

לעילוי נשמת ר' שלמה זלמן בן ר' ישעיה זצ"ל

10

The Spring Hill Times

Positivity On Every Page

Issue 176

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27 Kislev 5785

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Hashem

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May this week's issue be a zechus Refuah
Shleima Yosef Ben Reva Chasha
B'soch Shar Cholei Yisrael!

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ורחמיו על
כל מעשיו!"

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FROM THE EDITOR



Chazal tell us that when Yosef was at the test of his life and needed to choose whether to sin or not, the face of His father, Yaakov, appeared to him and spoke to him. That helped him overcome his Yetzer Hara.

He and his father were in two different countries and his father didn't even know that Yosef was alive, yet their souls were connected. Yaakov's soul came to the rescue when Yosef was in time of need.

A neighbor and good friend of mine, Rabbi Avraham Leiner told me this amazing story.

He went to be menchaem avel someone by the name of Rav Binyom Neuman.

R' Binyomin recounted that his father had a shul. There was elderly Yid who davened in the shul who had yarzeit and said over the following story:

He was in prison in Japan during World War II.

One night, his mother appeared to him in a dream and told him, "The fourth bar is loose. Move it and escape."

The entire outside of the prison was mined, and in the dream, she showed him exactly how he should walk to avoid the mines.

Baruch Hashem, he was able to escape!

Parents are eternal. They look after us in this world and when they are in the next world, b'shlichus of Hakadsh Baruch Hu, and are there for us in time of need.

And of course our Father in Heaven is always looking out for us.

We may not see Him. But He sees us. He knows and feels everything we are going through. He knows our lives backwards and forwards. He knows everything that ever happened or that will happen.

He is always there helping us.

All he wants us to do is to see all the good he is doing for us and thank Him for it!

Choshech - darkness is Galus Yavan. It's the Yavanim who attempt to convince us that this world is a dark place that's run by chance and run by evil, c"v.

I love reading. Prior to the Spring Hill Times, I used to sit down on Shabbos to read the newspaper. Week after week, I noticed myself feeling: mad, frustrated, angry, upset, blameful, frightened and every negative emotion that you can imagine of. It was the direct result of one negative piece of news after another pounding in my head. When I would read how a terrorist was given a light sentence or set out free, my blood would boil. When I read how a certain political party was destroying the country, I would become frightened and upset.

I realized that my Shabbos was getting ruined. My brain was getting ruined and my entire life was getting ruined. I was feeding myself poison!

Hashem planted in my mind to start a positive newspaper that focuses only on His goodness. Baruch Hashem, since then together with you the readers, we have the zechus of spreading Hashem's light in the world. Sharing with everyone that this world is a bright, beautiful, loving, amazing and wonderful place.

Everything in this world is Hashem!

It's all miracles.

It's all wonderful!

It's all love!

What a beautiful, beautiful world we live in!

HAVE A LECHTIGE AND FREILICHEN CHANUKAH AND A GREAT SHABBOS!



THE DAF HAYOMI BAS KOL



For a few weeks, immediately after Shabbos, R' Yisrael Brodme, went to daven by the Kosel and completed the entire sefer tehilim for three things he needed: hatzlacha in business, a good shidduch for his daughter and for his son in yeshiva ketana to be accepted to a good yeshiva gedola.

On Motzei Shabbos Vayeitzei, after he completed davening, it started bothering him that he had been davening so long and Hashem hadn't answered his tefillos.

He listens every day to R' Eli Stefansky's daf Hayomi shiur and as he got into his car to go back home, he started listening to the shiur. It was on Daf קס"ה where the Gemara talks about iyun tefilla.

R' Eli said the following: There are people who daven for parnasah and wonder why Hashem doesn't answer them. But it isn't true. Hashem hears every tefilla. Even if it doesn't help for parnasah it helps for something else. for example, for a shidduch for your daughter and your son being accepted into a good yeshiva.

R' Yisrael felt like Hashem was talking to him. As he had just davened for those three things.

But the story doesn't end here.

R' Eli then concluded, "You hear Yisrael?"

R' Eli was talking to someone at the shiur by the name of R' Yisrael Lichter who was trying to get his son into yeshiva. But unbeknownst to him he was Hashem's messenger to give Chizuk to a yungerman on the way home from the Kosel!!

A TESHUVAH ON THE BUS



Asher from Yerushalayim related:

One day I was in kollel learning Gemara, and suddenly I thought to myself, How interesting it is that the Gemara is written in Aramaic. Our language is Lashon Hakodesh! While this is understandable regarding the Talmud Bavli, because Aramaic was the language spoken in Bavel, why would the Talmud Yerushalmi, which was written in Eretz Yisrael, be written in this language?!

I asked my friends in kollel and no one was able to answer my question. The question continued to percolate in my mind, but I went on with my learning, making a note to myself to look into the matter properly.

The next day I was riding the bus and a Yid sitting nearby asked, "Do you want to hear a devar Torah?" "Gladly," I responded.

He began, "I was once thinking, why was the Gemara written in Aramaic?"

That's how I was zocheh to hear

a proper, detailed answer to my question, and I saw this as a tremendous he'aras Panim from Hashem yisbarach, Who teaches Torah to His nation Yisrael.

(Hashgacha Pratis Newsletter)

THE MORE YOU GIVE THE BETTER!



Avi* worked as a counselor in camp and made \$5000. He owed one thousand to his sister and from the remaining \$4000 took maser. He did not take maser from the thousand he owed to his sister. Then he rethought it and decided to give maser from that thousand too, an additional \$100.

