Babylonian Talmud / Shabbat 21b:5

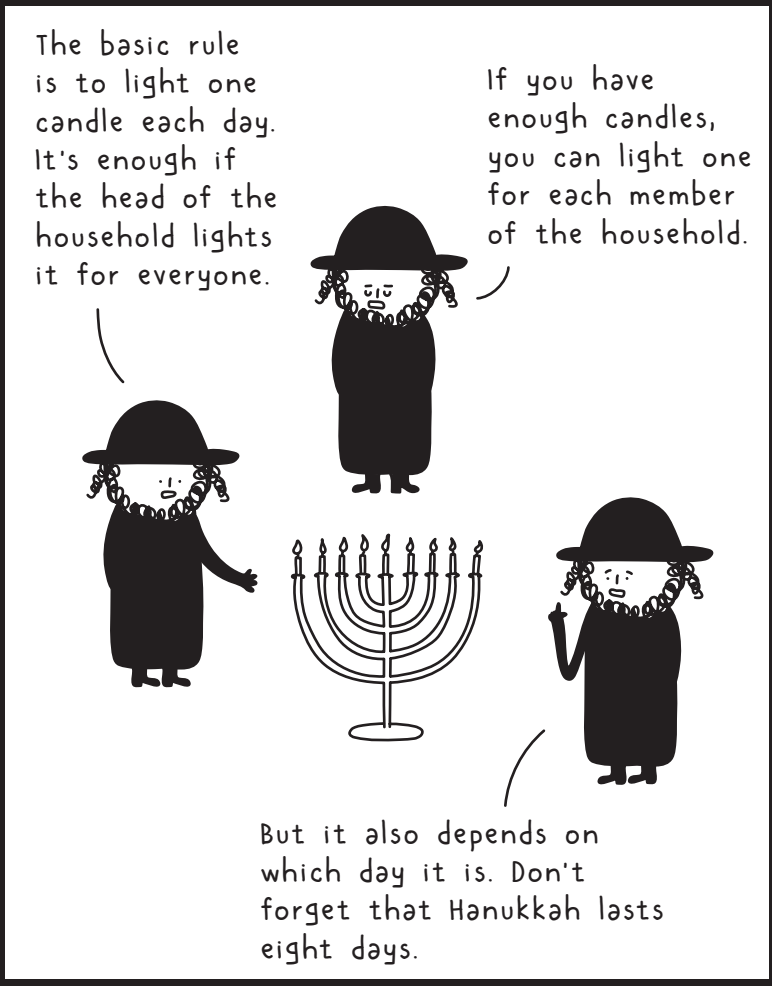
# DON'T LOWER YOUR STANDARDS

## Hillel and Shammai

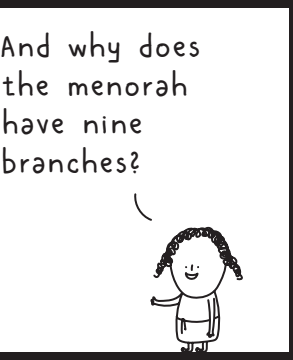
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ONE OF THE MOST BELOVED JEWISH HOLIDAYS IS HANUKKAH, WHEN THE MIRACLE OF THE OIL IS REMEMBERED AND THE HANUKKIAH IS LIT. RABBIS HELD A LONG DISCUSSION ABOUT HOW MANY CANDLES SHOULD BE LIT AND HOW EXACTLY TO LIGHT THEM.





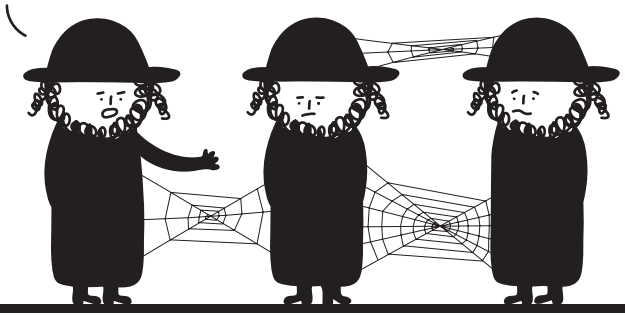



THE NINTH CANDLE IS CALLED THE SHAMASH, AND THE OTHERS ARE LIT FROM IT, EXPLAINED THE RABBIS, AND THEY CONTINUED THEIR DISCUSSION.

