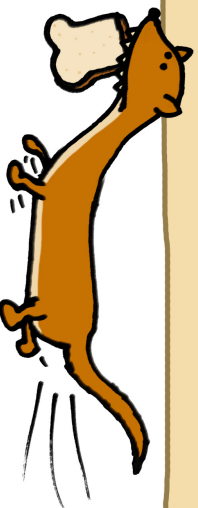


"Tzalmei Achbareichem" is an illustrated exploration of
Rambam's lesser-known but **extremely**
rodent-forward halachos of bedikas chametz.

With reverence for the Rambam's precision and a
healthy respect for cartoon mammals, *Tzalmei*
Achbareichem seeks to illuminate the delicate interplay
between doubt and certainty, matzah and chametz,
mouse and man.

Includes the original halachos in Hebrew and English
for serious study, speculative pilpul, or deliberate
skipping.

*Recommended for scholars, children, educators, and
anyone who has ever wondered what happens if a
weasel steals your bread.*



כ"ד

זלמי עכברים

The

Illustrated Rodent-Related Laws of Passover

A COMIC ADAPTATION OF
RAMBAM'S MOST MOUSE-INTENSIVE HALACHOS



Presented By

CreativeTudaism.com

Illustrated Rodent-Related Halachos of Passover

Written & Illustrated by David Taub

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Mishneh Torah, Leavened and Unleavened Bread 2:11

There were two piles: one of chametz and one of matzah, and two houses: one that had been searched and one that had not been searched. Two mice came; one took chametz and one took matzah [and they entered the houses] without our knowing which house the mouse holding the chametz entered...

Similarly, there were two houses which had been checked, with one pile of chametz before them. A mouse took [from the pile and entered a house]. However, we do not know which house he entered...

or we saw which one he entered, a person followed him, checked [for chametz], and did not find anything... or he checked and found bread...

Similarly, when there were nine piles of matzah and one of chametz, and a loaf became separated from the piles, and we do not know whether it was chametz or matzah: If a mouse took the loaf that became separated and entered the house that had been checked:

In all of these cases, there is no need to check a second time, because the presence of the forbidden substance is not fixed.

Mishneh Torah, Leavened and Unleavened Bread 2:12

A person who placed chametz in one corner and discovered it in another...

or who put aside nine loaves and found ten....

or a mouse came and took the chametz, and there is a doubt

whether he entered this house or not..

In all these cases, he must search [the house again].

Mishneh Torah, Leavened and Unleavened Bread 2:13

A mouse entered a house with a loaf in its mouth.

Afterwards, a mouse left there with a loaf in its mouth; we presume that the same mouse who entered originally was the one which ultimately left, and [the owner] need not search [again]. If the first mouse which entered was black and the one which left was white, he must search [again].

If a mouse entered with a loaf in its mouth and a weasel left there with a loaf in its mouth, he must search [again]. If a weasel left there with a mouse and a loaf in its mouth, he does not have to search [again]. [We may presume] that this is the loaf which was in the mouse's mouth.

If a snake enters a hole with a loaf in its mouth, there is no obligation to bring a snakecharmer to remove it.

משנה תורה, הלכות חמץ ומצה ב"י"א

[illegible]

משנה תורה, הלכות חמץ ומצה ב"ב

[illegible]

מלשנה תורה, הלכות חמץ ומצה בי"ג

[illegible]

Mouse Halachos

Source Sheet by David Taub

Mishneh Torah, Leavened and Unleavened Bread 2:7

We do not suspect that a weasel dragged chametz into a place where it is not usually brought. Were we to suspect [that chametz would be taken] from house to house, we would also have to suspect [that chametz might be taken] from city to city. There is no end to the matter.

A person who checked on the night of the fourteenth and placed ten loaves of chametz [on the side] and [later] found [only] nine must suspect [that chametz is present in his home,] and [hence], must search a second time, for definitely it was taken by a weasel or mouse.

Mishneh Torah, Leavened and Unleavened Bread 2:8

Similarly, a person who saw a mouse enter the house with chametz in its mouth after he searched [for chametz] must search a second time. [This applies] even if he found crumbs in the middle of the house; we do not necessarily presume that it already ate the bread in this place and that these are its crumbs. Rather, we suspect that it left the bread in a hole or window, and that these crumbs were [originally] located there. Hence, he must search again.