He then went somewhere and found on the floor some crumpled papers – five twenty-dollar bills!! (Harav Eli Yelen)

SAVED FROM FIRE



One day my husband installed

EMUNAH & BITACHON NEWS

אשר איש שלא ישכח וכן אדם יתאמץ בך!

a used washing machine in our basement and started a load. We planned on leaving the house but we got delayed.

Suddenly we noticed the basement starting to fill up with smoke. My husband dashed in and unplugged the washing machine. We opened the windows to air the house out.

Had we gone out as planned, our house would have burned down c"v!

Thank you HaShem for watching over us. (A Spring Hill Times Reader)

HASHEM TAKES CARE OF US



Shabbos was coming. We wanted to start cooking and baking, preparing meat, fish and all the delicious foods, but there was not a penny to be found in the house to buy food.

My wife saw the situation was literally, as Dovid Hamelech says, "Me'ayin yavo ezri?" She decided to daven with all her heart. She sat down to say some Tehillim with kavanah, davening that Hashem send us all our needs so we would be able to bring in Shabbos honorably.

The minute she finished, a family member called and said, "Remember that cake you prepared for the bar mitzvah?"

"Yes," my wife said. This was a special cake that very few of her friends knew how to make. "Do you want the recipe?"

"No, I don't have time to bake. Perhaps you could prepare it for me? We're making a really special siyum for the kollel, and I want to serve that cake. How much would the ingredients cost?"

My wife agreed and said, "I think about 70 shekels."

"I'll send it right over."

A short while later her son knocked on the door holding 300 shekels. We thanked him, and my wife called to ask what happened. How had 70 shekels become 300? "Did you think I would take advantage of you like that? It's payment for the work. You deserve it!"

Baruch Hashem! Joyfully, my wife bought the ingredients and set about preparing the cake. The change, however, was certainly not enough for all of our Shabbos

expenses for our large family.

In the evening, a package arrived unexpectedly. Someone sends us a large delivery of basic food items twice a month. This package arrived exactly when we needed it, and we were zocheh to bring in Shabbos with much shefa.

(Hashgacha Pratis Newsletter)

KISS FROM HASHEM



I give a short shiur once a week before davening about tefilla, based on a sefer I wrote. One day,



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Hashem put it in my head to choose the chapter about waking up in the morning. There I quoted R' Nosson Wachtfogel as follows:

The Torah tells us that the prophet Bilam praised the Jewish nation, saying, "Hein am ke'lavi yakum v'cha'ari yisnasa — Behold! The people arise like a lion cub and raises itself like a lion." Rashi cites the words of the midrash, explaining, "When those of the Jewish nation rise from their sleep, they are mighty like a lion to grab mitzvos."

Rav Wachtfogel asks why Bilam stressed that we do mitzvos with strength. He explains that there is one specific quality that makes the nation unique: We do not merely "do" mitzvos, but rather, we do them with strength. We fight to overpower the Evil Inclination.

There is only one other place in

my sefer where I quote R' Nosson, so this was a rare quote.

After I finished the shiur, someone told me that it was R' Nosson's yartzeit!

Later on, I got to yeshiva and for no apparent reason, one of my talmidim showed me a short clip of him holding a baby lion. That was after I spoke about lion cubs that very morning!

I felt that Hashem was showing me that He was happy with what I was doing!

(A Spring Hill Times Reader)

HASHEM LISTENS TO BOY'S TEFILLOS

R' Eli Stefansky related that once when he was a child, the Menahel came into his class to faher the boys. Out of the entire blatt



he only knew two lines well. He hoped that the menahel would call upon him on those two lines. The problem was that those two lines were at the beginning of the amud and the menahel always went in order of the boys and he sat in the back.

So, Eli started davening to Hashem to get him out of the problem.

Suddenly the menahel called on Eli and said: There are a few empty seats here in the front. Come sit next to me."

And he got fahered exactly on those two lines that he knew!

Rabbi Chaim Rayman
TTTO: Al Hanisim
L The תורה is תמימה, perfect and complete,
no other wisdom with it can compete,
everything about everything in it we can find,
it's the product of Hashem's Great Mind

L Doctors and scholars, the Greeks were so wise,
Only believing what they saw with their eyes,
Deep down, they realized and they knew,
Only the תורה was real and true

H Therefore, תלמוד תורה they then forbade,
Against certain מצות - גזירות they made,
To try to bring us closer to them
Destroying the nation of ה'

H They broke through its walls, the מקדש they invaded,
טימאו השמים, oil contaminated
Stealing all the כלים, setting up
עבודה זרה,
טקירה and קדושה

L Many Yidden wanted to mix in,
So they followed along, falling into sin,
Some Yidden stayed loyal, they did refuse
They were killed and died as proud Jews

L שמירת המצוות seemed to be ending,
As the Greeks and Yidden were quickly blending,
Something had to happen before all was lost
To save ה' at any cost

H מתתיהו's family, known as חשמונאים,
קנאים and צדיקים, and also כהנים,
If they would see an עבירה or anything wrong,
They couldn't stay calm for too long

H One day a Greek official came to their town
to make the Yidden sin, and to bring them down
His plan was so nasty, such a wicked intention,
He called for everyone's attention

L He gathered the Yidden to the city square
He announced out loud for all to hear
To offer up a pig I need a volunteer,
For עבודה זרה, there's nothing to fear

L A Yid approached the מזבח, this קרבן to bring
Rebelling against ה', with this terrible thing,
מתתיהו's anger rose higher and higher,
Like פנחס, with his holy fire

H He ran to that רשע, Hashem's enemy he faced
To stand up for ה', whose Honor was disgraced,
He pulled out his sword, and knew what to do,
Took care of him, he ran him right through

H He called out "מי לה' אלי", Fighting for ה' with that battle cry
No more גזירות, enough was enough
They had to be bold and tough
L מתתיהו and his 5 righteous sons
Gathered a small army from the

loyal ones,
Outnumbered by Greek soldiers - as many as the sand
Hashem gave them into their hand

L Battle after battle they miraculously fought
"It was impossible" everyone thought
Realizing that it wasn't their might,
they were fighting Hashem's fight

H The mighty Greek army that the whole world feared
They battled with אמונה, they weren't scared
To give up their lives they were prepared
About the תורה they truly cared

H Finally at the מקדש the Yidden arrived,
They had stopped fighting, most of them survived,
Before their eyes was a terrible sight,
A mess which gave them such a fright

L The מנורה was פסול, the מזבח was taken



Please note: The news here is printed a week and a half before the date on the front cover. Things may have changed since publication.

