



Elsa High School Campus Newsletter

# Weekly Daf

Edition 7

4 October 2019 || 5 Tishrei 5780



## Dvar Torah Vayelech

by Hannah Davidson Grade 9

This week's Parsha is Vayelech. In this Parashah, Moshe finishes his speech. This speech started with Parashat Devarim and consists of Moshe retelling the story of the Jews in the desert. The Jewish Nation is about to enter Israel.

But the main event in this portion is Moshe handing over the leadership to Yehoshua. Moshe is not allowed into the land of Israel due to his negative view in the story of the 12 spies earlier on in the Torah. Yehoshua, on the other hand, reacted positively during the sin of the 12 spies and was, therefore, able to go into the promised land. Not only was he able to live in Israel (or Canaan as it was called during Biblical times), but he became the leader of the Jewish people.

This transfer of leadership is still relevant in our lives today. Every year, month and day leadership roles are being passed along. In school, responsibilities are passed from the older years to the younger years; and

yet as we grow older, we too become more responsible for the things that we do. We are the leaders of our own lives.

When Moshe was handing over the leadership of the nation of Israel, he was not just giving Yehoshua the power to rule over 'Am Israel', Moshe was also telling Yehoshua that he is not just the leader of his people but he is also one of his people. Moshe is telling Yehoshua to rule with fairness and equality and that if the people of Israel did something wrong it was not just their sin, but the sin of Yehoshua as well.

In summary, we can learn from this Parashah that we are responsible - as a community - for each other's actions. In order to thrive as a nation or community, we need to work together to bring out the best in each other, and - in turn - to bring out the best in ourselves.

Shabbat Shalom

# Carmel Early Learning Centre

MONDAY-FRIDAY 1:00-4:00PM

CHILDREN FROM

12 - 36 MONTHS

UNACCOMPANIED

ENROLLING NOW FOR JANUARY 2020

[www.carmel.edu.hk/ELC](http://www.carmel.edu.hk/ELC)

## Carmel Early Learning Centre 幼儿中心下午班

Monday-Friday 1:00-4:00pm 星期一至五(下午一至四时)

English language medium and Mandarin specialist classes  
为幼儿提供多元化的双语课程

Child-centred, independent learning. Fostering future academic success  
以幼儿为中心的教学方式，培养其独立学习能力，为未来学业做准备

Purpose designed indoor and outdoor learning spaces  
适合于幼儿学习的室内/室外空间

[www.carmel.edu.hk/ELC](http://www.carmel.edu.hk/ELC)

 Carmel School Association



**GANEYNU**  
Over 25 Years of Excellence

## Elsa's FIRST Robotics Team(Prism 7242)

by Mr. Gravett and the FIRST Robotics Team

After a very successful 2018-19 season which culminated in our placing 19 out of 40 teams at the Long Island Regional Event in New York City, interest in robotics has soared with many students in Grade 9, 10 and 11 joining the team. We now have a dedicated group of 30 students that consists of an engineering team, a coding team and a marketing fundraising team.

We have established some challenging short and long-term goals for the Robotics Program. Not only do we want to improve each year on our previous year's performances but we ultimately aim to develop the best school robotics program in Hong Kong as part of our developing STEAM initiative. With some prominent international schools now following suit and trying to establish FIRST Robotics teams this challenge has become all the more important.

To this end we have injected a huge amount of resources, time and effort into our training program. This year we have partnered with Cesar Harada and his team from Hong Kong's MakerBay to develop and deliver the courses. Cesar is a well-known figure in the world of STEAM and is a former MIT project leader. In addition to Cesar we have also enlisted the help of mentors including Ibnul Alam Rashkih, a mechanical engineering graduate from HKU. Ibnul is a huge asset to our team and brings with him a wealth of information and expertise. His resume includes work at Hanson Robotics, the company that developed the artificial intelligence called Sophia, the first robot to be granted citizenship a few years ago in Saudi Arabia.

With not a day to waste we began the engineering component of the program on 2 September and the coding program began last week, on 25 September. These two courses will run all the way to the end of the year when the build season begins in January. The goal of these programs is to empower our students to design, build and program a robot that will be competitive at next year's competition.

In addition we have a large group of students in the marketing and fundraising team who are working extremely hard, with the help of Board member David Weiss and mentor Pascal Piepers, to raise money to support the program. It is a hugely important component of the program that makes everything else possible. The team needs to raise a significant amount of money to pay for the training program, the materials, tools and upgrades to our robotics lab as well as the trip to the competition, which will hopefully be in New York in March.

