



Word of the Month

Shabbat Parshat Mishpatim-Sh'kalim - we bench Rosh Chodesh Adar, which will be on THU & FRI, February 15,16. Two days because Sh'vat has 30 days in our fixed calendar. Adar has 29.

רֹאשׁ חֹדֶשׁ אֲדָר יִהְיֶה בְיוֹם חֲמִישִׁי וּבְיוֹם שְׁשִׁי הָבֵא עָלֵינוּ וְעַל כָּל יִשְׂרָאֵל לְטוֹבָה:

ה' כא:קסה • The molad for Adar is on THU 15h 9m 3p (2:48pm Israel time)

הַמּוֹלַד יִהְיֶה בְיוֹם חֲמִישִׁי, תְּשַׁע דְּקוֹת וּשְׁלֹשָׁה חֻלְקִים אַחֲרֵי שְׁלֹשׁ בְּצֻהַרִים.

The actual (astronomical) molad (a.k.a. New Moon) WED 4:17am

First op for KL (Minhag Yerushalayim) - THU, Feb 15th, 11:05pm





Upper-left: scales represent Justice. In this case, MISHPATIM. In addition to the broad idea of justice, see what else can be found in the sedra (by yourself, your grand/children, Shabbat guests...) for which the scales of justice would be an appropriate representation

- 🔺 Fist is referred to as one of the weapons that can injure or kill
- 🔺 An eye for an eye, literally, an eye UNDER (TACHAT) an eye, is depicted here as money under an eye, according to our Oral law and Tradition. The GR"A made an interesting observation: The letters that follow each letter of the word AYIN in the Alef-Bet are PEI under - after - AYIN. KAF under YUD and SAMACH under NUN. These three letters rearrange to spell KESEF
- 🔺 Bull and fire are two potential causes of damages - one of the many key topics of the sedra. We have the bull with horns, the tooth, the feet of the bull, the fire, and the pit (peach) representing the hole-in-the-ground meaning of the word
- 🔺 The sneaking thief was caught in the cellar
- 🔺 Guard at his post represents the whole topic of the FOUR SHOMRIM
- 🔺 The hands pulling the money out of the wallet are about to lend money at 0% interest
- 🔺 Or, perhaps, they are about to offer a bribe. Which will blind the judge receiving it...
- 🔺 as in the image of the blindfolded head
- 🔺 The Three Regalim, Pesach, Shavuot, and Sukkot, are pictorially represented
- 🔺 The witch on the broomstick stands for the 3-word pasuk which requires Sanhedrin to rid society of witches (just a representation - there are many differences between the broom-

flying image of a witch from fiction and what the Torah means by KISHUF and M'CHASHEIFA)

- 🔺 Har Sinai pix for Shavuot also corresponds to the end of Mishpatim
- 🔺 The quill and scroll is for Moshe writing down "all of G-d's words"
- 🔺 milk & meat for LO T'VASHEIL G'DI...
- 🔺 TZIR'A (wasp) that G-d will send into the Land to help slowly drive out some of the nations there
- 🔺 Cloud is covering Har Sinai (end of the sedra)
- 🔺 Tooth is referred to in the mitzvot related to injuring an EVED K'NAANI and being required to free him. It is also one of the forms of damages. Also, there is a tooth for a tooth
- 🔺 Knitting reminds us of the prohibitions of Shabbat, as commanded with a positive mitzva in Mishpatim
- 🔺 Happy dog, to receive our TREIF meat, as stated in Sh'mot 22:30
- 🔺 Mortar & pestle is for V'RAPO Y'RAPEI
- 🔺 Tzedaka box - but highest form of Tzedaka is lending those in need of financial assistance - as commanded in the sedra
- 🔺 Otzar HaAretz logo is for the mitzva to observe Sh'mita
- 🔺 Overloaded donkey which we are commanded to help unload
- 🔺 Cluster of grapes represents the mitzva of Bikurim
- 🔺 Below the grapes are three items that go together: G-d says that He will give Moshe the tablets of stone AND the Torah AND the mitzvot... (represented by a sefer)
- 🔺 Upper-right: ADD R (ADAR) whose Rosh Chodesh we announce this week
- 🔺 the infinity symbol for VAAVADO L'OLAM (which is not really forever, just until Yovel - referring to the Eved Ivri who chooses to remain with this master beyond the regular 6 year limit)
- 🔺 Old half shekel coin
- 🔺 Lyre & Lion: backs of ½ Sh.