



ק"ק נר ישראל  
NER YISRAEL  
COMMUNITY  
Rav: Rabbi Eliezer Zobin

## Ner's Newsletter SHAVUOT

**Special Edition**



Shavuot Times in London



**Shavuot begins**

on Sunday evening at 8.33 pm



**Shavuot ends**

on Tuesday evening at 21.49 pm



**Sunday is the 49<sup>th</sup> day of the Omer**

**Monday is..... SHAVUOT!**

**Here is a link to a Medley about Shavuot which you can listen to before Shavuot if you so wish.**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_2fuHZpLDfc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_2fuHZpLDfc)



The holiday of Shavuot is the second of the three foot festivals of the year and is a two-day holiday outside the Land of Israel and lasts one day in Israel. It begins on the evening of 5th of the Hebrew month of Sivan and lasts until nightfall on the 7th of Sivan.

The word **Shavuot** means 'weeks', as we celebrate the completion of the seven-week Omer counting period between Pesach and Shavuot. Other names for the festival of Shavuot are **Z'man Matan Torateinu** (The time of the giving of our Torah), **Chag Hakatzir** (The Harvest Festival) and **Chag HaBikkurim** (The Festival of the First Fruits).

More than 3,300 years ago God gave the Torah to the Jewish people on Mount Sinai and every year on the festival of Shavuot we celebrate this momentous occasion and we renew our acceptance of this special gift.

Shavuot also means 'oaths' as on this day God swore to the Jewish people that he would be devoted to them and in turn, the Jewish people promised to be loyal to God. In the times of the Beit Mikdash, people would begin to bring their first and choicest fruits to Jerusalem, to show their gratitude to God for giving them their crop. These first fruit were called 'Bikkurim'.

There is a **custom to stay up all night learning Torah** on the first night of Shavuot and it is customary for men, women and children to hear the reading of the Ten Commandments during the festival. There is also a custom to eat dairy foods on Shavuot, such as cheese blintzes, quiches, cheese-cake etc.

The **Book of Ruth** is read on Shavuot and many people have the custom to decorate their synagogues and homes with flowers and sweet-smelling plants because at the time of the giving of the Torah, flowers, plants and greenery appeared on Mount Sinai.



