

THE HERSHEL TUCHMAN
MEMORIAL LECTURE

*GUARDIAN OF THE TRADITION:
CHAMPION OF CHANGE:
BAR KAPPARA*

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IN HONOR OF OUR CHILDREN

ELIANA CHANA
YEHUDAH CHAIM
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ROCHEL LEAH AND ARIEL DEITCHER

Dedicated in loving
memory of our
husband and father

אלתר משה אפרים בן יוסף ז"ל
MICKEY BODNER z"l

A true inspiration to his
family and friends
נפטר ז' כסלו תשע"ב

DECEMBER 5, 2011

EDIE
PHILIP & JUDY
MARTY & SUSAN
STEVE & ROCHELLE
JOEY & RUTHY

**Why did you decide
to write a *sefer*
on Bar Kappara
of all people?**

- Bar Kappara was the “true” rebbe of Reish Lakish and R. Yehoshua b. Levi.
- He was an *O’ker Harim* — an “out of the box” thinker who made an indelible mark on the future development of Judaism.
- He was both a Guardian of the Tradition and Champion of Change

GUARDIAN OF THE TRADITION

Editor of a "Tosefta"

Bilaam then added, "I SEE THEM AS GARDENS WHICH HAVE A VARIETY OF VEGETABLES." **This one studies [the Beraitot of] Bar Kappara; this one studies [the Beraitot of] R. Chiyya; and this one studies [the Mishnayot of] Rebbe. (Yalkut Shimoni Balak § 771)**

אמר בלעם אני רואה אותן גנות זה שונה של בר קפרא וזה שונה של רבי חייא וזה שונה של רבינו הקדוש, (ילקוט שמעוני בלק רמז תשעא)

Biographical Notes

Bar Kappara

Active from around 180 to 220 CE.

Does he exist in his own right or is he really R. Elazar haKappara?

Unlikely: The two dispute over the need and extent to which fowl must be slaughtered by Biblical law?

??? Bar Kappara

Proposals

1. Shimon b. Kappara
2. Elazar b. Kappara
3. Abba b. Kappara

Origin of the name "Kappara"

Kappara is the name of a locale or village

Candidates

1. The island of Kafris (Cyprus).
2. Kappara, which is to the west of מג'רל אלגרוס
3. Kefra that is to the north of Beit She'an
4. Qefira, a town in the Golan near Debbura



Residence

1. Golan Heights
2. Tzipori: Lower Galil: Rabbis of the North
3. Lud: Rabbis of the South. (It was in Lud that Reish Lakish and R. Yehoshua b. Levi studied with Bar Kappara.)
4. He died while living in Farod, a city in the western Galilee, or קרסא, a village in the western part of the Upper Galilee

Family

- Sons: Yitzchak and R. Chunia.
- At least one daughter.
- Nephews: Chiyya b. Adda and Yehudah b. Pedaya
- Aggadah: Bar Kappara married twelve women. Each supported him one month a year “because of his great wisdom.”
- The source of this “Aggadah” is unknown.

תנאי בר קפרא אומר.
אחת לנשים או לשבעים שנה
היתה באה של שירים לחצאין.

<p>Bar Kappara: A person should always cling to three things and keep away from three things. “A person should cling to the following three things” [refers to] <i>chalitzah</i>, the making of peace and the annulment of vows.</p>	<p>והתני בר קפרא : לעולם ידבק אדם בשלושה דברים, ויתרחק משלושה דברים; ידבק בשלושה דברים: בחליצה, ובהבאת שלום, ובהפרת נדרים. (יבמות קט.)</p>
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Rebbe was Bar Kappara's mentor. Bar Kappara turned to Rebbe to interpret his dreams

Bar Kappara: "I saw my nose had fallen off."



Rebbe: "This indicates that although you were threatened with anger, it has been removed from you."

Bar Kappara: "I saw that my hands were cut off."



Rebbe: "This conveys that you will not be required to toil with your hands."