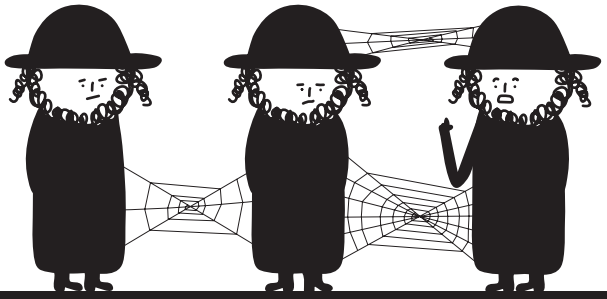


MANY YEARS LATER, THE RABBIS ARE STILL ARGUING ABOUT WHAT SHAMMAI AND HILLEL MEANT.

Shammai meant that the number of lights corresponds to the days remaining in Hanukkah. On the first day, eight days remain, so we light eight candles. On the second day, seven remain, so we light seven.

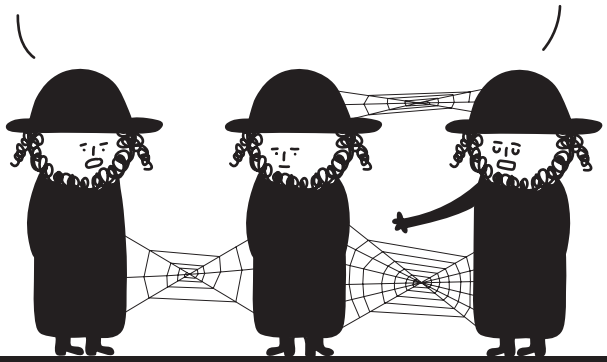


Hillel meant that the number of lights corresponds to the days that have already passed. Each day, the number of candles matches the number of Hanukkah days we have already celebrated. On the first day, we light one candle, and then add one each day.



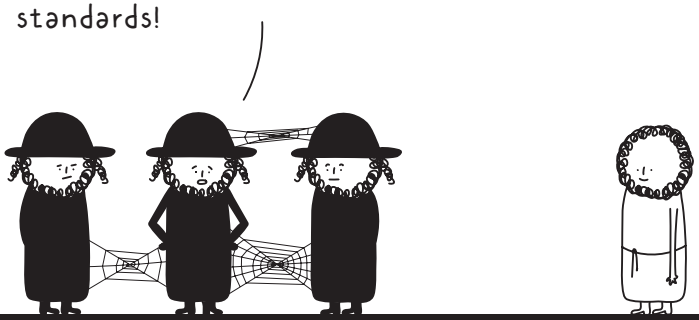
And didn't Shammai mean that it's connected to the number of bulls that were sacrificed in the Temple?

I don't think so. Besides, the Temple no longer stands.

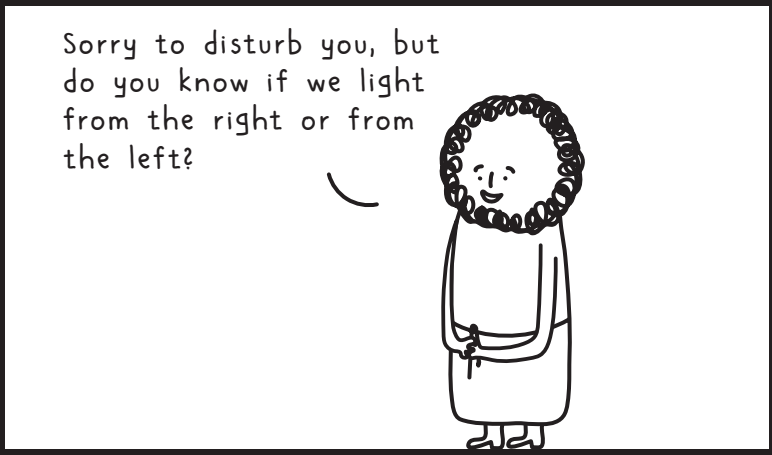


A RABBI FROM HILEL'S SCHOOL PAUSES TO THINK AND SAYS...

Yes, Shammai says we light all eight candles on the first day and decrease each day. But celebrating the holiday and lighting candles is an uplifting act. That's why we increase the candles, not decrease them. Don't lower your standards!



MEANWHILE, THE CHILD GREW INTO A YOUNG MAN.




IN REALITY...

