

### Answers

- 1) Hashem knows the future and was aware the Haman Harasha would pay tons of silver to Ahashverosh to exterminate the Jews. So we were ordered to first give silver money for karbonot which serve as a Kapora to protect from the wicked money of Haman. It was collected in Adar, the month in which Haman wanted to finish off the Jews. Also Nissan marks a new year for the korbanot and its funding.
- 2) Hashem wants us to be humble and realize we need each other. No Jew can feel he is perfect alone. He must work with other Jews as a team. So the half Shekel symbolized unity. Another reason is: two people can show their love with a token cut in half, so we give half a shekel to Hashem to signify our love to each other.
- 3) ?
- 4) 1) New Shekolim, 2) Old Shekolim, 3) Bird burned offerings, 4) Fire wood, 5) Frankincense, 6) Gold 7) Donations to purchase animals to be offered when there were no other karbonot being offered. This was in order to keep the mizbeyah busy with sacrifices to atone for any sins of our people.
- 5) Yeravam ben Navat, in his frenzy of jealousy made two egels to lead his followers astray. This is mind boggling- how terrible the Yetzer Hara was for avoda sara was - to repeat what they knew was a horrendous sin.
- 6) Women are usually supported by their husbands and don't make their own money. The Torah does not wish to demand a man to pay for his wife's mahasit hashekel for atonement. After all the women were not involved in the making of the egel for which the half a shekel serves as an atonement. Teenagers also don't have to pay because the Heavenly Court does not usually punish people under 20 years of age. However, if they want to ensure themselves a Kapora it is a good idea for them to give.
- 7) Kohanim needed to wash their hands and feet before serving in the Beit Hamikdash. Originally kohanim were so excited about their privileges that their waiting on line to wash was not a bother. But as the generations got weaker people lost their enthusiasm for misvot, and the waiting in line to wash was troublesome, so more spouts were added by Ben Katin.
- 8) We must wash our hands after waking up; leaving the bathroom; leaving the bath-house; touching our shoes; touching our legs; scratching our head; walking in a cemetery or with a funeral procession; touching the dead; touching a bug; tashmish hamita; touching part of the body that is usually covered and especially if sweaty; before praying; before eating bread at a meal; before eating food that was dipped in water (e.g. a wet pickle or a brownie dipped in milk) mayim achronim (to remove the salt of Sodom that might be on the fingers); touching a goy; after touching an animal; after donating blood or dialysis; after a haircut.  
If someone does not wash his hands he will suffer from a phobia. If he is a Torah scholar he will forget his learning, and if he is an am ha'aretz he will eventually become senile.
- 9) Hillul Shabbat is such a terrible aveira that whoever desecrates it is punished as if he committed all the sins.  
One who is properly Shomer Shabbat is rewarded as if he did all the misvot!
- 10) Aharon saw how the Eruv Rav murdered his cousin Hur when he protested the Avoda Zara. He was worried if they kill him too, they would never be forgiven. But, if they do crazy avoda zara at least they could do teshuva.
- 11) The shemen hamisha had an amazing formula which when poured upon a short kohen would miraculously make him grow tall.
- 12) Some say that by Hashem's order Yehoshua conquered Yericho on Shabbat. So he did not want anyone to have benefit from work done on Shabbat, by taking from the spoils of war. Similar to the law that if one cooks on Shabbat by mistake, no one may eat that food on Shabbat. (I don't know why the war had to be on Shabbat in the first place?)
- 13) The glorious crowns that angels brought to the Bnei Yisroel for accepting the Torah, were lost after the making of the egel. (I hope we get them back when Mashiah comes.)
- 14) When Hashem opened the heavens to talk to us at Har Sinai, the feet of angels were seen by many. Their feet resemble those of cows. The foolish erev rav consisting of Egyptian magicians that converted after witnessing Hashem's wonders, thought that maybe cows are divine, so they made the egel.
- 15) Klal Yisroel were criticized for not standing up against the evil being done. Its frightening, that one who doesn't try to stop an aveira is punished as if he committed the aveira!
- 16) If the original luchot would have never been broken; no Jew would have ever died; the goyim would never harm us; no one would ever forget the Torah they learned.
- 17) The ketoret's powerful scent was so strong, that even a bride on her wedding day felt no need for more fragrance than that which was in the Jerusajem air.
- 18) Hur
- 19) One who prays without washing first, has done the misva secondary.
- 20) We can realize Hashem's enormous patience and tolerance, by the fact that even as people sin terribly He does not usually punish immediately and still provides them with life and its requirements.
- 21) Rav Yohanan and Rav Matya Ben Harash are mentioned in Hazal as having glowed.
- 22) It is a sin to forget Torah. But, if one tries to review and takes notes, and still can't recall all he learned, hopefully he will be reminded of it in the world to come.
- 23) Yehoshua was energetic like a youth even in his older age. He didn't slow down like many elderly people.
- 24) They used to play ball on Shabbat which takes away from the proper spirit of the day. (I don't know if there was an eruv or not?)