If anyone in the school community would like to help in any way please reach out to us. We need all the help and support we can get to ensure that this program continues moving forward.

A big thank you to the students, staff, mentors and partners that make this all possible. The Carmel Robotics Team looks forward to an exciting year ahead!

## EU University Visits

by Rachel Cohen Grade 11

Last Friday we welcomed a university spokesperson from European University. This university has campuses in Barcelona, Munich, Meneux, and Geneva.

The talk gave us a clear insight on what life is like at universities throughout Europe, which we don't get too often. She covered everything from tuition and visas to campus life in Switzerland. She talked about all the programs they offered in Geneva as well as the summer program in Barcelona.

I was interested in the many different Bachelor degrees they offered. It was a valuable workshop where Grade 10, 11 and 12 students could ask questions and explore opportunities for higher education.





# ROSH HASHANAH 5780

## Bringing in the Jewish New Year

By Tahlia Goldberg Grade 9

This week, Rosh Hashanah took place from Sunday night to Tuesday night and while it is a time for reflection on our past year, it is also the time when our prayers are most received and should be strongest. It is a time in which we should ask for forgiveness and be looking ahead, standing in front of G-d and asking to be written in the Book of Life.

In shul every year on Rosh Hashanah, we sing songs and psalms praising Hashem's greatness, asking for forgiveness and also asking for fair judgement. Rosh Hashanah's prayers are maybe some of the most powerful and beautiful, with songs like *ונתנה תוקף* and *לדור ודור*, *בראש השנה*.

In the song *בראש השנה* we hear the phrases: "on Rosh Hashanah [your judgement] is written and on the fast of yom kippur it will be sealed.... how many shall die and how many shall become healthy.... who will die and who will live.... who by water and who by fire, who from the sword and who from a beast.... who will become poor and who will become rich".

Whereas in the song, *אוהילה לאל* it is written: "I shall sing of His [G-d's] strength; I shall burst out in joyous melodies for His works.... The thoughts in a man's heart is for him to arrange but the tongue's eloquence comes from the L-rd.... open my lips so that my mouth may declare Your praise"

Every year, in my synagogue/ these songs are sung Chazan Shmuel Arnon who comes from Israel with his family to lead the Services, and by the synagogue choir - they add so much to the Service and give the songs more meaning and power.

Personally, I learn more and more of the power of Rosh Hashanah and the prayers that we say in shul. Often times Rosh Hashanah can seem happy and fun but in reality we should remember that we are being judged and should take this day seriously.

As Yom Kippur is approaching this coming Wednesday, I would like to wish you all a G'mar Chatimah Tova (a good judgement and sealing in the Book of Life) and that you are able to take something from the prayers this year.







Last Friday, in the lead up to Rosh Hashanah, Rabbi Oser visited Elsa High School and spoke about the many important takeaways from the period. One of the most relatable and inspirational stories he told us, was about a woman trying to get up the JCC stairs, baby in one hand and stroller in the other but nobody helped her; everyone was engaged in their own life. Some were waiting for a taxi, others were chatting with friends, and no one stopped what they were doing to help her. Rabbi Oser that the moral of this story is that there are many people around us that need help but we don't always listen and that we need to listen and hear others.

Thank you to Rabbi Oser for reminding us that Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur are two very important celebrations that require reflection, and that doing good actions may bring us a good and healthy life.

Shabbat Shalom

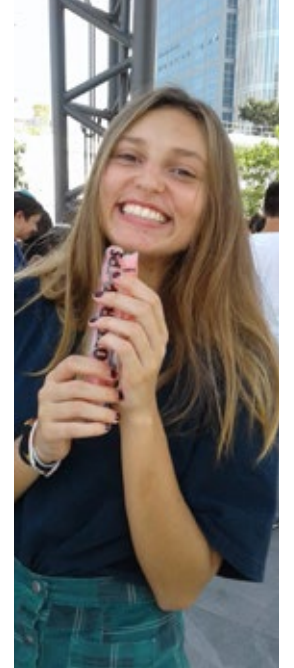
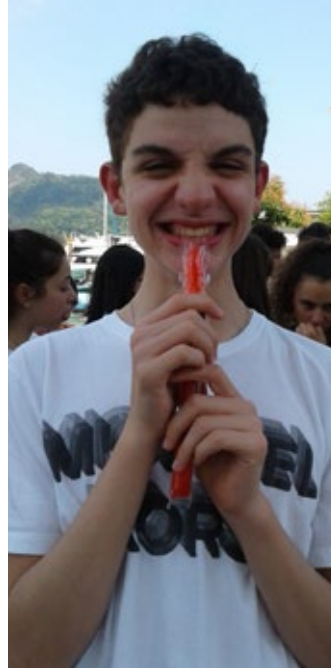
### Sasha Guitelmann Grade 9