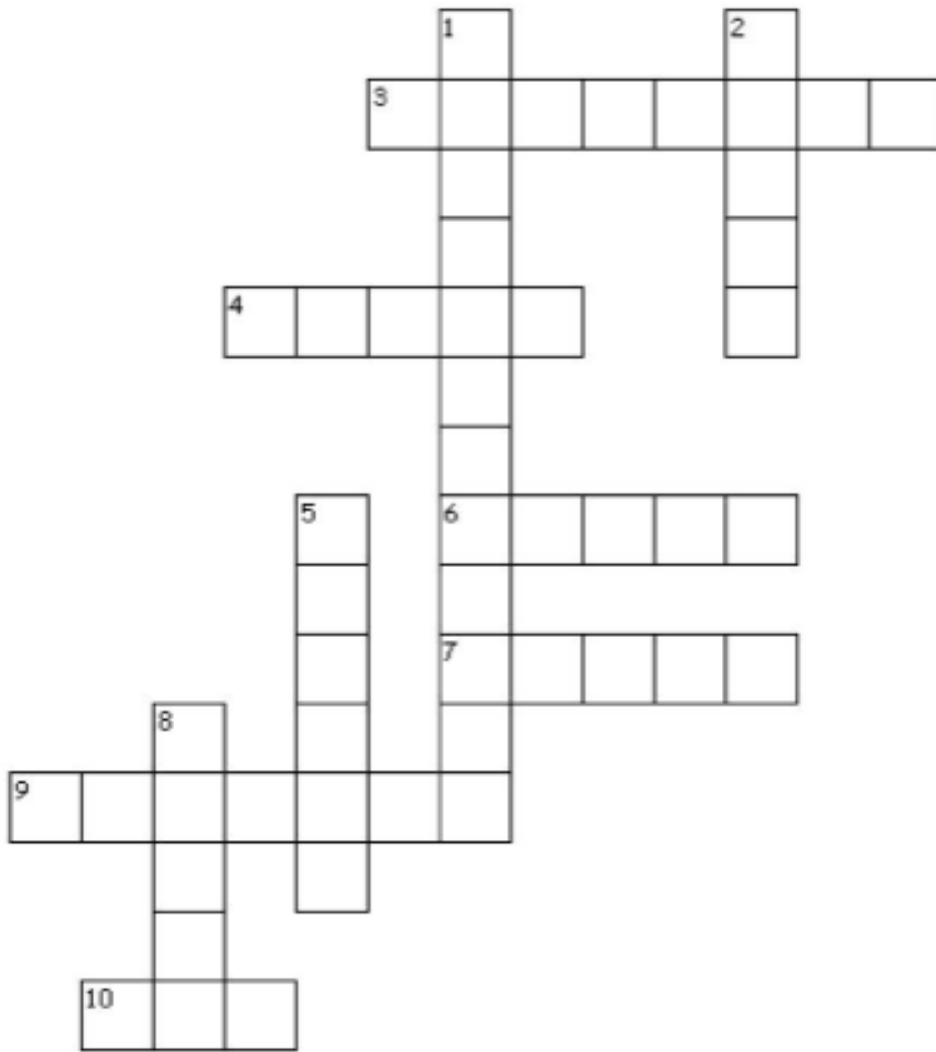


# Fun Game – Foldable Activity

Cut out before Shavuot and enjoy over Chag. HAVE FUN! ☺

<p>1 Thou shalt have no other Gods before me</p>	<p>4 Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy</p>	<p>5 Honor thy father and thy mother</p>	<p>6 Commands</p>
<p>3 Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain</p>	<p>6 Thou shalt not kill</p>	<p>7 Thou shalt not commit adultery</p>	<p>8 Thou shalt not steal</p>
<p>10 Thou shalt not covet</p>	<p>9 Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor</p>	<p>10 Thou shalt not commit adultery</p>	<p>10 The</p>
<p>2 Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image</p>	<p>6 Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor</p>	<p>7 Thou shalt not commit adultery</p>	<p>10 The</p>

# Shavuot Crossword Puzzle



**Across**

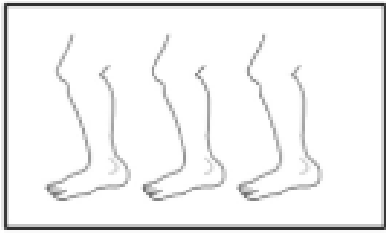
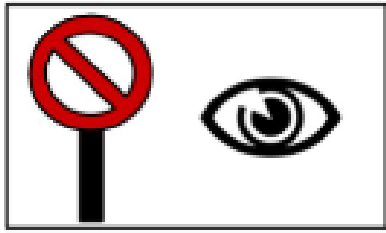
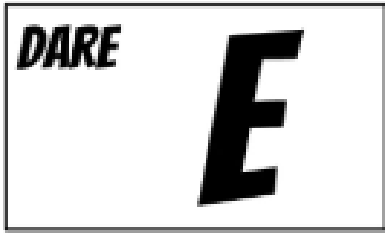
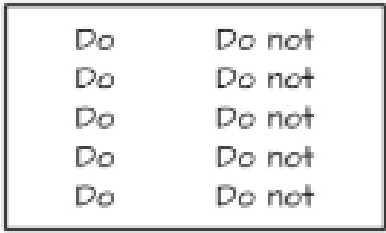
- 3. The Torah was given on a \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4. Hashem gave us the \_\_\_\_\_ on Shavuot.
- 6. What's the name of the mountain that the Torah was given.
- 7. We have the custom to stay up all \_\_\_\_\_ to prepare ourselves for getting the Torah.
- 9. The mountain was covered with \_\_\_\_\_.
- 10. How many commandments are in the Luchot.

**Down**

- 1. On Shavuot we are supposed to listen to the \_\_\_\_\_ in Shul.
- 2. It is a custom to eat \_\_\_\_\_ foods on Shavuot.
- 5. The first two commandments were said by \_\_\_\_\_.
- 8. I went up on the mountain for 40 days and nights.

