didn't rain for months. The water was running out, plants began to wilt, and people were worried. They all prayed and asked HaShem to make it rain, but it didn't happen. The drought got even worse.

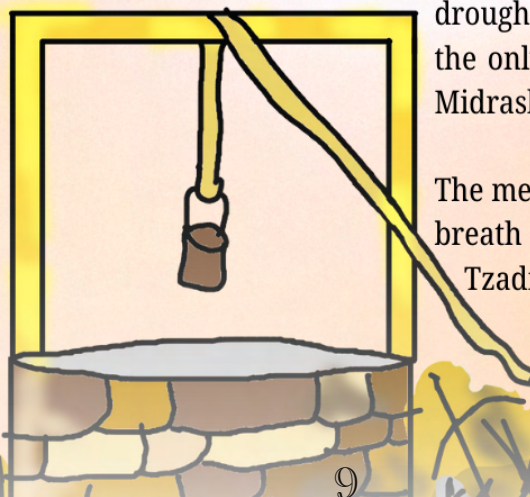
They tried to skimp out on water and use it only for the most necessary things. But animals started dying, no new food was growing and little children cried for some water and food.

The people in Israel were desperate. They tried so hard but the drought was getting worse and worse. They knew that there was only one person who could make the drought stop. A great Tzadik and a holy man to whom HaShem would surely listen – Choni, who was not even aware of the severe situation, as he was completely focused on his Torah learning and didn't care about anything else.

The people were nervous to disturb him from his learning, but they were really desperate. 'If we don't let Choni know about the severe drought, by the time he finds out by himself, we'll all die already', they thought bitterly, 'Choni is our last hope'.

A few respected people were chosen to be the messengers to go to Choni and ask him to make the drought stop, and they headed right away towards the only place for Choni to be found at – the Beit Midrash.

The messengers entered the Beit Midrash and their breath stopped with awe when they saw the Tzadik Choni sitting and learning Torah.



They could barely talk from the holiness that surrounded them. They hesitantly approached Choni and stuttered: "Holy Rav... Please... Excuse us..."

Choni surprisingly raised his eyes from the book he was learning from. Something serious must've happened if these people came to him in the middle of his learning. "What's the matter?" he asked them softly, with endless love and empathy in his eyes.

"We are very sorry to disturb the holy Rav from learning Torah, but there's a severe drought and no matter how much we pray, nothing helps. The wells are completely dried out, the fields grew nothing, animals are dying, little kids are crying for some water and food, we're desperate! Please help us!" they cried.

Choni listened to them in pain. He closed the book he was learning from and got up. "HaShem will help", he told the messengers and went out.

Outside, on the dry ground, under the clear sky, Choni stood and prayed to HaShem to make it rain, but to no avail. He took his cane and drew a big circle on the ground around him. He raised his pure eyes to the heavens and said: "HaShem, The Master of the world, your sons and daughters are in pain because of this drought. Please make it rain and save them! I'll not leave this circle until you make it rain".

All of a sudden, although the sky was completely clear, it started drizzling! Everyone who stood around was shocked to see drops coming down after months and months of no rain at all. "That's a miracle!" they cried.

But Choni wasn't happy yet. 'This drizzle won't change anything', he thought. 'HaShem is doing it just so I can get out of the circle I made here and get back to learn Torah, but this amount of rain won't save my poor brothers and sisters'. He raised his eyes again to the heavens and said: "HaShem, this rain is not enough. Please make it rain harder!"

Suddenly the sky turned dark and poured extremely heavy rains down. The people around got scared of the storm and ran away to find shelters, but Choni stayed in the circle. He raised his eyes to the heavens for the third time and said: "This heavy rain will cause more damage than help. Please HaShem, give us rain of blessing!"

The storm stopped right away, and calm rain of blessing poured down, filled up all the wells and watered the fields, and the people were saved from starvation and death.