Young Boy Goes to World of Joy and Bliss



On Wednesday night, 11 Kislev, 5785, Hashem, using an Arab terrorist who shot at a bus as His messenger, took a ten-year-old boy from Beiter Ilit, who had completed his purpose in this world, to be near Him in the wonderful next world.

May Hashem comfort and continue to protect Klal Yisrael



Safe Despite Mysterious Drones



Unidentified drones New Jersey have been spotted over New Jersey over the last month. Officials don't know what they are and where they are coming from.

Regardless, whether the drones are something innocent or coming from some enemy entity, Hashem does know where they are coming from and is fully in control over the situation. He continues to watch over us.



Hashem Watches Over Klal Yisrael

Sirens blared in central Eretz Yisrael on Monday morning, 15 Kislev 5785. A missile was fired from Yemen, but Hashem, using the IAF, shot down the missile before it reached Israeli airspace.
הנה-- לא ינום ולא- יישן שומר- ישראל

Continued on page 15

Empty and desolate, forgotten and forsaken

No sheep for the תמיד, no oil left intact

The עבודה the יונים had attacked

L To bring back the עבודה was one of their goals,
So they made a מנורה from simple metal poles,
More than a week they knew it would take
New pure oil for the מנורה to make

H ה' knew their deep feelings inside
And how hard for Him they had worked and tried,
So He made a נס, and opened their eyes
To find the most precious prize

H A כהן found it, buried and covered,
A jug of pure oil, was joyfully discovered,
Now they could do the מצוה and to light,
Though it was only enough for one night

L They would all go out is what they expected

Whatever ה' wanted, they would accept it
But by the next day, the מנורה was still going,
Its נרות were brightly glowing

L Though oil which is טמא is also o.k.,
They wanted the מצוה in its best way
The נס continued, steady and strong,
Burning for 8 days long

H As the word spread, they all heard the news,
Excitement was felt by all the Jews,
With their מסירת נפש such a נס they earned,
The שכניה had finally returned

H It was a sign of Hashem's love,
A special gift, a kiss from above,
It proved that Hashem again favored them
'כי רוצה בעמו ה'

L The following year they celebrated
A new Yom Tov they dedicated
Chanukah -lasting for 8 days
A time for thanking and for praise

L In מודים-על הנסים we say,
For all of His חסדים how can we repay,
The wars, the miracles, and the salvation,
That ה' did for His nation

H הלל שלום we say - the entire thing,
About Hashem's great acts we joyfully sing,
מה אשיב לה', הודו לו
ניגלה ונשמחה בו

H מנורות we light, every single night,
By the window or door, with oil so pure,
The נס of the שמן it does publicize,
To His kindnesses we open our eyes

L So many lessons that we should be learning,
While we say לך, or the נרות are burning,
Every Yom Tov teaches for the rest of the year
So much to listen and to hear

L Without מצוות and תורה, what is life worth

If we're not fulfilling our purpose on earth,
How lucky we are that we stay apart
Loyal to ה' with all our heart

H One who acts for ה', that's his true desire,
ה' will deal with him in a way that is higher,
נסים- sometimes open, or in disguise
will happen for him right before his eyes

H Even though from Yidden are only a few,
We'll never be defeated - forever is the Jew
The Torah's light will burn - that steady holy flame
Hashem's nation will always stay the same

H In the זכות of our lighting our heilige מנורה,
We daven to soon see Hashem's great אורה,
Shining from His מקדש, for the world to see
מעוז צור ישועתי That He's

KI TOV HASHEM

Anti-Semitism Is On The Decline



Mrs. Flohr from Monsey, New York reported that she was in a non-Jewish store developing pictures, and the machine was not working.

A non-Jew at a different machine offered his machine and let her go in front of him!

Ahavti eschem amar Hashem

The Power Of Baking Challahs L'kovod Shabbos



A yungerman reported that his sister was married for many years and she did not have any children. His mother, as a zechus for her daughter, decided she was going to start baking challahs l'kovod Shabbos.

Nine months to the day from when she started baking the first challah, her daughter had a baby!

Hodu laHashem ki tov ki l'olam chasdo

Hashem Watches Over Us



11-year-old Yehuda Newman from Lakewood, NJ reported that he was sitting at his desk in his classroom, and there was a boy who wanted to climb onto his desk to get something down from a shelf nearby.

Yehuda moved, and at that second a big beam fell onto his seat. Had he been sitting there, who knows what would have happened? Hashem was watching over him!

Thank You, Hashem!

Girl Davens To Hashem



Raizy had an appointment during class. She did not want to miss anything, so she davened

that she should have a substitute.

Right when she needed to leave class, a substitute walked in. When she came back from her appointment, the substitute left, and her teacher came back!