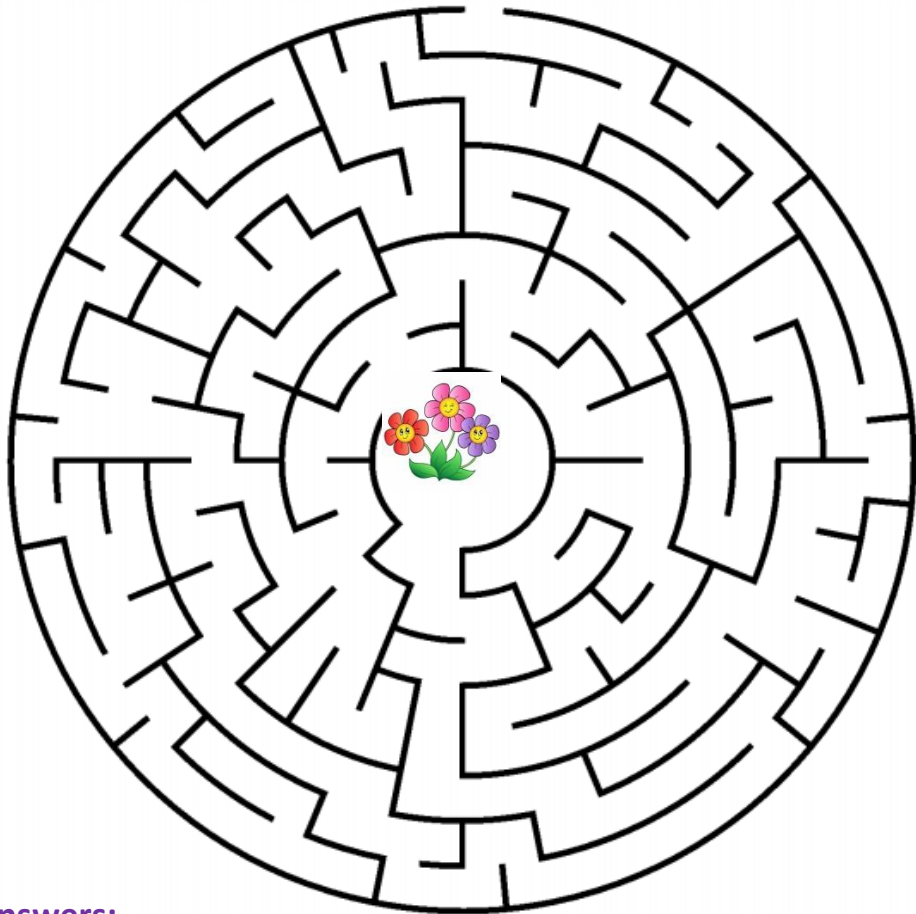
Send in your answers for a chance to win a super watergun and have lots of fun!! Send to: [malkiabram@hotmail.com](mailto:malkiabram@hotmail.com). Put SHAVUOT ANSWERS and your NAME in the subject. Looking forward to get your answers! Deadline is Wednesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> of June, 10 pm.

# Shavuot Dingbats



# Shavuot Flower Maze

Can you find your way to the flowers through the maze?