- 25) Someone who desecrates Shabbat in public may not be counted in for the actual Minyan.
- 26) Moshe could not understand how a little money given to charity can atone for ones sins. Wouldn't a person need to pay with his life for rebelling against G-d? But, Hashem showed him that ones money is special to him, and for giving it away receives kapara.
- 27) The custom in Jewish communities was to sound the shofar as an alarm to stop people from their work, get ready for Shabbat, and light the candles. I don't know why we don't still do this today? Some close knit religious neighborhoods still sound sirens to alarm the people.
- 28) The goyim decided to make Sunday a day of rest from the work week and go to temple. What a poor imitation to our sacred day of Shabbat Kodesh.
- 29) There is a form of tumah (impurity) that lands upon a persons hands when he sleeps, which can only come off by rinsing the hands three times alternating.
- 30) The Torah says "venatenu", that the kind and generous will give and get right back. Since this word in Hebrew is read frontwards and backwards the same way.
- 31) If you learn Torah for Hashem's sake than you will merit so many great things. You will also retain your knowledge and not forget it.
- 32) By the making of the egel the women did not want to give their jewelry for avoda zara. Only some men did. The women were more G-d fearing.
- 33) Avtinas was in charge of manufacturing the ketoret. He did not want to teach the secret formula to others lest they use the ingredients for avoda zara. He even didn't allow his family to use perfume lest they be suspected of stealing the ketoret. However he is admonished for not teaching others since this is what insures continuity.
- 34) One should always be studying the laws of Shabbat. Just as one must study the laws of the Hag before the Hag. One should try to complete the general laws and details once every year.
- 35) If someone is lost on an island and lost track of which day it is. He must keep Shabbat every day out of doubt. He is only permitted to do a melacha that's necessary for survival.
- 36) Rabbi Moshe Isserles's father.
- 37) We are taught to include the sinners in our company in hope that they do teshuva.
- 38) In the olden days brides would adorn themselves with 24 ornaments. The T'nach consists of 24 books of which we should adorn our souls. Also a bride wants her grooms attention and affection constantly. So too the Torah wants ours.
- 39) One of the most challenging misvot is to guard our thoughts. Especially when wearing Tefillin one must have pure thoughts. If you concentrate on Hashem's 13 word Name this will help.
- 40) When the Bnei Yisroel were involved in the sin of the egel the letters of the Torah floated back up to heaven. The luhot hence became to heavy to bare, so they fell.
- 41) Moshe's cracking of the luhot implied that the generation needed a different approach to avodat Hashem. Since they were not on the lofty level desired.
- 42) Moshe prayed so deep for the Bnei Yisroel that he got sick. We owe our lives to Moshe for saving us again and again.
- 43) ?
- 44) There were 3,000 men involved in the egel. There were about 3,000,000 people at Matan Torah. So King Solomon said he found 1/1000 men involved in that avoda zara but no women!
- 45) The Shechina shined so much from Moshe's face. So he tried to cover it due to his unparalleled humility.
- 46) The Atlantic ocean rose to flood the world and destory for making this hillul Hashem of the egel. When Moshe realized that he immediately crushed the egel ground it into powder and punished all the perpetrators.
- 47) .
- 48) They want to avoid any ayin hara, or jealousy.
- 49) Yom Kippur is such a happy day because that's when Moshe Rabenu brought us the Torah the final time! Also how can we not rejoice that Hashem forgives our sins and shortcomings?!
- 50) The luhot were broken since they were given amongst such fanfare. Low key is sometimes better.



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