Bitachon in Yerushalayim



Mrs. Feldman from Yerushalayim reported that she needed to withdraw some money from an ATM machine. She went in the morning, and the machine was broken. She went again at night, and again the machine was not working. She was about to leave. Then she remembered The Spring Hill Times, and she said, "Hashem is the Kol Yachol, let me go this time with Hashem and if Hashem makes it work, I'm going to call it into The Spring Hill Times." Baruch Hashem, this time she tried and it worked!

Baruch Hagever asher yivtach baHashem

Hashem Helps Girl

Bracha had a big spelling test coming up with 70 words, and she only knew 20 of those words. She wanted to study, but her

NEWS



mother needed her help. Her mother told her, "You help me, and Hashem is going to help you." Instead of studying, she helped her mother.

The next day, she took the test, and she did poorly. Then her teacher called her over and said, "I lost your test, so I'm giving you 100%!"

Mashgiach min hachalonus, meitzitz min hacharakim

Hashgacha Pratis in Brooklyn



A girl from Brooklyn, NY reported that a friend of hers was struggling with Emunah and Bitachon. She told her friend that she was going to bring her an issue of The Spring Hill Times, but she forgot to bring it to school.

They then went to the library, and she saw there were a bunch of issues of The Spring Hill Times. Her friend was able

to read them and fill herself up with Emunah, Bitachon and happiness.

Thank You, Hashem!

Bitachon Raffle



10-year-old Sara Golombeck from Lakewood, NJ was in class, and her teacher was making a raffle. She wrote on her ticket "B'siatta d'shmaya" and she won the raffle!

V'haboteach baHashem chessed yisovivineu

Girl from Brooklyn Turns To Hashem



Mimi from Brooklyn, New York was in class, and her teacher

said everyone must use a red pen. She had a red pen with her that had not been working for a long time.

She started singing quietly to herself, "Hakol..." and after a couple of minutes, the pen started working again!

Baruch hagever asher yivtach baHashem

Mother Trusts In Hashem



Mrs. Berger was looking for her baby's shoe. She needed to leave the house, but she could not find it. She searched all over, but to no avail. She said, "Hashem is the Kol Yachol. He could help me find it."

She found it in a place that she already looked!

Baruch hagever asher yivtach baHashem

Anti-Semitism In Manchester On The Decline

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KI TOV HASHEM

Rabbi Avishai Berkowitz in Manchester, England, reported that last Erev Shabbos it was icy outside. He was walking to shul, and he passed a non-Jew. The non-Jew told him, "Be careful on the ice." He did not want him to slip.

Ahavti eschem amar Hashem

Hashem Is Running A Perfect World



Mrs. Wasserman from London reported that she went shopping for Shabbos, but she forgot to buy grape juice. She only realized when her son came back from the mikvah with two bottles of grape juice!

He had met his uncle who told him, "Today is Rosh Chodesh, and I'm giving you money to go to the store to buy two bottles of grape juice." He came home with the grape juice. Hashem sent them what they needed!

V'divrei niflaosecha asicha

Our Memory Is In The Hands of Hashem

A yungerman from Lakewood reported he needed to call some-



one, but he did not know what his name was. He was trying to remember it for a couple of minutes, but to no avail. He then said, "Hashem is the Kol Yachol, and he could help me remember."

As he said that, the last name popped in his head, but he was still not able to remember the first name.

Again he said, "Hashem, you could help me remember the name." As he said that, the first name popped into his head!

Baruch hagever asher yivtach baHashem

Hashem Is The One Who Takes Care Of Us



Mrs. Benjamin from Beit Shemesh reported that it was Erev Shabbos, close to Shabbos and their cholent burned. They thought they were not going to

have cholent for Shabbos.

On Shabbos morning, a neighbor knocked on the door and said, "We have extra cholent, would you like some?"

Hazan es haolam kulu bituvo b'chein b'chesed u'virachamim

Boy from New York Davens to Hashem



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NEWS

USA: 845-400-8584

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Chaim from Monsey, NY had a speaker that was broken. He hadn't used it for a few months. A few weeks ago on Motzaei Shabbos, he wanted to use it.

He turned to Hashem and thought, "Hashem, please make my speaker work. If you make it work, I'm going to call it into The Spring Hill Times."

He turned it on and it worked!

Baruch shomeia tefilla

.....

Girl from Yerushalayim Trust in Hashem



A mother from Yerushalayim reported that her eight-year-old daughter Esther was holding a flashlight. She dropped it, and it stopped working.

Her daughter started singing "Hakol Yachol." She tried again, and it started working!

Baruch Hagever asher yivtach baHashem

The Power Of Tzedakah

Rabbi Oretz from Waterbury, Connecticut, runs an Avos U'banim program, and he needed \$100 for it. He was in the mountains at his shul, and he saw a chassidish man looking for something.



He went over to the yungerman and asked, "What are you looking for?" The yungerman told him that his daughter, who recently got married, lost her diamond bracelet. They had a simcha at the shul, and he was looking for it.

Rabbi Oretz told him, "I have an Avos Ubanim program, and maybe if you donate money towards it, it will be a zechus that you should find the bracelet."

The yungerman told Rabbi Oretz, "I'll give you \$54". Rabbi Oretz then went to his car, and on his way to the car, he found the bracelet!

He then told a different yid the story, and that yid said that he also needed a yeshua, and he wanted to match the money. He handed Rabbi Oretz another \$54, and within five minutes, Rabbi Oretz had all the money he needed!

.....

Phone ONLY Works for A Life With Bitachon Hotline



Moshe Aron Bromberg, a 12-year-old boy from Lakewood, NJ reported that he tried calling many hotlines, but the phone was not working. When he tried to call the Life with Bitachon Hotline, the phone worked.