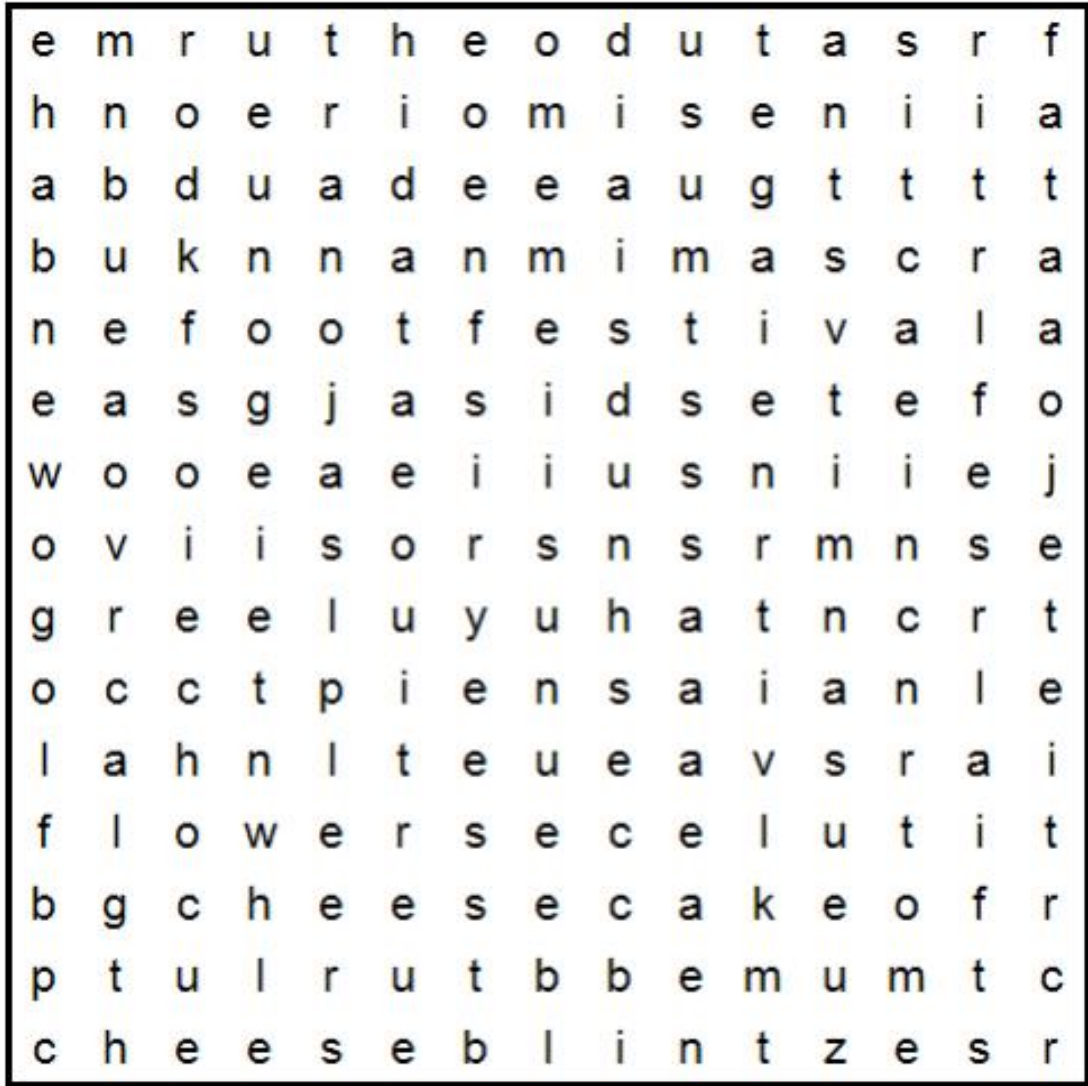


Answers:

Megilat Ruth	Up all night	Ten commandments
Dairy	Sinai (sign-eye)	3 Regalim

# Family Wordsearch Challenge!

You'll find all the words in the summary above



Words to find:

Ruth	Mountain	Foot festival	Cheesecake
Flowers	Cheese blintzes	Jerusalem	





## Story - The Best Merchandise

Onkelos was the son of Emperor Hadrian's sister. Being a clever, handsome, well-mannered young man, he had grown up to be one of the most promising future leaders of the mighty Roman Empire. His uncle looked forward to the time when Onkelos would be ready to make his formal debut on the stage of public Roman life.