If he does not find anything, he must search through the entire house. If he found the bread that the mouse took when he entered, he need not search [further].

Mishneh Torah, Leavened and Unleavened Bread 2:9

[A person who] saw an infant enter an already checked house with bread in his hand, followed him inside and discovered crumbs, need not search [again]. We may confidently assume that he ate the bread and that these crumbs fell from him while eating. Infants generally crumble food while eating, though mice do not.

If he does not find any crumbs, he must check [again].

Mishneh Torah, Leavened and Unleavened Bread 2:10

Nine piles of matzah and one of chametz were placed [aside]. A mouse came and took [something from one of the piles] and entered a house that had been checked. If we do not know whether it took either chametz or matzah, the house must be checked [again], for every instance where [a doubt substance] is faced, [is judged] as if they were present in equal amounts.

משנה תורה, הלכות חמץ ומצה ב"ז

אין חולשין שמא גורה חלדה חמץ לקומם שאין מכניסין בו חמץ שאם נחוש נכוח רבות נחוש מעט ליער ואין לדבר סוף. בדיק ליל ארבע עשר והגיד עשר חלות נמצא תשע הרי זה חולש ואין לדק פנים שניה שיהי גורה חלדה או עכבר בודאי.

משנה תורה, הלכות חמץ ומצה ב"ח

וכן אם ראה עכבר שנכנס לבית והמליץ בפיו אחר בדיקה צריך לבדוק פעם שניה אם על פי שמצא פרוח בממצע הבית אין אומדן דבר אבל אותה הפת במקום זה נהיר ופרוה אללא חולשין שמא נחתה בחור או בחלון ואלא בפירודי שם הרי. ולפיק חור ובדקי. אם לא מצא בלום הרי זה בודק כל הבית ואם מצא אותה הפת שפילה העכבר ונכנס אין צריך בדיקה.

משנה תורה, הלכות חמץ ומצה ב"ט

ראה חילוק שנכנס לבית בודק וקידו בפר ונכנס אחריו ונמצא פרוח אין צריך בדיקה שחזקתו שאכל ואלא חפירות שפילו מקום בשעת אכילה שידרך המנוק לפרק בעת אכילתו ואין דרך עכבר לפרי. ואם לא מצא פרוח כלל צריך לבדק.

משנה תורה, הלכות חמץ ומצה ב"י

היו חולשין צריך של מצה ואחר של חמץ ובה עכבר ונפל רלא ידענו אם חמץ או מצה ונפל ונכנס לבית בודק צריך לבדק שכל הקבוצי כמחצה על מחצה:

Introduction

I've been trying to figure out a Pesach booklet for over a year now. I went through a lot of Haggadah ideas, but I never came up with any that I thought were worth the risk of making the Seder any longer than it already is. My goal is to share joy and happiness—not boredom, G-d forbid.