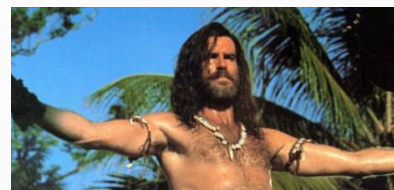
Bar Kappara: "I saw that my legs were cut off."



Rebbe: "This teaches that you will ride on a horse."



Indeed Rebbe's blessing came true.

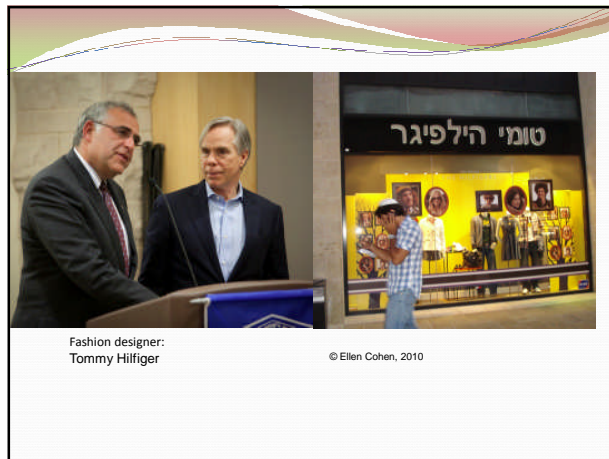


Bar Kappara: A man should always teach his son a clean and not laborious trade. דרש בר קפרא: לעולם ילמד אדם את בנו אומנות נקיה וקלה.

What, for example? מה היא?

R. Chisda: Needle-stitching. אמר רב חסדא: מחטא דתלמיותא.

Berakhot 63a ברכות סג.



In at least one important way, the event signaled a new chapter in the relationship between the designer and Orthodox Jews.

A Stern College for Women student asked, "Mr. Hilfiger, would you be able to design a longer skirt?"

Tensions arose between Bar Kappara and Rebbe

- 1. Wealth**
- 2. Approach to Torah study**



From Heaven she is seen to emanate	Wealth is a Heavenly gift
She causes unrest in the midst of her home	Wealth breeds dissension and unrest
She scares all winged birds	The wealthy think that they have nothing to fear
Children have seen her and hide. Elders arise and stand.	People fear the rich and powerful – and in turn the wealthy become haughty and this leads them to sin
The fleers should] cry out, "Hoi, Hoi" ["Beware"];	The fleers [those who flee from the wealthy].
[Moreover,] he is captured, that is, ensnared because of his sin of haughtiness.	The wealthy are ensnared because of their sin [of haughtiness].

