



THE TRIBE SCRIBE

TERUMAH: OF LUNATICS AND LEAP YEARS!

DID YOU KNOW? A JEWISH YEAR CONSISTS OF 12 LUNAR MONTHS. A LUNAR MONTH IS HOW LONG THE MOON TAKES TO GO ROUND THE EARTH. SOUNDS SIMPLE? WAIT FOR IT...

THE AMOUNT OF TIME THE MOON TAKES TO GO ROUND THE EARTH IS 29 DAYS, 12 HOURS, 44 MINUTES AND 3 1/2 SECONDS.

KEY
LUNAR = TO DO WITH MOON
SOLAR = TO DO WITH SUN
MONTH COMES FROM WORD MOON



YES, THE RABBIS THOUGHT THAT TOO. SO... A JEWISH LUNAR MONTH IS EITHER 29 OR 30 DAYS.

THAT ADDS UP TO A LUNAR YEAR WHICH IS 354 DAYS, 8 HOURS, 48 MINUTES AND 40 SECONDS.

THIS WOULD MEAN THAT THE LUNAR YEARS WOULD BE SLOWLY SLIPPING BEHIND THE SOLAR YEARS.

JEWISH LUNAR MONTH
29
OR
30
DAYS

WHICH IS ALMOST 11 DAYS SHORTER THAN A SOLAR YEAR. YIKES!



TO COUNTERBALANCE, WE ADD AN EXTRA LUNAR MONTH EVERY 2 OR 3 YEARS. ACTUALLY, 7 TIMES IN 19 YEARS...

THIS KEEPS THE LUNAR YEAR IN SYNC WITH THE SOLAR YEAR.

WE WOULD SOON BE CELEBRATING ROSH HASHANAH IN FEBRUARY. SKIING FOR ROSH HASHANAH ANYONE?

$\frac{1-29}{12} \times 19 = 1$
 $\frac{1-30}{12} \times 7 = 1$
235 LUNAR MONTHS
= (ALMOST EXACTLY) 19 YEARS

AND EXPLAINS WHY THE CHAGIM OCCUR ON A DIFFERENT CIVIL DATE (OF THE SOLAR CALENDAR) EACH YEAR BUT STAY WITHIN THE SAME SEASON.

...SO THAT 235 LUNAR MONTHS EQUALS ALMOST EXACTLY 19 YEARS.

STARTING TO GET IT? WE HAVE JUST STARTED THE MONTH OF ADAR RISHON. THAT'S RIGHT, ADAR I WHICH WILL BE FOLLOWED BY ADAR SHENI (ADAR 2) BECAUSE, YES - YOU GUESSED CORRECTLY - THIS YEAR IS A JEWISH LEAP YEAR! YOU ARE NOW OFFICIALLY A LUNATIC!

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Tribes is the Young People's Department of the United Synagogue: Creating a future for our community through engaging, educating and inspiring the next generation.