FUN FACT

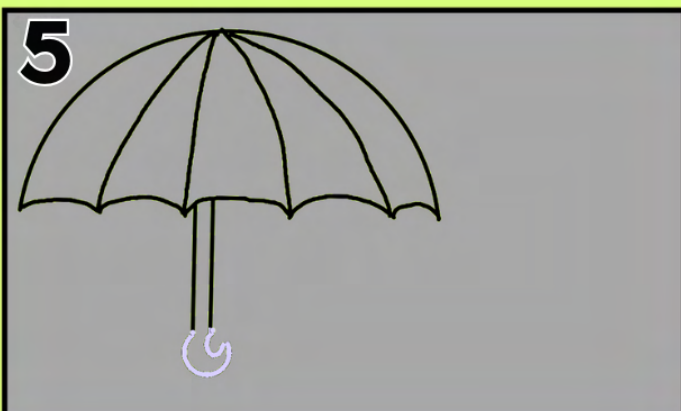
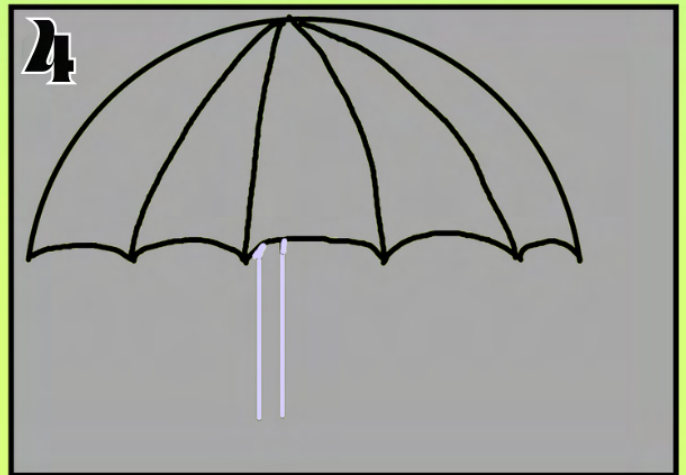
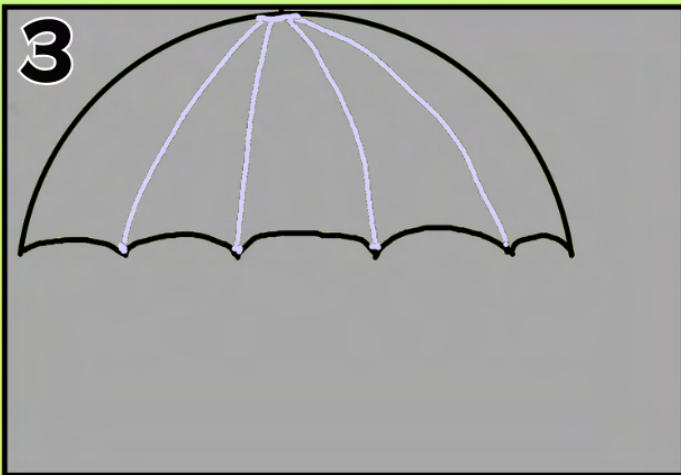
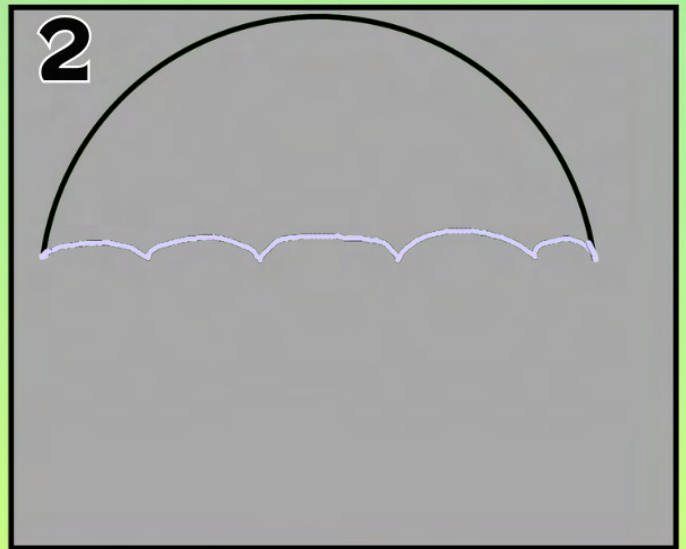
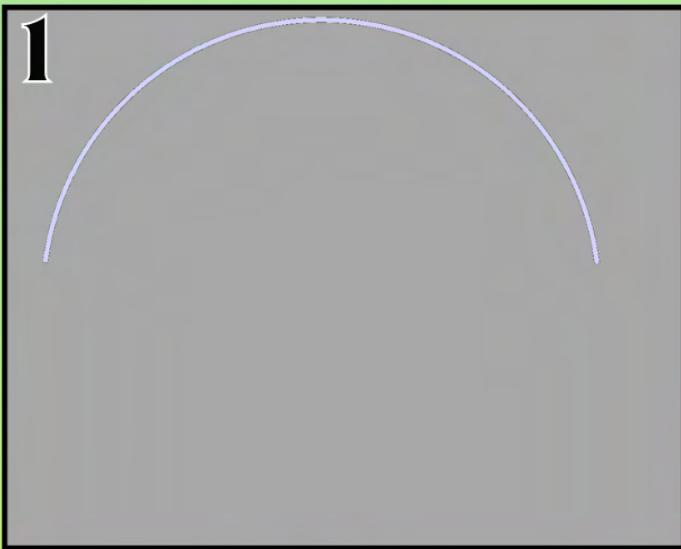
Choni HaMe'agel is buried in the Galilee in Israel together with some of his relatives.