Baruch hagaver asher yivtach baHashem

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ואשפך את - נפשי לפני ה'

I Poured Out My Soul Before Hashem

What Hashem Cares About Most

“אתה א-ל רואי — You are Hashem Who sees” (Bereishis 16:13). Rashi explains, “You see the shame of the shamed.” But we know that the Borei Olam sees absolutely everything. He knows everything that is done, both openly and in secret. Nothing is hidden from Him. So why does it mention here specifically that Hashem sees “the shame of the shamed”?

Hashem certainly sees everything. But what does He care about most? People’s disgrace and embarrassment. “He sees the shame of the shamed!” That’s what Hashem cares about

Special Siyata D'Shmaya

“וַתֵּרָא: כִּי-הָרְתָה וַתִּקַּל-גְּבֻרָתָהּ: בְּעֵינֶיהָ” - And she (Hagar) saw that she conceived and her mistress (Sarah) became belittled in her eyes” (Bereishis 16:4).

As punishment for this, she was sent away from Avraham’s house. But as soon as Hagar was in the desert, she suddenly saw malachim coming toward her (see Rashi). Why did she merit to see malachim?

Although she was being punished, right now she was disgraced. She had been Avraham’s wife, honored and respected, and now she was all alone! She was sent away, disgraced and embarrassed. Someone in such a situation is treated differently. Min haShamayim, they take interest in him, worry about him, and help him. Malachim came to Hagar and gave her honor.

Hagar understood this, and that’s why she praised Hashem and said, “אתה א-ל רואי — You are Hashem Who sees - רואה בְּעֵלְבוֹן הָעֹלָמִים -” “You see the shame of those who were ashamed.

The book is available in your local Judaica store

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LIVING WITH HASHEM

By Rabbi Zevy Golombeck

Editor's note: Many of these stories are from months ago

Hashem Opens Eyes



R' Krohn* was looking for a birthday present for his child, and he couldn't find what he was looking for. Then he said, "One second, Hashem is the Kol Yochol, only He can help me find it," and started singing Hakol Yochol. Right away he saw exactly what he was looking for!

Bitachon Photos

R' Shwartz* from Eretz Yisroel had an important meeting with



the American Embassy the next day to get passports, and he needed passport pictures for all his children, but all the stores were closed. They had been waiting for this appointment for months. So he told his family that they're going to be mechazek in Emunah and Bitachon, that Hashem is the Kol Yachol. After they were mechazek themselves, someone gave them a name of someone who has a special camera and printer paper, and they took the passport pictures right away for free!

Hashgacha Meeting



Mrs. Berkowitz from Manchester, England had been asking her husband, R' Avishei, to try and get hold of someone. He wasn't quite sure how to get hold of him. Then he went to the shop. Who did he meet in the shop? None other than the person who he needed to get hold of.

The Ribono Shel Olam sent him the person he needed.

He said to R' Avishei, "You should know, I wasn't planning to come here at all. I was planning to go to a different shop."

The Ribono Shel Olam sent him there!



Continued from page 9

Rosh Yeshiva Goes to the World Of Bliss

Hashem has taken the Rosh Yeshiva Rav Asher Deutsch zatzal to be near him in the next eternal world. יהי זכרו ברוך



Hashem Puts Compassion in President's Biden's Heart

At a Chanukah party at the White House, President Biden said, "I won't stop until all the hostages are returned home."

Thank You, Hashem!

In other news, according to reports Hashem has brought Israel and Hamas very close to a deal that would free the hostages.

כי לישועתך - קיינו כל- היום



A Faint Whiff **Of** **Hashem's Unlimited** **Wisdom and** **Kindness**

The Nose

Hashem created our nose with a perfect combination of being both hard and soft – to ensure that it doesn't get broken and also so it can function constantly.

How did Hashem arrange this perfect balance? Is our nose made out of hard bone or not? Our nose was created with 2 different substances – bone and cartilage. Bone is very hard – it cannot bend. For example, the forearm is a long bone and if too much pressure is put on it then it will break. Cartilage is also bone but it is a much softer version, it can bend without breaking.

The upper 3rd of the nose is made from hard bone – this is the part which is right next to our face and does not protrude too much. Therefore this part has both advantages – it is very strong and it's a solid base that the rest of the nose is built off.

The bottom 2/3rds of the nose is cartilage – the soft bone. So despite the fact that this part protrudes a lot from the face - it doesn't get broken.

We can compare this to silicon which is soft and flexible – yet it retains its shape. It's quite hard to break, due to its flexibility. There is actually not only one type of cartilage in our nose but 5 different types of cartilage with varying strengths and flexibility. Wow, thank You, Hashem!

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**Next week BE"H we will be starting the:
EYE!**



Hashem Wants You to Enjoy His World

A Guide to Discovering Hashem's Kindness
Everywhere You Turn



By R' Yehuda Schonfeld

from Judaica Press

Chapter 8: Enjoying Torah in Olam Hazeh

In this chapter we will discuss many of the pleasures that come from learning Torah, from being connected to Hashem, and from keeping His mitzvos. Additionally, we will see an explanation of what makes studying Torah so sweet.

Sweeter Than Honey

When a person thinks about Torah, one of the first things that comes to his mind is the great mitzvah of Talmud Torah. Obligatory at all times, this mitzvah is the central theme in every frum man's life, from age three and on. Although Chazal refer to Torah study as a "yoke," Dovid Hamelech described Torah as "sweeter than honey and dripping honeycombs." The Ohr Hachaim (Devarim 26:11) wrote that if a person would feel the sweetness and pleasure of learning Torah, he would chase after it like a madman, and a whole world filled with gold and silver would seem like nothing to him!

