



## חקת

1. Look at the first פסוקים of the פרשה:

א וידבר ה' אל-משה ואֶל-אַהֲרֹן לֵאמֹר:

ב זאת חקת התורה אשר צוה ה' לאמר דבר | אל-בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל וִיקְחוּ  
אֵלֶיךָ פָּרָה אֲדָמָה תְּמִימָה אֲשֶׁר אֵין-בָּהּ מוֹם אֲשֶׁר לֹא-עָלָה עָלֶיהָ עֹל:

א spoke to משה and אהרן saying:

ב This is the decree of the תורה, which ה' has commanded, saying:  
Speak to the בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל, and they shall take to you a completely red cow,  
which is without blemish and upon which a yoke has not come."

What does the תורה mean by the words "חקת התורה"?

2. Does a חוק have no reason?

3. What is the strangest part of the laws of the  
פָּרָה אֲדָמָה?

4. After מרים died the people complained that there was  
no water for them. What was the connection between  
מרִים's death and the lack of water?

5. Look at this פסוק:

במדבר כ

ב ויאמר ה' אל-משה ואֶל-אַהֲרֹן יַעַן לֹא-הֶאֱמַנְתֶּם בִּי לְהַקְדִּישַׁנִּי לְעֵינֵי  
בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל לָכֵן לֹא תָבִיאוּ אֶת-הַקֶּהֱל הַזֶּה אֶל-הָאָרֶץ אֲשֶׁר-נָתַתִּי לָהֶם:

א said to משה and אהרן, "Because you did not believe in Me, to  
sanctify Me in the eyes of יִשְׂרָאֵל, בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל, therefore you will not bring this  
congregation to the land that I have given them."

What happened just before this?

6. What did ה' send to punish the people when they  
complained again, that אין לחם ואין מים - 'there is no food  
and no water!' ?

7. How did the copper snake on the pole cure the people?

## Answers:

1. A law which human beings can not understand.

2. No, it does have a reason, but the reason is only known by ה'.

3. The ashes of the פָּרָה אֲדָמָה purify someone who had become טמא, yet the people who prepare the ashes to be sprinkled become טמא.

4. רש"י teaches us that while מרים was alive there was a well which followed בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל around the מִדְבָּר - it dried up when she died.

5. משה hit the rock, twice, instead of speaking to it.

6. Fiery snakes, which bit the people.

7. When they looked upwards at it their thoughts turned to ה' and they did תשובה. Then ה' would remove the sickness.