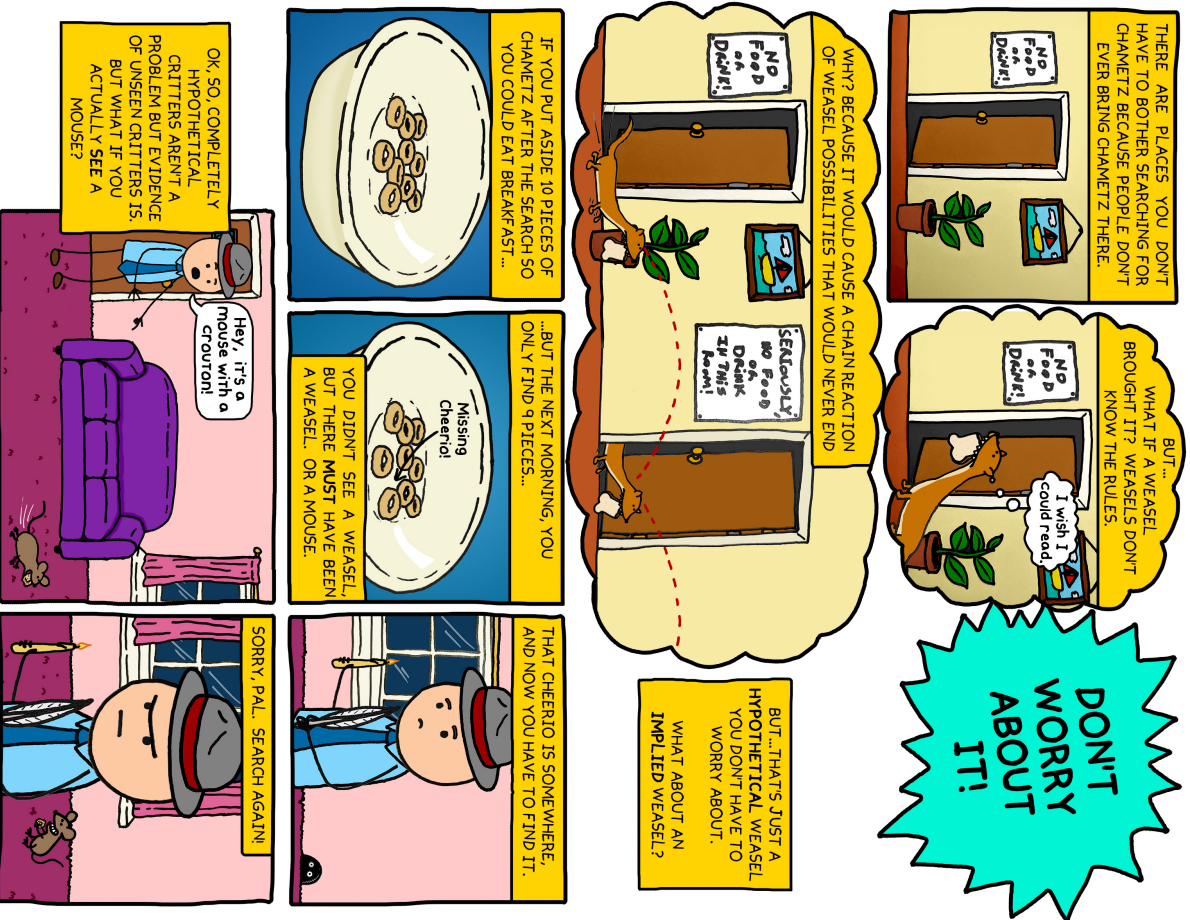
So I started thinking about something that's brought me joy for many years: a series of halachos in the Rambam's *Mishneh Torah* that deal with an array of mouse-related, pre-Pesach shenanigans. Learning and thinking about these halachos always makes me happy, so I decided to try sharing, on paper, the way I experience them in my head.

All of these scenarios originate in the Talmud, but I've always loved how the Rambam's codification turns them into something that feels almost like a surreal, real-life narrative. This comic is a fairly direct adaptation of how these cases appear in Hilchos Chametz u'Matzah, Chapter 2 (halachos 7–13), which I've included in full in the back of the booklet.

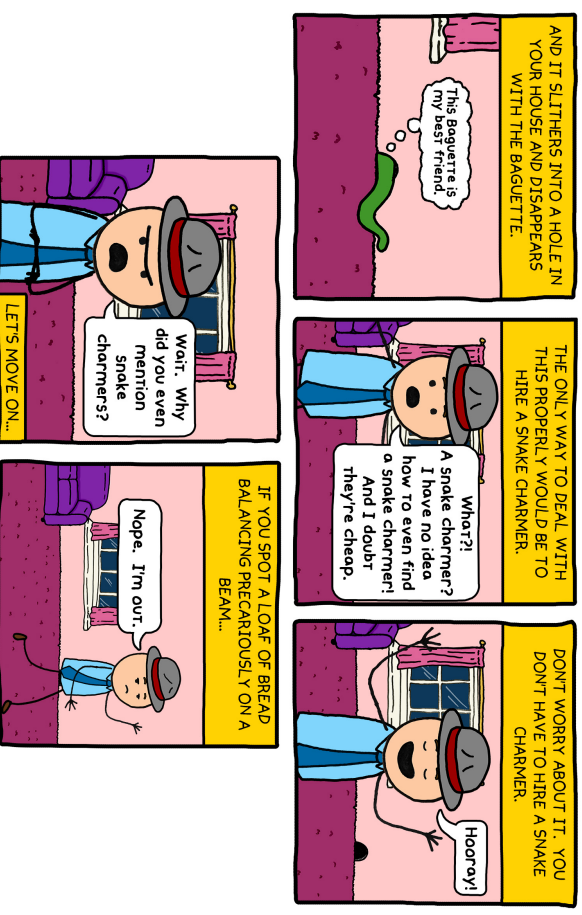
Wishing you a **kosher and joyful Pesach**,