**Bar Kappara
Belittles
Rebbe's
Depth of Understanding**

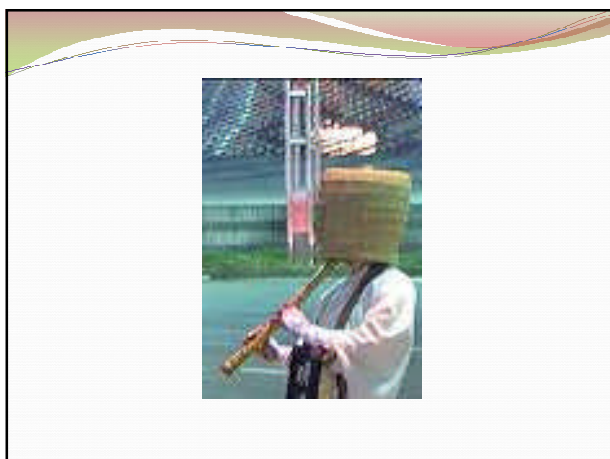
<p>[It once happened that] that R. Shimon b'Rebbe and Bar Kappara were preparing the lesson together when a difficulty arose about a certain passage and R. Shimon said to Bar Kappara, “[To understand this verse we] need Rebbe [to explain it to us]. Bar Kappara replied, “What could Rebbe possibly say about this matter?” He went and told his father, who became indignant. [When] Bar Kappara next appeared before Rebbe, Rebbe remarked, “Bar Kappara, I do not recognize you!”</p>	<p>רבי שמעון בר רבי ובר קפרא הוו יתבי וקא גרסי, קשיא להו שמעתא. אמר ליה רבי שמעון לבר קפרא: דבר זה צריך רבי. אמר ליה בר קפרא לרבי שמעון: ומה רבי אומר בדבר זה? אזל אמר ליה לאביו. איקפד. אתא בר קפרא לאיתחזוי ליה, אמר ליה: בר קפרא, איני מכירך מעולם.</p>
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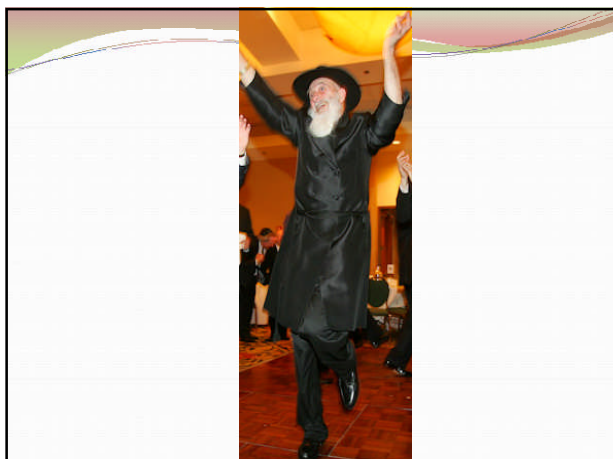


Rebbe expended 24,000 myriad (240,000,000) denarii on these festivities And yet he did not invite Bar Kappara

GUESS WHO???

**Rebbe to Bar Kappara:
Please, don't make me
laugh.**





תואבה : תואה אתה בה
 “You are making a mistake by this type of cohabitation.”
 תבל: תבלין יש בה
 Is intimacy with this animal sweeter than all other intimacies?
 זימה: זו מה היא
 What is the paternity of this child?

CHAMPION OF CHANGE

Let the words of the Torah be taught in the vernacular

MAY GOD EXPAND YEFET , AND MAY HE DWELL IN THE TENTS OF SHEM	יפת א-להים : ליפת
Bar Kappara: Let the words of the Torah be taught in the language of Yefet (Greek) in the tents of Shem.	בר קפרא: יהיו דברי תורה נאמרים בלשוננו של יפת בתוך אהלי שם.
Bereishit Rabbah 36:8	בראשית רבה לז:ח

It is a fact barely acknowledged even by scholars that in the early centuries of the Common Era the spoken language of the majority of Jews was Greek — not Hebrew, or even Aramaic. With communities spread all over the Eastern Mediterranean ... and even in the land of Israel. Jews communicated with each other and with non-Jews in Greek. Allison Salvesen, Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies

Changed the orientation of the Yomim Tovim
 בר קפרא אמר צריך לקרותה לפני נשים ולפני קטנים שאף אותם היו בספק
 ר' יהושע בן לוי עבד כן מכנש בנוי ובני בייתה וקרי לה קומיהון (ירושלמי מגילה ב:ה)
 דאמר רבי יהושע בן לוי: נשים חייבות בנר חנוכה, שאף הן היו באותו הנס. (שבת כג.)
 אמר רבי יהושע בן לוי: נשים חייבות בארבעה כוסות הללו שאף הן היו באותו הנס. (פסחים קח.)
 ואמר רבי יהושע בן לוי: נשים חייבות במקרא מגילה, שאף הן היו באותו

אשה אצל בעלה - לא בעיא הסיבה, ואם אשה חשובה היא - צריכה הסיבה...

אמר רבי לוי ולפי שדרך עבדים להיות אוכלין מעומד וכאן להיות אוכלין מסובין להודיע שיצאו מעבודת לחירות.
 דאמר רבי יהושע בן לוי: השמש שאכל כזית מצה כשהוא מיטב - יצא מיטב - אין, לא מיטב - לא

Bar Kappara: What short text is there upon which all the essential principles of the Torah depend? דרש בר קפרא: איזוהי פרשה קטנה שכל גופי תורה תלוין בה?


