

NJ NCSY Winter Regional 2015

פִּירְסוּמֵי נִיסָא

Publicizing the Miracle of Hanukah



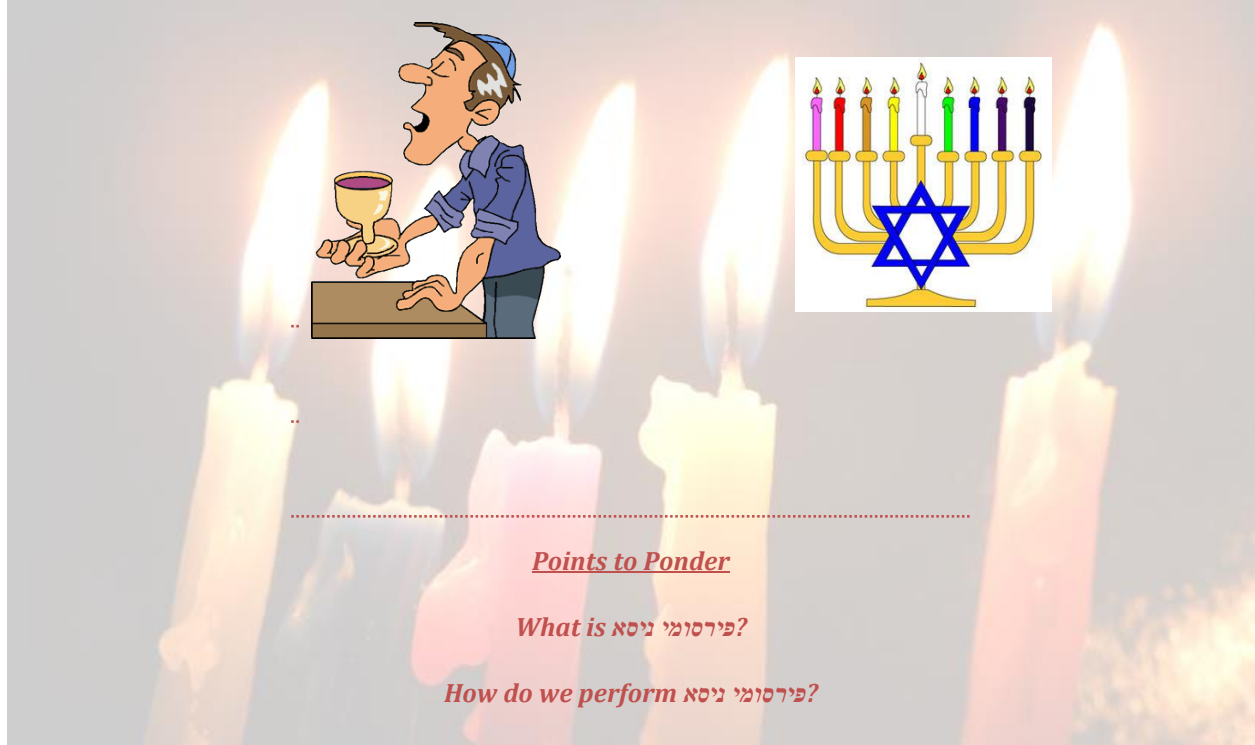
Question:

It is Friday afternoon and Barry only has enough money to afford wine for Shabbat Kiddush or Hanukah candles which one should he buy?

Gemara Shabbat 23b

If one can only afford either wine for Kiddush on Shabbat or Hanukah candles to light the menorah, they should buy Hanukah candles, because of the commandment of publicizing the miracle of Hanukah.

נר חנוכה וקידוש היום, נר חנוכה עדיף, משום פירסומי ניסא.



Points to Ponder

What is פירסומי ניסא?

How do we perform פירסומי ניסא?

What is so special about it?

Gemara Shabbat 21b

The most ideal time to light Hanukah candles is from sunset until the last people come back from the market place.

מצוותה משתשקע החמה עד שתכלה רגל מן השוק.



Points to Ponder

Why is it important to light when people are coming from the market place?

Who were the last people that came back from the market place?

Gemara Shabbat 21b

Best time to light is until the last people come back from the market place. And how long is that? Rabbah bar bar Chana said in the name of Rabbi Yochanan until the Tarmodians have left the market place.

עד שתכלה רגל מן השוק ועד כמה אמר רבה בר בר חנה אמר רבי יוחנן עד דכליא ריגלא דתרמודאי



Points to Ponder

Who were Tarmodians?

What is significant about them being part of the ideal time to light Chanuka candles?

Rashi Gemara Shabbat 21b

The Tarmodians were those that collected and sold wood. They would wait until the last people were in the market place to try and sell them wood to make fires in their homes to stay warm.

רגלא דתרמודאי- שם אומה מלקטי עצים דקים, ומתעכבים בשוק עד שהולכים בני השוק לבתיהם משחשיכה, ומבעירים בבתיהם אור, וכשצריכים לעצים, יוצאים וקונים מהם



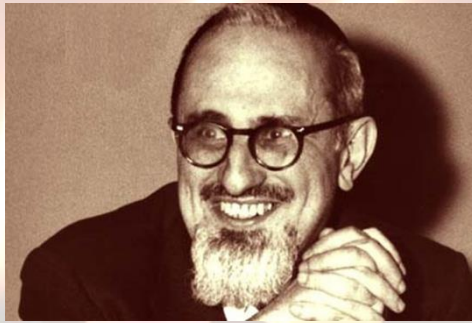
Points to Ponder

What is significant about the Tarmodians?

Rabbi Yosef Dov Soloveitchik- סימן קס

Rashi explains that Jews need to publicize the miracle of Hanukah to non-Jews as well. This is the significance of the Tarmodians being part of the ideal time frame of lighting Hanukah candles. Since the Greeks' intentions were to remove the study of the Torah and to not allow Jews to perform their commandments. Therefore, we need to publicize the miracle of Hanukah to non-Jews as well in order to show the world that G-d saved us and we would not succumb to others that are trying to prevent us from practicing our religion.

ביאר את דברי רש"י שיש פרסומי ניסא בפני נכרים דבחנוכה שנלחמו היוונים להשכיחם תורתך ולהעבירם מחוקי רצונך, בזה מה שאנו חייבים בפרסומי ניסא הוא מטעם קידוש ה', ועל כן החיוב הוא להראות לגוים שאין אנו נכנעים לרדיפת הדת ולא ניחת מפני כל, וה' מצילנו מידם



Points to Ponder

What does Rav Yosef Dov Soloveitchik teach us about Hanukah?

Rabbi Chaim Friedlander- חנוכה ב'

The obligation of publicizing the miracle of Hanukah first and foremost is on the person lighting the menorah themselves. By lighting the candles a person needs to contemplate and feel the greatness of the miracle of Hanukah. Then they will accept upon themselves the yoke of Heaven wholeheartedly and with happiness.

חובת פרסום הנס היא בראש וראשונה לאדם עצמו, שבהדליקו הנרות יתבונן וירגיש את גודל הנס, ויקבל על עצמו עול מלכות שמים ברצון ובשמחה.