Last Thursday, Grade 6 and 7 participated in an inter-house Rosh Hashanah competition. Students from both grades were split into the 3 houses: Hillel, David and Akiva. We then played against each other in a series of 3 games. This was a fun way for students to start their holiday and to learn about Rosh Hashanah whilst at the same time, also learning important teamwork skills.

The first game we participated in was a race with wooden skis, with a photo of a fish head on the front of each ski. This symbolizes that in the coming year you should be the head, the leader, and not the tail. In this activity, the students had to work as a team and decide the fastest and most efficient way to maneuver the skis. The second game we participated in was a date-and-spoon relay race. This symbolizes a good and sweet start to the new year. Finally, for the third game the students participated in, we had to toss a ball into a basket. With one basket worth 100 points, the next 200 points and furthest basket 613 points, representing the 613 mitzvot in the Torah.

Thank you to Mr Eliav and Mr Julian for organising, as well as the other students who helped out. We hope that the students found something valuable to take away from this experience and wish everyone a Gmar Chatimah Tova!

By Reut Shahr and Milly Golovsky Grade 8



## From the Principal's desk

# Alumni News

It has given me immense pride and pleasure to meet and catch up with Carmel Elsa High School Alumni over the past couple of weeks. Several came to visit us in at Elsa High School and were eager to chat to teachers, see new facilities, and catch up with students. I would like to congratulate all alumni and encourage them to visit us and to keep in touch. Here is a brief update on the students I met recently.

**Mrs. Rachel Friedmann**  
Principal



**Rom Razon**  
Class of 2015

Rom graduated with a BSc in Computer Science and Physics from the Technion University. Rom will be joining the Israeli army shortly.

**Tom Ho**  
Class of 2015

Tom graduated with a Bcom, majoring in Accounting and Management from the University of Melbourne. Tom is now back in Hong Kong and will be undertaking an auditing job in PriceWaterhouseCoopers in October 2019.

**Aaron Meoded**  
Class of 2019

Aaron has just started his first year at Yeshiva University, New York and has selected several Philosophy courses as part of his studies.

**Ofir Razon**  
Class of 2018

Ofir is entering his second year at the Technion University studying Electrical Engineering.





**David Caron**  
Class of 2013

David graduated from McGill University last year with a First Class Honours degree in Economics. He is currently working at an investment bank in Global Markets Business Management and is looking to acquire further experience, preferably in research and data analysis, prior to pursuing a Masters.



**Noam Konyn**  
Class of 2015

Noam graduated with a BSc (Hons) in Psychology from Bristol University. Noam will be starting an internship in Israel shortly.



**Aviv Lavi**  
Class of 2015

Aviv graduated from Nottingham University with a BSc (Hons) in Economics and will be studying in Beijing, perfecting his Chinese at Tsinghua University.



**Emily Nagar**  
Class of 2016

Emily is currently studying Psychology at the IDC in Herzliya and has recently written and published a children's book.



**Sarah Davidson**  
Class of 2016

Sarah is entering her final year at Cambridge University studying History and hopes to enter the field of Social work.



**Joanna Gershon**  
Class of 2017

Joanna is entering her final year at Durham University studying Sociology and hopes to do a Masters.

## Inside Scoop with Mr. Liu

Interview conducted by Isabella Ricklow Grade 10

**How have you found teaching at Elsa High School?** Teaching at Elsa High School is so rewarding. Students come from a wide range of family backgrounds and learning experiences. I always tell my students that the IB program reflects real life. To succeed in life means to always plan ahead and in the MYP Design cycle the importance of trying to write a Research Plan is important even though it may not always be correct the first few times; this mindset and skill if developed will help you manage your time more effectively. I have always had a passion for design and try to translate this into my teaching either through examples I give, by choice of activity, or through the focused practical tasks that we do.