“Know Him in all your ways, and He will direct your paths.” (Mishlei 3:6) בכל דרכיך דעהו והוא יישר ארחתיך.

This was a very important and uplifting doctrine. It establishes that there should be no bifurcation between one's life and devotion to HaShem in shul and the beit hamidrash, and when goes out into the world. In every one of man's pursuit, s/he is carrying out God's will and can find God in what s/he does. In Israel, every and all productive activities are included in ישוב ארץ ישראל. In galut it is a fulfillment of the mitzvah of וכבשה. This doctrine certainly uplifted the common man and later became a very basic moving force in chassidut.

Knowledge of the physical world

אמר רבי שמעון בן פזי אמר רבי יהושע בן לוי משום בר קפרא: כל היודע לחשב בתקופות ומזלות ואינו חושב עליו הכתוב אומר (ישעיהו ה:יב) ואת פעל ה' לא יביטו ומעשה ידיו לא ראו. (שבת עה.)

R. Shimon b. Pazzi/R. Yehoshua b. Levi/ Bar Kappara: He who knows how to calculate the cycles and planetary courses, but does not, of him Scripture says, "But they regard not the work of the Lord, neither have they considered the operation of his hands" (Yeshayah 5:12). (Shabbat 75a)



אמר רבי שמעון בן פזי אמר רבי יהושע בן לוי משום בר קפרא: מניין לשומע כעונה דכתיב (מלכים ב' כב: טו) כל דברי הספר אשר קרא מלך יהודה, וכי יאשיהו קראו? והלא שפן קראו, דכתיב ויקראהו שפן (את כל הדברים האלה) לפני המלך אלא מכאן לשומע כעונה.

בעו מיניה מרבי חייא בר אבא: שמע ולא ענה מהו? אמר להו: חכימא וספריא ורשי עמא ודרשיא אמרו: שמע ולא ענה יצא.

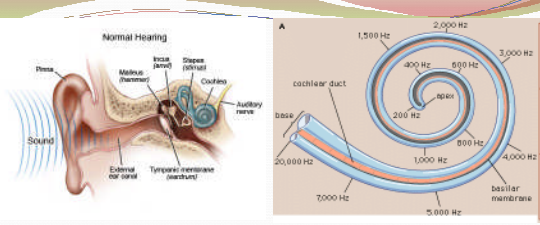
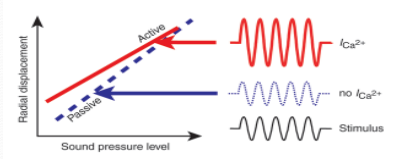
An active mechanism within the cochlea was first proposed by Thomas Gold.

Now, it has been well proven that mammalian hearing is enhanced by some type of amplification process within the cochlea.

Measurements of basilar membrane vibration in the living cochlea demonstrate dramatically improved sensitivity and sharpness of tuning.

In other words, the basilar membrane vibrates more in a living cochlea than in a dead cochlea, particularly in response to quiet sounds.

This property is called the cochlear amplifier

RIGHT AND WRONG WAYS TO INNOVATE

Right and wrong ways to innovate	
Nadav and Avihu	Nesi'im
For drawing near (בקרבתי)	"AND THEY BROUGHT THEM BEFORE THE MISHKAN " (לפני ה')
For offering (בזבחים) a sacrifice that they had not been commanded to offer.	"TAKE IT FROM THEM" (Bamidbar 7:5). Moshe was frightened ... <i>HaShem</i> said to him, "... the idea emanated "FROM THEM," and their desires matched those of the Most High.
For the strange fire : They brought in fire from the kitchen. (אש זרה)	Moshe was still concerned ... <i>HaShem</i> responded, "AND THEY SHALL BE FOR THE SERVICE OF THE TENT OF MEETING "
For not having taken counsel from each other. (איש מחמתו)	And who gave them this advice? From the tribe of Yissakhar.

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