Did You Know?

Choni was almost put into Cherm (excommunication) by other Sages of that time who said that Choni showed dishonor to HaShem by "forcing" Him to make it rain, but another great Sage of that time named Shimon Ben Shetach excused him, saying that Choni had a special relationship with HaShem.



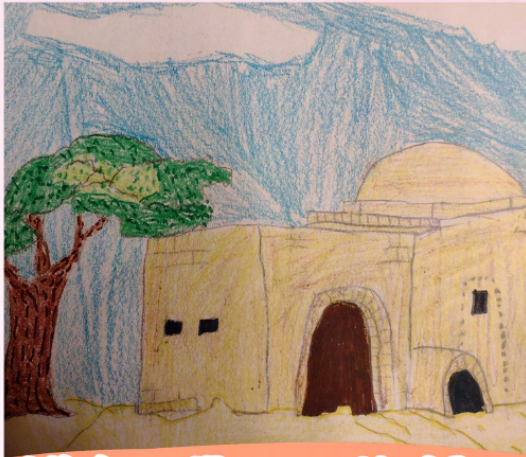
How To Draw AN UMBRELLA In Six Simple Steps



BHKids

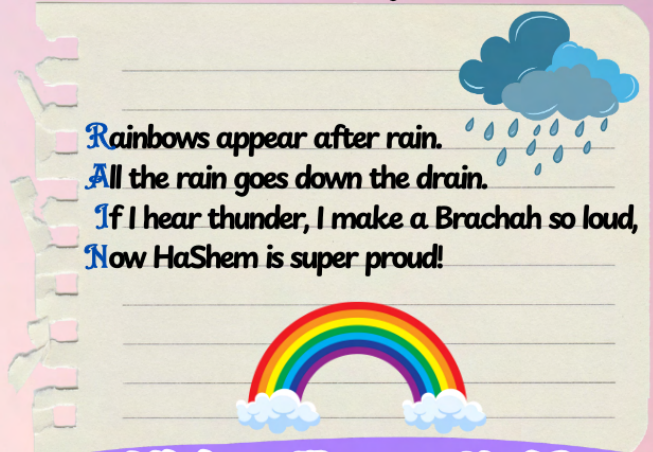
CHESHVAN *art*

Rachel Imenu's tomb



*Miriam Tamar N., 10
Toms River NJ*

Winter poem



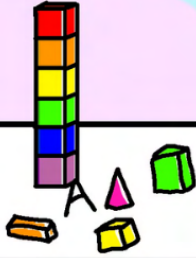
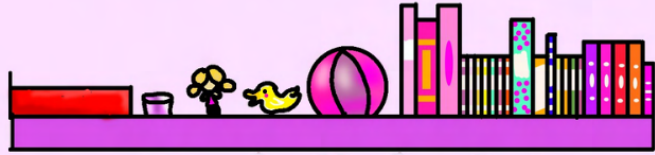
*Miriam Tamar N., 10
Toms River NJ*

If you want your Torah Art to be on next month's issue - Chanukah, please send the picture, together with a short description, your first name, last initial, age, and where you live (city + state/country), to bhkids@beezrathashem.org