**What is your favourite thing about being a design teacher?** I love teaching new skills, techniques or knowledge; students might find it challenging at first but over time and with some patience, guidance, and clear instruction the students will eventually get it, and achieve what they set out to. Design is about creativity, possibility, and expression. It is one of the few subjects where your imagination is the only thing holding you back from creating what you envision. Like all good parents, good teachers want their students to learn grow and be successful; I am no different.

**Do you have any other passions other than teaching?** Yes, of course! I have been a snowboarder for over 20 years. I received my first bruises, bumps and concussions on the slopes of Val Thorens in France, Switzerland, and in Seattle in the US. I learnt to ride and carve the slopes safely, and at speed! It is an amazing feeling and an exhilarating sport. Snowboarding can be dangerous but with experience you gain knowledge you learn to believe in your own skills, to be able to master the slopes. As the world rushes by you are most alive in the moment (not dissimilar to teaching, in fact). These days, I can be found flying down the slopes in Korea or Japan trying to learn new tricks on the snowboard.

**When did you start teaching?** Initially, I taught English Language in Hong Kong over 12 years ago, but even then I was a Product Designer in Hong Kong for over 7 years. At the time when I was teaching at a local learning centre, and I was asked to teach Visual Arts, which reignited my love for teaching art and design. This lead me to get my Post Graduate Diploma in Education in Visual Arts to become a qualified secondary school. I haven't looked back since!





## U14 Football Elsa High School vs. American School

by Tamir Razon Grade 7

Today in Happy Valley our U14 Team A beat American School 10-0. The scorers were Noah who scored 5 goals, Roi with 2, Luca with 1, Josh with 1 and Yoav with 1.

In this game we had many opportunities to score more than 10, but we got unlucky and their goalkeeper made some good saves. American School had some chances too, once hitting the post. However, most of the time our defense stood firm and limited their chances from taking any further shots on goal.

We hope to continue this fine form and will hopefully have a chance to make the finals and win another ISSFHK banner to add to the collection. I want to say thank you to Mr. Julian and the coaching staff for organizing the match and the coach rides to the JCC and back.



## Arts & Culture

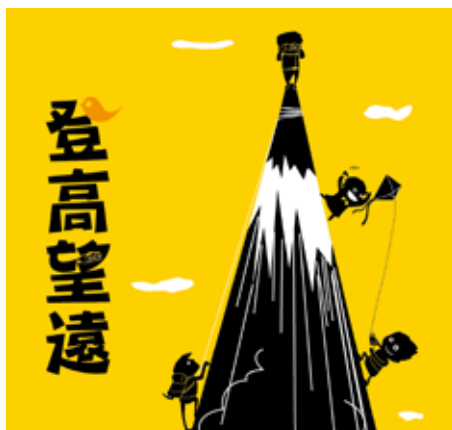
### Get Ready For Chung Yeung Festival!

by Liana Tang Grade 9

Incense sticks are burning, cemeteries are getting crowded, and the aroma of the Chongyang Cakes fills the air. But, what is going on the ninth day of the ninth lunar month behind the scenes? A day of memorial.

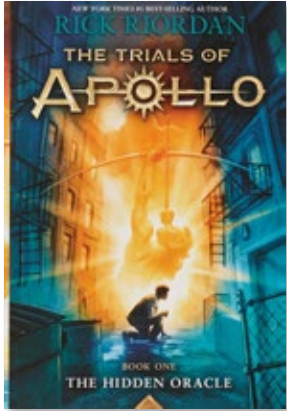
Families climb the hills to visit the graves of their ancestors because they acted on the advice of a wise man named Jing Huan. Believing a monster would overtake the village, he took his family into the mountains, surviving a mass slaughter of all the people in his town.

Double Ninth may have originated as a day to drive those we love away from danger, but over time, it became a day of celebration and appreciation.



Support at home is key to how young people approach reading for pleasure. Every week we will be promoting books new and old, fiction and non-fiction for readers of all ages and levels. Our libraries are [open to students and parents alike](#) and books can be borrowed through students' accounts.

These books and more can be found here: [libraryceo.com/carmel/opac/index.php](http://libraryceo.com/carmel/opac/index.php), or through our online library: [carmel.edu.hk/learning/library](http://carmel.edu.hk/learning/library).



**The Trials of Apollo:  
The Hidden Oracle  
by Rick Riordan**

How do you punish an immortal?  
By making him human.