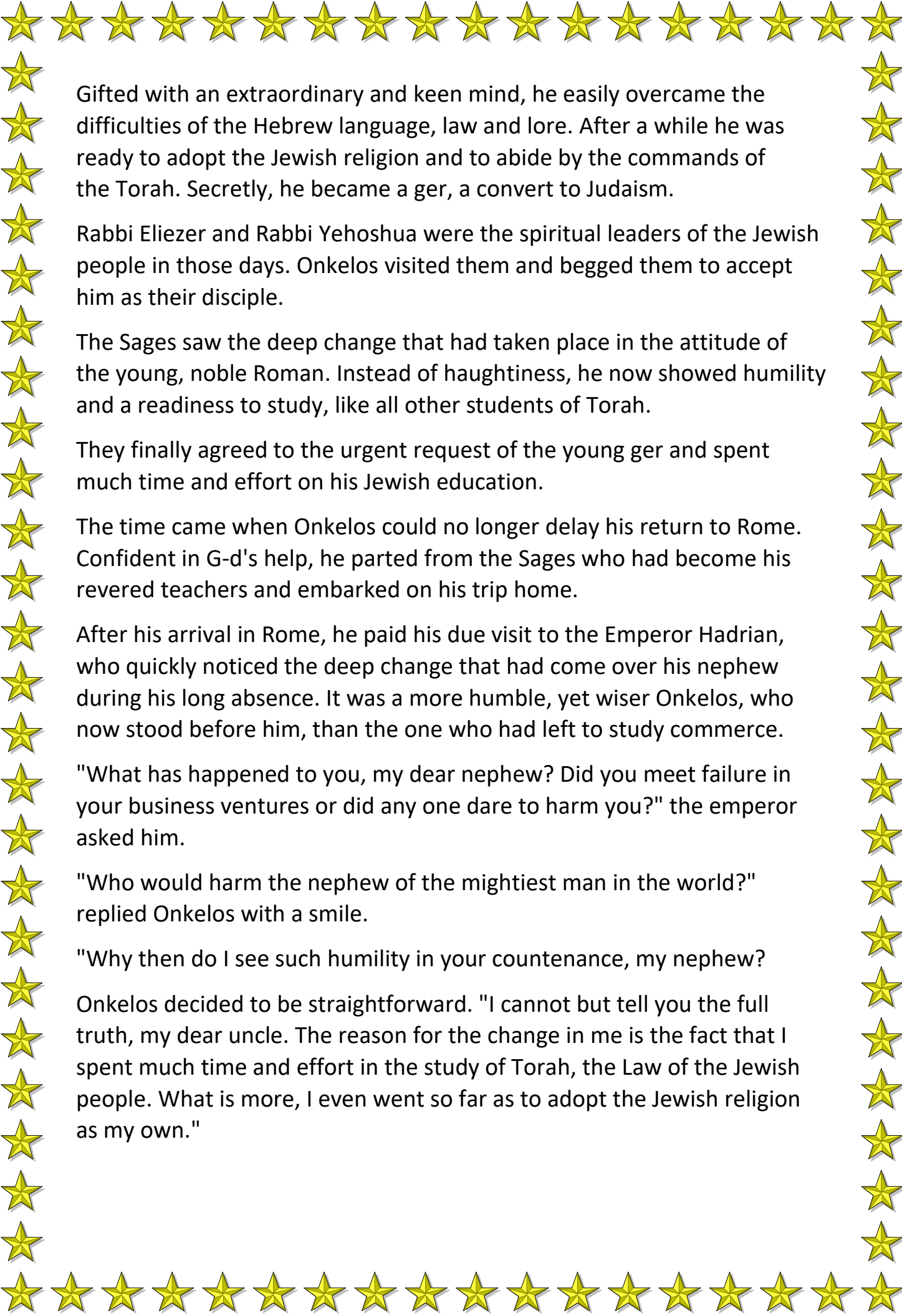
By chance, Onkelos had become acquainted with some of the noble Jewish families who had settled in Rome. Through them, he was introduced to the Jewish religion, and was very much attracted to it.

Onkelos had to remember, however, that he was the noble son of the most eminent family of the Roman Empire. It was unwise for him to be observed associating with Jews. Still more dangerous would it have been, had he openly stated his intention of changing to the Jewish religion. It would have been sheer suicide. On the other hand, Onkelos felt increasingly drawn to the Jewish faith.