—David Taub





1



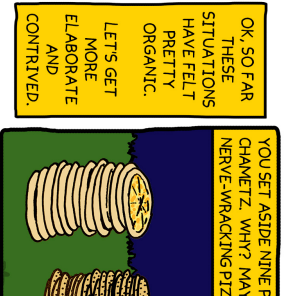
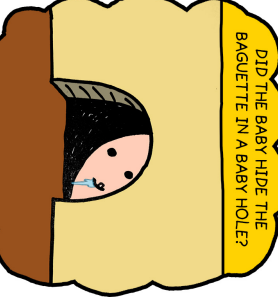
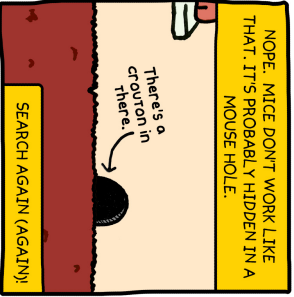
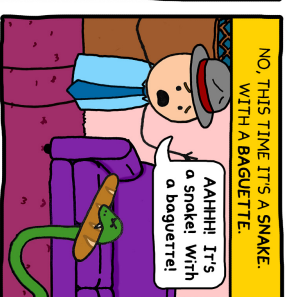
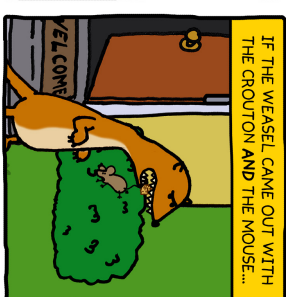
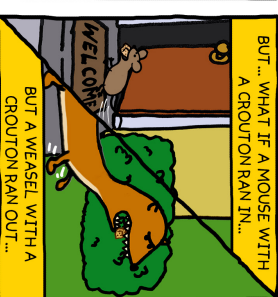
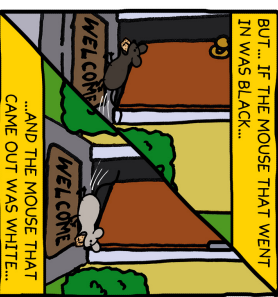
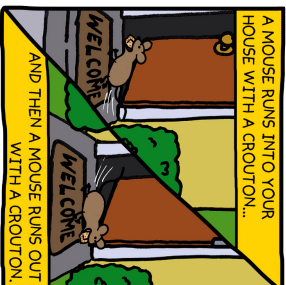
THE END

"כ...י אחרי אשר בדק איש גופו ואיבריו עד היה הבית בדוק היא גופו. ראה והנה עכבר נכנס וכבר בפיו הוא רשע טמא כעכבר ולשון הרע בפיו אז טמא כלו וצריך בדיקה את כל הבית..."

"...A PERSON SPIRITUALLY EXAMINES EVERY ASPECT OF THEMSELVES TO THE POINT THAT THE 'HOUSE' - THEIR ENTIRE SELF - IS CONSIDERED SEARCHED. THEN, SUDDENLY, A MOUSE ENTERS WITH A LOAF IN ITS MOUTH - THIS IS A BAD PERSON, WHO IS IMPURE LIKE A MOUSE, WITH LASHON HARA IN THEIR MOUTH. THEN EVERYTHING IS CONTAMINATED, AND THE ENTIRE 'HOUSE' MUST BE SEARCHED AGAIN..."

-ALSHICH ON TORAH, EXODUS 12:13

6



THERE'S A RULE FROM THE TALMUD THAT IF A PERSON (OR, IN OUR CASE, A MOUSE) ENCOUNTERS AN OBJECT WHILE IT'S STILL IN ITS ORIGINAL PLACE, THE POSSIBILITIES OF WHERE IT COMES FROM ARE CONSIDERED EQUAL.

SO, EVEN THOUGH THE MAJORITY OF THE PILES ARE MATZAH, WE DON'T TAKE THAT INTO ACCOUNT BECAUSE THE MOUSE ENCOUNTERED THIS TASTY MORSEL WHILE IT WAS STILL IN ITS ORIGINAL PILE.

WE'LL LOOK AT THE FLIPSIDE OF THIS SCENARIO LATER ON.

Wait. There are more scenarios? How many possibilities are you going to put me through? A LOT.

THERE ARE TWO HOUSES. ONE HAS ALREADY BEEN CHECKED FOR CHAMETZ AND ONE HASN'T...