After angering his father Zeus, the god Apollo is cast down from Olympus. Weak and disoriented, he lands in New York City as a regular teenage boy. Now, without his godly powers, the four-thousand-year-old deity must learn to survive in the modern world until he can somehow find a way to regain Zeus's favour.

But Apollo has many enemies-gods, monsters, and mortals who would love to see the former Olympian permanently destroyed. Apollo needs help, and he can think of only one place to go . . . an enclave of modern demigods known as Camp Half-Blood.

*"A clash of mythic intrigues and centuries of pop culture to thrill die-hard and new fans alike" Kirkus*

**American Panda  
by Gloria Chao  
Fiction age 13+**



At seventeen, Mei should be in high school, but skipping fourth grade was part of her parents' master plan. Now a freshman at MIT, she is on track to fulfil the rest of this predetermined future: become a doctor, marry a pre-approved Taiwanese Ivy Leaguer, produce a litter of babies.

With everything her parents have sacrificed to make her cushy life a reality, Mei can't bring herself to tell them the truth—that she (1) hates germs, (2) falls asleep in biology lectures, and (3) has a crush on her classmate Darren Takahashi, who is decidedly not Taiwanese.

But when Mei reconnects with her brother, Xing, who is estranged from the family for dating the wrong woman, Mei starts to wonder if all the secrets are truly worth it. Can she find a way to be herself, whoever that is, before her web of lies unravels?

*"Weepingly funny."* Wall Street Journal

**Hong Kong Battle of the Books Review**

In support of our Hong Kong Battle of the Books team we are including reviews of all of the books the students will be reading. If your child is one of the participants this will provide you with the chance to encourage and engage with them in their reading.

**This Is Just a Test  
by Madelyn Rosenberg & Wendy Wan-Long Shang**

David Da-Wei Horowitz has a lot on his plate. He would have enough to do preparing for his upcoming bar mitzvah even if the planning didn't involve trying to please both his Jewish and Chinese grandmothers, who argue about everything. They even have a cook-off battle of the latkes. But David just wants everyone to be happy.



That includes his friend Scott, who is determined to win their upcoming trivia tournament but doesn't like their teammate — and David's best friend — Hector. Scott and David begin digging a fallout shelter just in case this Cold War stuff with Russia turns south, but David's not so convinced he wants to spend forever in an underground bunker with Scott anymore. Maybe it would be better if Hector and Kelli Ann came with them. But that would mean David has to figure out how to stand up for Hector and talk to Kelli Ann first. Some days, surviving nuclear war feels like the least of David's problems.

*"It's refreshing to meet a male protagonist who is struggling with how to be authentically Jewish in a bicultural family ... Giggle-inducing, light, and charmingly realistic fiction that will resonate with a wide variety of readers."* School Library Journal



## Message from Mrs Friedmann

Dear Parents,

Please remember to check information updates via the TV, radio, social media and announcements on relevant websites regarding the status of public transport to and from School.

### Useful links

#### MTR

[www.mtr.com.hk/en/customer/main/index.html](http://www.mtr.com.hk/en/customer/main/index.html)

#### Bus(KMB)

[www.kmb.hk/en/](http://www.kmb.hk/en/)

#### Bus (City Bus)

[www.nwstbus.com.hk/home/default.aspx?intLangID=1](http://www.nwstbus.com.hk/home/default.aspx?intLangID=1)

#### South China Morning Post

[www.scmp.com/news/hong-kong](http://www.scmp.com/news/hong-kong)

#### Hong Kong Government News

[www.news.gov.hk/eng/index.html](http://www.news.gov.hk/eng/index.html)

#### Transport Department

[www.td.gov.hk/en/home/index.html](http://www.td.gov.hk/en/home/index.html)

Please note that the School stringently applies the EDB and Hong Kong Observatory guidance regarding the Air Quality Index and ensures that students at all campuses have indoor recess and PE lessons when so advised. Please also stay tuned on weather announcements especially regarding typhoon warnings.


