



Rav Mordechai Gifter (1915-2001). *Yahrzeit* date: 23rd of Teves (this year: Thursday, December 26). Rav Gifter was born in Portsmouth, Virginia and spent part of his childhood in Baltimore. In his early teens R’ Gifter studied at Yeshiva of Rav Yitzchak Elchonon in New York City under Rav Moshe HaLevi Soloveitchik. Rav Gifter learned together with Rav Avigdor Miller.

In the winter of 1932, Rav Gifter went to study at Telz yeshiva in Lithuania and spent eight years there before returning back to America. In 1944, Rav Gifter became a mashgiach of Telz yeshiva in Cleveland.

In 1976, Rav Gifter moved to Eretz Yisroel, founding the Telz yeshiva in Kiryat Telz-Stone. Three years later, the Rosh Yeshiva of Telz in Cleveland, Rav Baruch Sorotzkin, was *niftar*, and Rav Gifter returned to Cleveland to succeed him. Rav Gifter served as the Rosh Yeshiva of Telz in Cleveland until the end of this life.

Rav Gifter’s love and dedication for Torah was noticeable even when he was a young boy. Once, there was a very large snowstorm in Baltimore and the city almost came to a halt. Young Mordechai Gifter, however, approached his father and said, “I must go to Talmud Torah (the Sunday school where he was taught Torah).” His father replied, “No one will be there. The school will be closed. It is almost impossible to get around today.” The child kept on begging his father that they try to go. The father finally gave in and they walked all the way to the Talmud Torah by walking inside the tracks left by the trucks. Though the Talmud Torah was in fact closed, that trip paved a long road for R’ Gifter.

Rav Gifter was famous for his *shmuezin* on *sholom bayis*. Once, a talmid shared with Rav Gifter his explanation for why folding up his *talis* on *Motzoei* Shabbos is a *segulah* for *sholom bayis*: “By folding up a *talis* right after Shabbos a husband is showing that the *talis* that his wife gave him is important in his eyes and he is folding it carefully.” Rav Gifter’s response was close to the following words: “Why wait till *Motzoei* Shabbos? Pick up a vacuum cleaner on *Erev* Shabbos! That will certainly be a *segulah* for *sholom bayis*!”

Hints & Answers* **HALACHA CHALLENGE:** *Piskei Teshuvos* (340:12) cites *halachic* sources, based on which we learn that one should not create an image on Shabbos from multiple sticks or cubes even if one is building this image for a very short time, as this would fall under the *melacha* of *Kosev* (Writing). **RHYME:** “joy”, “heart” **RIDDLE:** Moshe Rabbeinu. See Rashi’s commentary to Shemos 3:1. | *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.

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Menucha

בס"ד
A Shabbos table companion
for the whole family

לע"נ ר' ברוך חיים בן שלמון ז"ל

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Halacha Challenge



Candy Smiley Face



As the 6-year-old Shoshana was sitting at the Shabbos table, she was playing with the candy collection that she got from Abba for answering parsha questions.

Then, she formed a smiley face out of candies. She showed it to her sister, Sarah with much pride.

“This is nice,” said Sarah, “But I feel sorry for you.”

“Why?!” asked Shoshana with a shocking voice.

“Because if you take away the candies from that face to eat them, you’ll be erasing the picture! And we cannot erase on Shabbos,” explained Sarah.

Chaim overheard the conversation and jumped in, “But Shoshana made that image to last for a short duration—until she eats the candies. So taking the candy is not called “erasing.”

Sarah objected and said, “At the end of the day, we have a picture here, and taking away candy will erase it. So it’s not allowed. Abba — can you please give Shoshana more candy before she starts crying.”

Question: Can Shoshana eat those candies?

(The “Hints & Answers” section is on page 4)

DEDICATIONS

◆ Dedicated anonymously for *yeshuos* and *refuos* to all Klal Yisroel

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Parsha Pearls

יְהִי בְיָמֵימָם הָהֵם וַיִּגְדַּל מֹשֶׁה וַיֵּצֵא אֶל-אֶחָיו וַיֵּרָא בְּסִבְלָתָם ...

Now it came to pass in those days that Moshe grew up and went out to his brothers and looked at their burdens....(Shemos 2:11)

Commenting on the words “and [Moshe] looked at their burdens”, Rashi writes: “He directed his eyes and his heart to be distressed over them.” First of all, notice that Rashi does not say that Moshe was distressed over them, but rather, “He *directed* his eyes and his heart to be distressed over them.” In other words, Moshe steered his heart in the proper direction, to be distressed over his brothers. The Torah is teaching us that a person can be in charge of his heart.

Also it’s interesting to notice that in the same verse, the Torah says, “Moshe grew up.” This perhaps is hinting to us that a Jew reaches maturity when his focus is on the welfare of other people. So next time, you catch yourself being self-centered, whisper to yourself, “Grow up!”



Ask Around Your Shabbos Table

... וְאֵלֶּה שְׁמוֹת בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל... - *And these are the names of Bnei Yisroel...*

Ask around your Shabbos table: What makes *sefer* Shemos unique that it is a book on its own in the Torah?

An Answer: The Ramban in his introduction to *sefer* Shemos says that *sefer* Shemos is the book of *galus* and *geula* - the end of *galus*. *Galus* ended not with the Yetzias Mitzraim but with Hashem’s Presence filling the Mishkan, which happens at the end of the last parsha of *sefer* Shemos (Pekudei). Our *galus* will also end when Hashem’s Presence will fill the 3rd Beis Hamikdash.



Rhymes for Kids



וְרָאָה וְשִׂמְחָה בְּלִבּוֹ “...and he will see you and he will rejoice in his heart.” (Shemos 4:14)

When my friend buys a new toy,
My heart fills up with lots of ___!
My parents gave my life a good start,
By teaching me to have a good ___!

Rashi comments on the above verse and explains, Hashem was saying the following to Moshe about Aaron: “*Not as you (Moshe) think, that he (Aaron) will resent your attaining a high position. [In contrary! Aaron will rejoice for you!]*” Midrash Tanchuma says on this verse: “*The heart that rejoiced over his brother’s greatness will wear the Urim vTumim*”.



Parsha Riddles



In the parsha, he moved away from stealing - very far. And that led him to come close to Hashem - very close. Who is he?



? DID YOU KNOW THAT ?



... וְאֵלֶּה שְׁמוֹת בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל... - *And these are the names of Bnei Yisroel...* (Shemos 1:1)

You probably know that there is mitzva of *Shnayim Mikra vEchad Targum*. **But did you know** that this mitzva is hinted in the 1st verse of this week’s parsha? The Ba’al HaTurim writes that the letters of the first four words of the verse are an acronym for:

וְאָדָם אֲשֶׁר לֹמַד הַסֵּדֶר שְׁנַיִם מִקְרָא וְאֶחָד תַּרְגוּם בְּקוֹל נְעִים יִשִּׁיר יְחִיָּה שְׁנַיִם רַבּוֹת אֲרוּכִים לְעוֹלָם

“*And a man who learns the parsha “Shnayim Mikra vEchad Targum” with a pleasant voice will live upright many years, long ones forever.*” This *mesorah* is teaching us an important aspect of how to read *Shnayim Mikra vEchad Targum* - it should be done with נְעִים קוֹל (a pleasant voice).