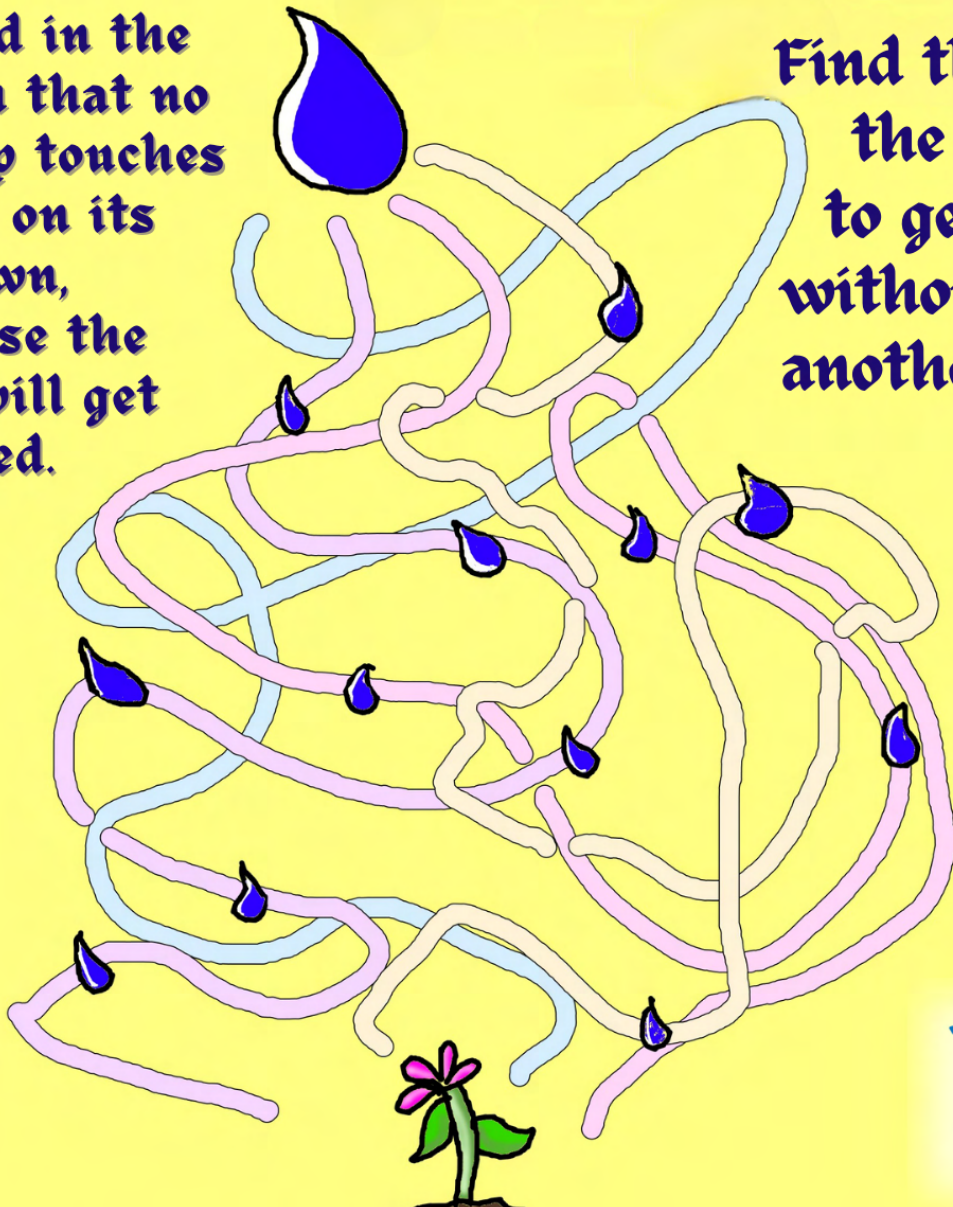
Torah Arts should be submitted by December 18th, 2024.

FUN TIMES

Find all the letters in the scene for the word RAIN



It is said in the Midrash that no raindrop touches another on its way down, otherwise the world will get destroyed.



Find the route for the raindrop to get through without touching another raindrop.