This teaches us that when Hashem commanded us to learn Torah constantly, He was expressing His desire for us to have this amazing pleasure all the time!

But what exactly is so sweet about learning Torah? This is an important question, because the answer will help one know

what to expect from his learning and recognize the sweetness when he experiences it. There may be many explanations for what makes Torah study so sweet. The following is one of them:

A person must know that the most important possession he has is his own mind (See Toras Avigdor, Parshas Korach 2—Your Mind Is Forever). The human mind is the seat of a person's character and is intended by Hashem to be a receptacle for a vast storehouse of knowledge. Completely empty at birth, the neshamah/mind steadily fills up with knowledge learned from one's experiences and studies



throughout his lifetime.

To a Jew, "Torah" means knowledge, clarity, and understanding. The word "Torah" means "teaching," and Torah is compared to light, as the pasuk says, 'For a mitzvah is a candle and the Torah, a light' (Mishlei 6:23). If one correctly fulfills the mitzvah of studying Torah, he will amass a vast amount of Torah wisdom over the course of his life. This wisdom will bring him to recognize Hashem and follow in His ways, meaning to perfect his character traits—which are very raw from birth.

When a person eventually passes from this world, he leaves his body behind. All that remains is his neshamah: his mind, with the accumulated knowledge of a lifetime, his character (which was molded by that knowledge), and the choices he made in his life. This is the true merchandise of Olam Hazeh.

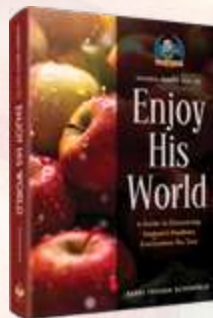
If the person utilized his time here correctly, he will bring his bonanza of wisdom and character perfection to Olam Haba, where it will provide him with immense pleasure for all of eternity.

If, however, he accumulated the wrong type of knowledge (and sinful experiences), he will have wasted his life, and will arrive in Olam Haba with nothing but a collection of useless, very embarrassing data.

Now we can begin to understand the immense importance of a person's knowledge: It is the basis for his entire life, forming his character and deeply affecting all the decisions he will make throughout his life. And it's the only thing that he can take with him when he leaves the world. With this in mind, let's talk about one of the earliest stages of a person's life: The 'Why' stage.

To be continued...

R' Schonfeld is available to speak publicly on the topic of Enjoying Olam Hazeh. He can be reached for comments and questions at EnjoyHisWorld@gmail.com.



HASHEM'S Amazing Universe

The Amazing “Waggle Language” of the Honey Bee. (and how a certain Wasp has taught us how to make paper!) Article 44

**Continued from
last week**

Now, let's analyze this a bit. The first question we must ask is how do the bees actually know how far the patch of flowers is from the hive, so that they can communicate that distance? Do they have an odometer to calculate the distance traveled? Do they have a tape measure?

Truthfully, scientists aren't 100% sure. Nevertheless, experiments seem to indicate that the bees are able to tell how far they have flown from the effort that they need to expend for that particular distance of flight. That alone is quite amazing! Imagine that you want to know how far you have just jogged. Would you be able to figure it out from the how tired you were after the jog? I don't think so, but bees can!

How is it possible? In addition, since it has been determined that each waggle means a certain amount of distance, so let's think about this. The bee expended a certain amount of effort traveling from the flower back to the hive. Let's say it figures out that the distance is 3000 meters. So, with 30 meters per waggle, IT JUST DOES THE MATH AND FIGURES OUT THAT IT NEEDS TO DO 100 WAGGLES! Excuse me? Are you telling me that the bee can do math? I gave an “easy” math example. What if it was 1,100 meters? The bee would need to divide 1,100 by 30 and come up with the answer that it needs to do exactly 37 waggles! No way! How in the world can the bee figure this out?

In addition, how do all these bees know how to keep these calculations in their brain? Since they don't write anything down, how can they hold the accurate calculations in their mind and then convey those calculations to their fellow bees? This indicates some form of memory in the bees! Okay, so that tells us how they know how far the flowers are from the hive, but how do they know how to figure out how many degrees off the flowers are, in comparison to the sun? For them to communicate how much to the right or the left of the sun the flowers are, they must UNDERSTAND the CONCEPT of using the sun as a “centerpiece/landmark” so to speak, from which to measure how many degrees the flowers are to the right or left of the sun. HOW IS IT POSSIBLE FOR THEM TO FIGURE OUT THESE MEASUREMENTS, WITHOUT ANY MEASURING TOOLS? They just look up into the sky and figure out how many degrees it is off to the left or right of the sun? Can YOU do that? In addition, THEY ALSO KNOW HOW TO FIGURE OUT WHERE THE SUN HAS MOVED TO (the sun keeps moving) and they can adjust their calculations with that KNOWLEDGE. Do YOU have that ability? Of course

THIS IS INCREDIBLE!

not, but the bee has that ability to make such moving calculations!!! It's mind boggling! If they were to be off by just a little with their calculations, that can throw off the measurements by many hundreds of meters and that wouldn't work for the bees.

It's all an IMMENSE MIRACLE of Hashem Who put all this knowledge and all these calculations into the tiny bee's puny little brain!

Once again, we see how Hashem has filled His world with fantastic miracles all around us.

