

Mishnafari

Part of a Chain

Book One



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Chapter 4 - Leo Acquires a Friend

Leo's mommy tells him to lie down quietly even if he doesn't nap. "Everybody needs to rest," she says. Leo listens and stays on his banana leaf while his family naps. So, Leo isn't moving - but he can't stop his eyes from looking around.

He notices the two beetles dancing on the grass and watches two little deer frolicking on the hills around them. He sees an elephant family moving toward the creek. There are three little friends in that family.



Leo sadly lowers his head, wishing he had a friend to play with. Just as he starts to close his eyes, he sees a creature staring at him.



It is a very strange-looking creature. He's the same color as the stone he is sitting on. Leo almost misses him, but the two black eyes on that small gray body are staring straight at him.

"Oh, hello!" whispers Leo in surprise.

"Hello," says the creature in a squeaky voice. Leo thinks he notices a smile but maybe it is just his imagination.

"What are you, little creature?"

The creature's face wrinkles in confusion. "I'm a mouse! Don't you know that?"

Leo looks at the mouse with a puzzled look on his face. His feelings are a little hurt.

"Well, I don't know everything. I'm just a little cub!" Leo whimpers.

"You? A cub? But you are a GIANT!" squeaks the mouse.

Leo bursts into a roaring laugh. "Look at my family. Have you seen my dad? I am tiny next to him."

"Hmmm, maybe I should be afraid and run away?" asks the mouse.

"NO!" Leo cries out.

He doesn't want Mouse to go away. He likes him. Sadly, his call was too loud. He woke up the whole lion family, and the mouse disappeared.

Leo is so disappointed. He didn't have a chance to ask the mouse's name. How could Leo find him? Where should he look?

Leo jumps off of his banana leaf and begins looking all over the place. He kicks around the leaves and peeks behind trees. He even stares at the water in the creek.

"I didn't drown. I'm not in the water," scoffs a squeaky little voice. He turns back and sees the little mouse standing on top of a big pile of colorful leaves.



"Yay! I found you!" cries Leo with joy.

"Well... I let you find me," says the mouse with a sassy look, "and now I know your name - it's Leo! I hear your mom calling for you."



"Wait, you have to tell me your name. Please don't run away from me."

"My name? My name is Moshe. I'm Moshe Mouse!"



"Moshe Mouse, Moshe Mouse," Leo mutters, "What a beautiful name!" Leo pauses for a moment, "Moshe Mouse?"

"Yes, Leo?"

"Moshe Mouse, will you be my friend?"

SAMPLE TWO

**From the Mishnafari Book
Part of a Chain**

“Okay, I’m listening!” says Leo, as he sits up straight, opens his eyes wide, and holds his ears as if to listen more closely.

Moshe begins to chuckle, “Oh Leo, you are so funny! These lessons can’t all be learned here. You have to look for them and discover them as you go.”



“So... how can we find them?” Leo asks.

“Shhh,” whispers Moshe, as he gestures with his eyes toward the pile of leaves by the creek. Leo looks at the pile and then looks at Moshe and waits.



Moshe continues, “If we jump on that pile of leaves, we can travel back in time. We can roll to a different -”

“What? Are you teasing me? Travel back in time? Roll to a what?” Leo can’t control his excitement. He doesn’t let Moshe Mouse finish his sentence. He starts running toward the pile.

“Patience, little buddy!” says Moshe. “You don’t just jump. First, you have to direct your thoughts to the answers you are looking for. Think about your question. Then you need to say a special rhyme. Listen and learn.”

*Skip and hop on the pile so high,
all the leaves will start to fly.
Once we say our little rhyme,
magic takes us back in time!*



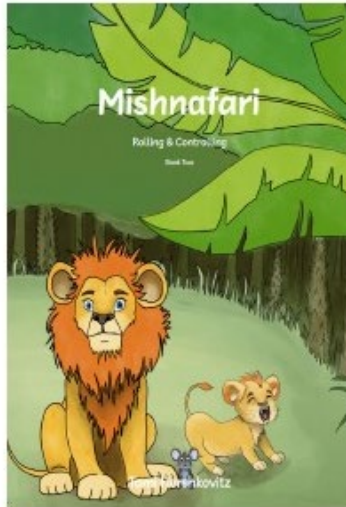
*Ready? Jump!
Wishnah Wishnah to the Mishnah.
We roll from the floor; M’dor l’dor!*

“We can begin tomorrow,” says Moshe.

Leo is so excited! He goes to sleep that night, knowing magical adventures are waiting for him the next day. He thinks about that chain of feathers again. He wonders if this was a sign for those generations - m’dor l’dor - like Moshe was talking about. Leo drifts off to a deep sleep, happy that he is the newest link in this chain.



Check out the next book in the series:



Join our friends on their adventure as
they learn self-control!

*Skip and hop on the pile so high,
all the leaves will start to fly.
Once we say our little rhyme,
magic takes us back in time!*

Leo, a young cub in the Savanna of Africa, discovers with his friend, Moshe Mouse, that they can fly into the past. Back through the ages, they meet the sages who help them make the right choices in life. Mishnafari is based on the part of the Mishnah that is dedicated to ethics and good behavior. Join Leo and Moshe on their adventures!



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