Elsa High School Newsletter

# Weekly Daf

**Editorial Team** Issy Lyons, Louis Effron, Isabella Ricklow, Liana Tang, Sarah Cohen  
**Managing Editor** Mr. Adam Darell  
**Editor in Chief** Mr. Dan Bartholomew

*Thanks for reading!*

**Happy Birthday**  
 to Louis Effron,  
 Gabriel Wigisser,  
 Tamir Razon and  
 Luca Caviglia!



# פינת הספרייה העברית

סמסטר ראשון: מהדורה מספר 6  
ה' בתשרי ה'תש"ף



אפשר לבקר באתר שלנו: <http://hebrewlib-elsa.weebly.com>

## סליחות

מילים: לאה גולדברג  
לחן: עודד לרר

באת אלי את עיני לפקוח,  
וגופך לי מבט וחלון וראי,  
באת כלילה הבא אל האוח  
להראות לו בחושך את כל הדברים.

ולמדתי: שם לכל ריס וציפורן  
ולכל שיערה בבשר החשוף  
ורוח ילדות ריח דבק ואורן  
הוא ניחוח לילו של הגוף.

אם היו עינויים - הם הפליגו אליך  
מפרשי הלבן אל האופל שלך  
תנני ללכת תנני ללכת  
לכרוע על חוף הסליחה.

ולמדתי שם לכל ריס וציפורן...

את השיר "סליחות" כתבה לאה גולדברג. משפחתה של לאה גולדברג גרה בליטא, אביה היה כלכלן וייסד את מערכת הבריאות של ליטא. כשהחלה מלחמת העולם הראשונה ברחה המשפחה לרוסיה, ובתום המלחמה החלו את דרכם חזרה לארץ מולדתם - ליטא. במעבר הגבול נתפס אברהם, אב המשפחה, והחיילים הודיעו לו שהוא אשם במעשה שלא ביצע מעולם ועונשו הוצאה להורג. למחרת, ברגע האחרון, מחליטים לומר לו שהם חוננים אותו - משחררים אותו מעונשו. כך הם עושים יום אחרי יום, רק לשם השעשוע. ביום העשירי מאבד אברהם את שפיותו (משתגע), ובעקבות כך מתאשפז בבית חולים לחולי נפש עד סוף ימיו.

לאחר מספר שנים מחליטות לאה גולדברג ואמה לעלות לארץ ישראל ולהשאיר את האב בבית החולים לחולי נפש. מספר שנים לאחר מכן נספה אברהם בשואה. את השיר "סליחות" כתבה לאה גולדברג אל אביה, שמותו רדף אותה בחלומותיה, וממנו היא מבקשת סליחה.

**ימים אלו, בין יום ראש השנה ליום הכיפורים, נקראים "עשרת ימי תשובה", ובהם אנו מבקשים סליחה מאנשים קרובים לנו וכך מתחילים את השנה כמו דף חדש ונקי.**

שתהיה שנה טובה  
ומתוקה!

אביטל אליאב  
מורה לעברית



## מילת השבוע

### בין כֶּסֶה לְעֶשׂוֹר

'בין כֶּסֶה לְעֶשׂוֹר' הוא כינוי מליצי שניתן בימי הביניים לתקופת הימים שמראש השנה ועד יום הכיפורים.

**כֶּסֶה** הוא כינוי לראש השנה בעקבות הכתוב "תִּקְעוּ בַחֲדָשׁ שׁוֹפָר בַּכֶּסֶה לְיוֹם חֲמִנָּה" (תהלים פ"א, ד). על פסוק זה נאמר בתלמוד: "איזהו חג שהחדש מתכסה בו? הוי אומר זה ראש השנה" (בבלי ראש השנה ח"א ועוד). לפי הבנה זו המילה כֶּסֶה קשורה לכיסוי ומציינת את תחילת החודש - כאשר הירח עדיין מכוסה כמעט לגמרי (כלומר יש הקבלה בין כֶּסֶה ובין המילה חֲדָשׁ שבפסוק).

**עֶשׂוֹר** הוא כמובן כינוי ליום הכיפורים - החל בעשרה בתשרי, ככתוב: "אך בְּעֶשְׂוֹר לַחֲדָשׁ הַשְּׁבִיעִי הַזֶּה יוֹם הַכִּפּוּרִים הוּא, מִקְרָא קֹדֶשׁ יִהְיֶה לָכֶם וְעִנִּיתֶם אֶת נַפְשֵׁיכֶם..." (ויקרא כג, כז). מכאן גם הכינוי 'צום הָעֶשְׂוֹר' שניתן ליום זה בימי הביניים.

הערה: במקצת נוסחאות המקרא בא הניקוד בסגול-סגול: כֶּסֶה. על פי זה נקבעו שני ניקודים תקינים למילה.

מעובד על פי פירסומי האקדמיה ללשון העברית