After long deliberation, he worked out a solution to his problem. He visited his uncle, Emperor Hadrian. During their conversation he casually mentioned that he had become interested in the world of commerce, and that he would like to dedicate some time and effort to becoming fully acquainted with the principles and workings of this most important field of public endeavour.

Hadrian, who was very fond of his nephew, was highly pleased at this show of interest in such complicated matters as the theory and practice of economics. He gave Onkelos this advice: "The basic approach to commerce is the discovery of merchandise of a highly marketable product which has yet to come before the public. This type of merchandise is the most profitable kind of business."

This is exactly what Onkelos wanted to hear. Now he was given a free hand to travel about and to associate with merchants, many of whom were Jews, without attracting unwanted attention and giving cause for suspicion. During extensive trips, he visited the Holy Land, and remained there to study Torah.



Gifted with an extraordinary and keen mind, he easily overcame the difficulties of the Hebrew language, law and lore. After a while he was ready to adopt the Jewish religion and to abide by the commands of the Torah. Secretly, he became a ger, a convert to Judaism.

Rabbi Eliezer and Rabbi Yehoshua were the spiritual leaders of the Jewish people in those days. Onkelos visited them and begged them to accept him as their disciple.

The Sages saw the deep change that had taken place in the attitude of the young, noble Roman. Instead of haughtiness, he now showed humility and a readiness to study, like all other students of Torah.

They finally agreed to the urgent request of the young ger and spent much time and effort on his Jewish education.

The time came when Onkelos could no longer delay his return to Rome. Confident in G-d's help, he parted from the Sages who had become his revered teachers and embarked on his trip home.

After his arrival in Rome, he paid his due visit to the Emperor Hadrian, who quickly noticed the deep change that had come over his nephew during his long absence. It was a more humble, yet wiser Onkelos, who now stood before him, than the one who had left to study commerce.

"What has happened to you, my dear nephew? Did you meet failure in your business ventures or did any one dare to harm you?" the emperor asked him.

"Who would harm the nephew of the mightiest man in the world?" replied Onkelos with a smile.

"Why then do I see such humility in your countenance, my nephew?"

Onkelos decided to be straightforward. "I cannot but tell you the full truth, my dear uncle. The reason for the change in me is the fact that I spent much time and effort in the study of Torah, the Law of the Jewish people. What is more, I even went so far as to adopt the Jewish religion as my own."



Emperor Hadrian's face grew red with fury over his nephew's confession. This spelled the end of Onkelos' political career and deprived him, his uncle, of the one on whom he had counted heavily in his future political plans.

When his fury abated, Hadrian felt that he should give his nephew a fair chance to explain his behaviour before doing anything to punish him. "You have thoroughly disappointed my high hopes and expectations of you. Yet I am curious to know what caused such unbelievable foolishness on the part of such a clever young fellow as you. Perhaps there was some young woman who trapped you against your will?"

"My dear uncle and friend, to be frank, I must state that no such reason was at the root of my change of religion. What prompted me to take such a weighty step was none other than your sound advice before I parted from you."

Angrily, Hadrian retorted: "I would be the last man to advise you so stupidly."

"Yet remember, dear uncle, before I left, you advised me to search for merchandise that had the promise of being a best-selling article. On my extensive trips and thorough study of many countries and conditions, I did not discover any merchandise that, at the present time, is considered lowlier or cheaper than the Jewish religion and the Jewish people.

Yet, there is also no doubt in my mind that it will become the most valuable merchandise of all in the future. As the Prophet Isaiah said: 'Thus said G-d, the Redeemer of Israel, the Holy One, to him who is despised by men, to him who is abhorred by nations, to the servants of rulers; kings shall see it and rise up; princes, and they shall prostrate themselves.' I should think no reasonable businessman would miss the chance of such great profit."

Hadrian recognized his nephew's conviction, and despite his regret and sorrow, he let him go. He did nothing to interfere with Onkelos' open conversion to the Jewish faith, and his life as a pious and observant Jew.

**Chag Sameach!**

**From Malki and the madrichim at Ner😊**