

Pshats for Shots

A project of JewishDrinking.com

Welcome

Welcome to the fourth issue of "Pshats for Shots", a one-page resource for helping providing brief, drinking-related *divrei Torah* for each parashah. Wonderful for kiddush clubs, Shabbas meals, or any other gathering in which you need to turn to *al regel ahat* parashah-related *divrei Torah*, "Pshats for Shots" is a project of JewishDrinking.com. An archive of Pshats for Shots is available at <http://jewishdrinking.com/pshats-for-shots-parashah-sheets/>



How different was Lot's drinking from Noah's drinking?

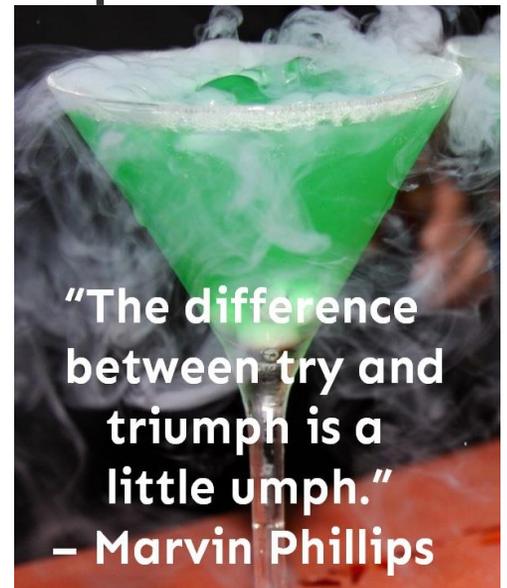
The shocking scene in this week's parashah of Lot's daughters weaponizing of wine for the purposes of sexually taking advantage of their father (Gen. 19:30-38) stands in stark contrast to the drinking of Noah's encounter with wine (Gen. 9:18-27). While we briefly saw wine mentioned in last week's Torah portion with Malkizedek bringing bread and wine out to Avram (Gen. 14:18-20), Lot's daughters bringing forth wine to their father is first time we've seen wine since the Noah episode.

Whereas in the Noah episode, it's unclear if anybody had ever consumed any type of alcohol or knew what could happen when wine would be consumed, Lot's daughters *clearly* know what wine is, what it does, and even use it to gain sexual access to their father. Using alcohol to gain sexual access to another human being has not gone away since their time; it is certainly a very believable use of alcohol, one that remains with us to this day.

The sense of knowledge around the drinking also leads to a stark difference in the two stories: whereas Noah wakes up from his wine and knows what his son has done to him, Lot is described as not even knowing what was going on when his daughters were using him to procreate.

Similar to the Noah episode, we see the procreation of a people whose
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Inspirational Quote



**"The difference between try and triumph is a little umph."
– Marvin Phillips**

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land the בני ישראל – the children of Israel – will eventually come to inhabit, with Canaan being procreated in Noah’s drinking episode, and Ammon and Moab being procreated in Lot’s drinking episode.

While there are other notable similarities/differences between the two stories, these both stand out for not only their level of drunkenness, but also the issue of incest and procreation of nations. Shabbat shalom!

Got a bottle to recommend?



Have been receiving requests to share a bottle of the week (and it doesn’t have to be whiskey – it could be beer, tequila, wine, etc.). If you have any recommendations and a brief 2-3 sentence description of what’s good about it, happy to share – send it to Drew@JewishDrinking.com

Weekly Podcast/Video Episode

Lot’s Drinking with His Daughters featuring Aaron Roller, co-host of *The Portion* podcast



Check out

<http://jewishdrinking.com/tanakh/genesis/lot-gets-drunk-with-his-daughters/>

Halakhah of the Week

With drunken procreation appearing in this week’s Torah portion, it’s hard not to consider the problematics surrounding drunken procreation, which Rabbi Levi notes as leading to challenging children (*Nedarim* 20b), which gets recorded in Rabbi Yosef Karo’s *Shulhan Arukh* (“Set Table”) (OH 440:3). On this, the Polish, early 20th century Rabbi Yisrael Meir Kagan wrote in his *Mishnah Berurah* (“Clarified Teaching”) הוא או היא שכורה – that either one of them is drunk (MB 440:18). What is curious is that neither Rabbi Levi nor Rabbi Karo forbid drunken sex, but find kids that result from such encounters to be troubling.

If you are or know of someone who struggles with alcohol abuse, alcoholism, or other substance abuse, there are resources out there to help. You can check out <http://jewishdrinking.com/alcoholabuse/>

“Because man does not live on bread alone” (Deut. 8.3)

JewishDrinking.com is a new project, begun in the fall of 2019 to serve as the #1 resource for texts, wisdom, and more on drinking in the Jewish tradition. With source sheets, weekly parashah sheets, weekly podcast/video episodes with guests, articles, and more, JewishDrinking.com seeks to shed light on this human activity. If you have comments, questions, suggestions, on either this parashah sheet and/or the website, please email Drew@JewishDrinking.com – ideas are welcome! *Le’chaim!*