

Just a Story... Hillel and a Convert



We know the famous story (cited in Gemorah Shabbos 31a) how once a non-Jew came to Hillel and requested a conversion, but said, “Teach me the entire Torah while I stand on one foot.” Commentators explain that he simply wanted to know one basic principle that spans over the entire Torah. Hillel answered him:

דעלך סני לחברך לא תעביד - זו היא כל התורה כולה. ואידך - פירושה הוא. זיל גמור.
“Don’t do to your friend what you yourself hate. That’s the entire Torah. The rest is it’s explanation. Go learn.” Rashi says that the source of Hillel’s teaching is a verse in Mishlei (27:10) “Don’t abandon yours and your father’s friend.” Rashi explains that the “friend” in the verse is Hashem! And what Hillel was saying to this convert was: “Don’t do to Hashem what you yourself hate. Since you would hate if your friend would transgress your words, therefore, don’t transgress Hashem’s words.” So what is the “basic principle” that encompasses the entire Torah” that Hillel was trying to convey to this convert? It appears that besides the obvious one - fulfilling Hashem’s commandments, Hillel was also teaching him a fundamental lesson of the Torah: A Jew has a pleasant and intimate relationship with Hashem, just like one has with his beloved friend.

In these days, when we are approaching Kabbolas HaTorah, let’s imagine that we are that convert who came to Hillel to accept the Torah, and let’s take Hillel’s lesson personally.

Hints & Answers* SHMIRAS SHABBOS: Our question is addressed by the Rama (O.C. 529:1): “If erev Yom Tov falls on Shabbos, a person is permitted to eat Shalosh Seudos, [even during the last three (halachic) hours of the day (Rama ibid, Beur Halacha MiMincha U’Lma’ala).] But, in honor of Yom Tov, one should eat only a small amount of bread [i.e., less than what he usually eats at a weekday meal. But one may (and it is a mitzva) to eat even a *k’beitza* (egg-size amount) of challah. See Shaar Hatziun 529:10].” It is, however, preferable to eat Shalosh Seudos (with bread) before the 10th halachic hour of the day (see Shaar Hatziun, 529:9). | *Note: The answers are based only on the sources quoted and might not reflect opinions of other halachic authorities. As such, Menucha’s answer are not to be taken as final decisions in halacha, but rather as a springboard for discussions, further study, and questions to a *posek*, etc.



Menucha

A Shabbos table companion for the whole family

לע"נ ר' ברוך חיים בן שלמון ז"ל

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Shmiras Shabbos Shalosh Seudos on Erev Yom Tov



This year, erev Shavuos fell out on Shabbos. After Shabbos lunch, Reb Simcha took a nap, and after he woke up, which was around two o'clock in the afternoon, he decided to go to the Beis Midrash to learn.

“I will be back in about an hour. And then, we’ll have our Shalosh Seudos,” said Reb Simcha to his wife on the way out. When he came to the Beis Midrash, he found an interesting book that had many insights on the holiday of Shavuos. Reb Simcha enjoyed it so much, that he learned for four hours!

When he looked at the clock, he was shocked to see that it was already 6:00 pm. “It’s so close to Shavuos now! Am I allowed to eat Shalosh Seudos with challah now?!” he asked himself. “I remember learning something about not eating bread close to Shabbos or Yom Tov, in order to have appetite for the festive meal.”

Question: May Reb Simcha have his Shalosh Seudos with challah at this point?

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DEDICATIONS

◆ For *refuah sheleima* to those who need it

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Shavuos Pearls

Our sages teach us in Gemorah Yuma that a Heavenly fire would descend upon the *mizbe'ach* of the Mishkan and Beis Hamikdash (Yuma 21b). Nefesh HaChaim by Rav Chaim of Volozhin teaches that a person is miniature Mishkan. Hence, just as that Divine flame burned on the *mizbe'ach*, it also burns inside each Jew. What is that 'fire' inside a Jewish heart? Shem MiShmuel (Tzav, 5676) teaches that **תּוֹרַח** (**Torah flame**) is that 'fire' - it was a gift at Matan Torah. (It is mentioned at the beginning of parshas V'zos HaBrachah says: *From His right hand He presented to them the Torah flame.*) What exactly is that flame? Answers Shem MiShmuel, that it is an intense, Divine flame of enthusiasm, joy in Avodas Hashem.

Now, the Gemorah teaches regarding the fire on the *mizbe'ach*: "Even though the fire descends from Heaven, it's a mitzva for a human to bring his fire to the altar." (Yuma, ibid.). Hence, we can derive from this Gemorah in context of Shem MiShmuel's insight quoted above an incredible idea: According to the level that one ignites *his* personal inner fire for Avodas Hashem, Hashem ignites *His* flame inside the person. And this "unity of the flames" is what awakens inside a person immense enthusiasm, joy and desire for Torah and Mitzvos.*

Shavuos is less than 24 hours away. On Shavuos, Hashem will present to His beloved children the **תּוֹרַח** once again! Provided that we ignite our personal "fire" for Torah and Mitzvos, the renewal of **תּוֹרַח** inside of our hearts tomorrow will begin a year of new enthusiasm and joy in Avodas Hashem.* [See also Sefer HaChinuch, 132; Ramban to Shemos 25:1]



What do you think...?

Ask around your Shabbos/Yom Tov table: Where does the saying "Torah is sweeter than honey" come from?

Menucha's Answer: It's based on a verse in Tehillim (19:11), "...and they (the words of Torah) are sweeter than honey..." Even something like honey, only gives a person limited pleasure. Soon after eating the honey the pleasure goes away. Also, eating too much honey is unhealthy. Torah, on the other hand, is not like that: the more and deeper a person learns Torah, the sweeter it becomes, and the effect is everlasting. [based on *peirush Radak* and *Ibn Ezra* to *Tehillim* 19:11]

Kids Ask, Zeidy Answers



Zeidy, the Torah told us the specific date of Yetzias Mitzrayim. But why didn't the Torah tell us the date of Matan Torah?!



Amazing question, kids! The answer is* because every day is Matan Torah for those who learn it. Why so? Chaza"l teach us that every time a person learns Torah he finds something new in it (Eiruvin 54b). That new Torah is Matan Torah for that person on that day! If we take this lesson to heart, and think about each day from today until Shavuos, then we'll enter Shavuos with tremendous love for Torah.

* based on *peirush* Kli Yakar on Vayikra 23:16



DID YOU KNOW THAT...?



Dovid HaMelech taught us: **אִמְרוֹת ה' אִמְרוֹת טְהוֹרוֹת** *Hashem's words are pure words* [Tehillim 12:7]. The *Sefas Emes* [Emor, 5633] offers an inspiring explanation of this verse: When a person studies - **אִמְרוֹת ה'** - i.e., the words of Torah, he is involved in - **אִמְרוֹת טְהוֹרוֹת** - the words that are pure and purify those who engage in them!

Therefore, says the Sefas Emes, to the degree that a person brings words of Torah deep into his heart, to that degree they purify his heart!

This idea should instill extra anticipation for Matan Torah on Shavuos!