There's another interesting thing to know about honey bees. Bees strive to keep their hive temperature at about 97 degrees Fahrenheit. For any hive to survive they need to know how to cool down the hive if it gets too hot, otherwise they would dehydrate and completely die out. But, have no fear. If it gets much hotter than the 97 degrees, the bees have a "solution". They will go and gather a lot of water. They will then lay the water down on any available surface in the hive and then they fan the water with their wings. This cools off the hive through evaporation, much like we feel cooled off when a breeze goes over our damp skin which causes evaporation. So, we need to ask two questions. WHO taught them this crucial survival mechanism how to cool off the hive? They would have needed to "know" this "trick" from day one, otherwise no hive would ever have survived. Secondly, HOW in the world do they know when the temperature reaches the desired 97 degrees Fahrenheit? Does it have a thermometer to measure the degrees in the hive? Then how does it know the temperature inside the hive? Here's another example of the tremendous amount of knowledge and ability that Hashem has put into the puny little bee brain! Putting all the articles we have written about the honey bee together shows us the enormous abilities and "knowledge" that Hashem has to put into the honey bee for it to function properly. Of course, things are much, much, much more complicated than what we have written, but even the little we have written about shows us how great is Hashem's abilities and how great is His wisdom!!

Finally, we will end with a different bee, which is actually a wasp. This wasp is from where we humans have learned how to make paper!!! Yes, paper! Guess what, they are called paper wasps!

They make the paper from very small particles of wood which the wasp shaves off with their mandibles from trees, or wooden beams, or boards. Then they add their saliva to it and it forms a liquidly paste. While it's still moist they form the hexagon cells and then it dries into a paper like material! Mankind learned to make paper



from wooden fibers, and they have discovered a binding material (similar to the saliva of the wasp) that turns it into paper. What in the world gave the wasp this idea???

Hashem did!

There are many more interesting types of nests that bees and wasps make. Perhaps we will write an article at a later date about them, but for now, BE"H, I will be moving on to the fascinating spider!

← Paper nest made by the paper wasp.

MA RABU MASECHA!

Living With Appreciation

R' Daniel Shasha

Miketz- Chanukah

When the brothers returned to Egypt with Binyamin, Yosef served for them an extravagant feast. Delicious foods were served and the finest wines flowed like water. A fascinating comment of Rashi tells us that this feast was actually the first time that the brothers drank wine since Yosef was sold. This calls for an explanation. Why did they all of a sudden drink wine now? They refrained from drinking wine as an expression of mourning for the loss of Yosef and from their perspective Yosef was still lost. It was beyond their wildest dreams that Yosef was actually hosting their meal!

The Netziv brings a fascinating explanation. He teaches that the reason why the brothers partook in this meal and drank wine was because they considered it to be a seudas hodayah, a meal of thanksgiving to Hashem! Originally, they were accused of being spies but now it became evident that Yosef believed their story, and was acting friendly towards them. They were so full of gratitude to Hashem that they treated this meal as a seudas hodayah, celebrating heartily and drinking wine. Even though their salvation wasn't complete and Binyomin and Shimon hadn't been safely returned home, they were still extremely appreciative that things seemed to be turning in their favor and they thanked Hashem for each step of the way.

In the times of the Beis Hamikdash, gratitude was expressed by bringing a korban todah, along with forty loaves and a grand feast, as a public display of gratitude. Since the brothers celebrated their seudas hodayah before the korban todah, they chose wine as a medium to express their gratitude. This is alluded to in the verse in Tehillim, "I will raise up the cup of salvations and call out in the name of Hashem" (116:12). Wine is considered a distinguished beverage, so drinking it at a public gathering, can be a great way of expressing gratitude. (Haemek Davar 43:34)

Making a public display of gratitude is in fact a key aspect of Chanukah. We don't just commemorate the great salvation that happened to us but we publicly

thank Hashem for this, known as *pirsumai nisah*. Therefore, the Menorah should be placed where everyone can see it and can be lit as long as it still can be seen by others. Also, even though everyone lights at home, we also light in Shul to publicize the miracle even more. If one only has the option to purchase wine for kiddush or oil for the candles, he should purchase oil since *pirsumai nisah* is more important.

We see from all the above examples, how *pirsumai nisah* plays such an important role in the laws of the candle lighting, since this is really the essence of Chanukah. It is not enough that we feel gratitude for the incredible salvations, but we must publicize the miracle; spreading to the world Hashem's incredible goodness. We can make use of this idea in our own lives too. Whenever we experience a salvation, we can make a reminder of this as a way of publicizing this to whoever sees. As we see in the following powerful story.



There was once a gabbai tzedakah who was sent by his community in Eretz Yisrael to Europe to raise funds. When he visited Italy, he was hosted by a distinguished philanthropist who lived in an extravagant mansion. The gabbai tzedakah was overwhelmed upon seeing the opulence of his home. The chandeliers were made of the finest crystal, there were intricate tapestries and ornate marble floors. He noticed that in the breakfront there was a beautiful solid gold Menorah, but to his surprise there were some broken pieces of a glass bottle lying next to it. "Why are there broken bottle pieces in your breakfront?" he asked his host curiously, "they look very out of place in such a well-kept home." "Well, I would like you to know that they are the most important thing in this house" the host replied, "everything I have is because of these bottles."

The host went on to explain that he was learning very well in Yeshivah when he was younger, and he planned to continue for a long time. One day, he received a letter from his grandfather telling him that the family business was struggling and asking for him to come and help. He decided to temporarily leave Yeshivah and assist his grandfather. Unfortunately, his grandfather passed away suddenly from a heart attack, leaving him

Let Us Thank Hashem for...



Chanukah!

This beautiful Yom Tov adds a lot of light to the cold winter days, helping us realize the guiding hand of Hashem even in the darkest moments. Not to forget the enjoyable customs such as latkes, doughnuts and dreidel as well as the opportunity to spend more time with our family and friends!

Inspiring Quotes

The mitzvah of lighting the Chanukah candles is very beloved, and one has to be very careful to publicize the miracle and increase our praise to Hashem; expressing our gratitude for the miracles that He did for us.