Oh, hi! Looks like you bear me to it this year, neighbor! Trust me, you don't want any part of this.

IT COULD BE A DIFFERENT CROUTON, THOUGH.

Wait, really? Come on! Do I really have to search again? NEH, IT'S PROBABLY THE SAME CROUTON. YOU'RE GOOD.

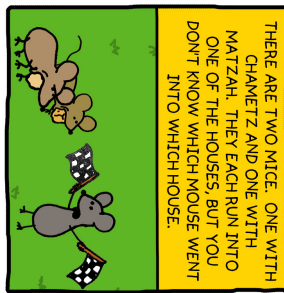
HEY, REMEMBER THOSE 10 PILES FROM BEFORE? WHAT IF A PIECE GOT SEPARATED BUT YOU DON'T KNOW WHICH PILE IT WAS FROM?

Matzah or upside down pizza?

AND THEN A MOUSE COMES AND BRINGS IT INTO YOUR HOUSE.

WELCOME

THERE ARE TWO MICE. ONE WITH CHAMETZ AND ONE WITH MATZAH. THEY EACH RUN INTO ONE OF THE HOUSES, BUT YOU DON'T KNOW WHICH MOUSE WENT INTO WHICH HOUSE.



DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.

So we're just going to assume the mice did the math here and chose the houses they ran into based on what would not cause me to have to search again? What courteous little rodents!

YEAH, BASICALLY.

OK, WHAT IF BOTH HOUSES WERE ALREADY CHECKED. AND THERE'S JUST ONE MOUSE WITH CHAMETZ?

Phew. Finally got it done. I hope that mouse doesn't cause any trouble.

It will. Don't you get it? It will.

This again? That's it. No Erev Pesach breakfast pizza party next year.

DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT. SINCE THE MOUSE ENCOUNTERED THIS MYSTERY MORSEL AFTER IT WAS SEPARATED FROM ITS ORIGINAL PLACE, WE CAN RELY ON THE MAJORITY AND ASSUME THAT IT'S MATZAH.

Phew. I'm glad that worked out. I guess my nerve-wracking pizza party IS a good idea.

NOW LET'S GET A LITTLE WEIRD.

Wait, how weird?

THE MOUSE RUNS INTO A HOUSE, BUT YOU DON'T SEE WHICH ONE...

Oh, looks like we've got a little troublemaker!

DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.

So, each home is judged independently and gives plausible deniability to the other? Ain't that a hoot!

Wait... why are all these scenarios turning out better? Is it just because Dan is here?

OK, LET'S FOCUS ON JUST ONE HOUSE AGAIN.

I should have kept my mouth shut.

YOU SET ASIDE A SINGLE CROUTON IN ONE CORNER OF A ROOM...

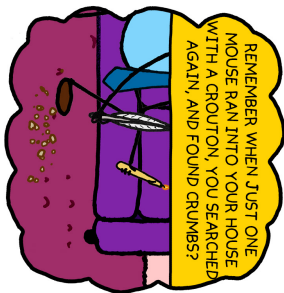
That's not weird. That's how I do it. Don't judge.

BUT AFTER THE SEARCH YOU FIND IT IN A DIFFERENT CORNER.

Wait, now that's weird.

SEARCH AGAIN!

REMEMBER WHEN JUST ONE MOUSE RAN INTO YOUR HOUSE WITH A CROUTON, YOU SEARCHED AGAIN, AND FOUND CRUMBS?



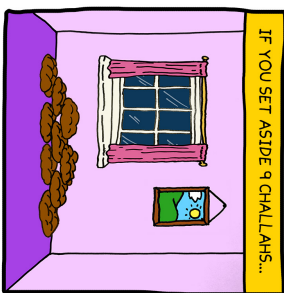
WELL, WHAT IF YOU SEARCHED AGAIN BUT DIDN'T FIND ANYTHING?

Can we please just say that I did my best and let me give up? Nothing!

BUT... WHAT IF YOU SEARCHED AGAIN AND FOUND A CROUTON?

That's bad. Wait, no, that's good, right? It means I found it, right? Crouton!

IF YOU SET ASIDE 9 CHALLAHS...



BUT AFTER THE SEARCH YOU FIND 10 CHALLAHS.

Ooh! Free challah! Looks like my luck is changing!

SEARCH AGAIN!

I guess there's no such thing as a free challah.