Rambam, (Megillah 4:13)

This is the root of the holiness of Chanukah, for us to humble ourselves in Hashem's eyes and recognize that everything is a gift from Hashem. This is alluded to in the name מַתָּיִתוּ who internalized how everything is from Hashem, his name spells מַתָּת 'given from Hashem'. Rabbi Tzadok HaCohen, (Pri Tzadik Miketz)

We need to thank Hashem that we have the privilege of lighting the Chanukah candles and to recite the berachos of asher kidishanu, sheasah nissim and shehiyanu. These are such great and awesome privileges. Rav Gamliel Rabinovitch, (Tiv Haneiros p.59)

We say in al hanissim, bayamim hahem thanking Hashem for the miracles that happened in those days. We also say bazman hazeh, expressing our gratitude for the miracles that happen nowadays, since each day Hashem performs revealed and hidden miracles for us like he did for our ancestors. Levush (682:2)

to singlehandedly run the business. He opened many new branches and the business skyrocketed. However, his dedication to his Judaism began to dwindle and he eventually left the path of Torah.

One day he was walking down the street and he saw a young boy crying inconsolably. "Why are you crying, he asked. The boy explained that he was from a poverty-stricken home and his father saved up penny by penny for months in order to purchase oil for Chanukah. He was sent to purchase the oil and tried very hard to ensure he would not drop the bottle, yet he suddenly was startled by a cat and the bottle broke into smithereens. "What will I tell my father" the boy sobbed, "How can I go home without the oil?"

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The Italian businessman had mercy and bought him another bottle. The words of the boy kept on ringing in his head for days, "What will I tell my father, what will I tell him?" He thought to himself "What will I tell my father in Heaven, He has been so good to me and entrusted me with such a pure neshamah, how could I have rebelled against Him"? He slowly began the path back to religious observance, until he became fully Torah observant. He kept the glass pieces on public display, as a reminder of how Hashem helped bring him back to the path of Torah.

To receive by email an exciting booklet about Chanukah, with many inspiring ideas, stories and quotes, please contact us livingappreciation@gmail.com



By: Rabbi Eliezer M. Niehaus

This column is part of the "ASHER TO THE YATZAR" initiative. If you would like to receive the monthly leaflet, please email ashertotheyatzar@gmail.com. Please try to say Asher Yatzar from a card or poster as a *zechus* לע"נ my daughter אסתר ע"ה בת יבלחט"א אליעזר מנחם

Praising Hashem Keeps Us Going

We are now in the middle of Chanuka, the great Yom Tov of "Giving Thanks," so let us discover a new way to infuse Asher Yatzar with life. Last week we cited Rav Pincus who explained that the reason why Hashem created our bodies with the need to use the restroom several times a day is that it is important to constantly remember that Hashem is the source of life and health. Thanking Him for those fabulous presents will be a reason why IY"H He will give us more.

The truth is that praising and thanking Hashem is our job in this world and a vital component of life. The *Navi Yeshaya* (43:21) tells us, "*Am zu yatzarti li, tehilasi yesapeiru*—I fashioned this people for Myself, that they should declare my praise!" Perhaps Hashem created the human body with this need in order to give us the opportunity throughout the entire day to say this *beracha* properly, and fulfill the purpose for which we were created!

Rav Pincus in *She'arim B'tefilla* (page 57 in the Hebrew version) cites a fascinating Medrash (*Yalkut Shemoni*, Yehoshua 22, quoted by Rashi in Yehoshua 10:12). The *pasuk* says (Tehillim 113:3) "ממזרח שמש עד מבואו, מהולל שם ה' – from the rising of the sun to its setting, Hashem's Name is praised." When Yehoshua stood in Giv'on and wanted the sun to stop, he did not tell the sun to stop moving. Rather he said "שמש

– be silent. The reason being that as the sun is travelling, it is saying praises to Hashem, and that is what gives it the ability to move across the sky. Therefore, Yehoshua told the sun to be quiet and stop saying praises, so that it would not be able to continue moving. The Medrash then relates how the sun argued with Yehoshua until it finally says, "If I will be quiet who will say praises to Hashem?" To which Yehoshua answered "You be silent and I will say praises instead of you!"



Rav Pincus says that we see from here that the sun gets its strength from saying praises to Hashem, and if it stops, it loses its ability to move. But it is not only the sun – all the *malachim* and every living creature only exist through saying praises to Hashem. We say in the third *hallelukah* of *pesukei d'zimrah*. *Hallelu es Hashem min hashamayim*. The bright blue skies praise Hashem. "*Halleluhu kol malachav*." Multitudes of holy *malachim* sing His glory. "*Halleluhu shemesh v'yareyach*." The massive bright sun, the beautiful, glowing moon, trillions of stars – they are also praising Hashem. The young men and also maidens, old men and youths – they all sing *shira* to Hashem – as singing to Hashem is the fountain of life, and one who stops, is disconnected.

This should give us an entirely new outlook on Asher Yatzar. Until now, if we were in the middle of doing something important and we get a message from our body that causes us to momentarily pause what we were doing, we may have gotten frustrated and think "why now?" But now we realize that this is actually a personal request from Hashem to praise Him at this very moment – which gives us the ability to continue to function and exist!

Rabbi Niehaus is the author of "Oasis: Experience the Paradise of Shabbos" and "HEAVENWORDS: Elevate your Tefillah and Yourself". He is the Rosh Kollel of Kollel Zichron Aharon Yaakov in Kiryat Sefer and is a rebbi in Yeshivas Beis Dovid and Yeshivas Imrei Binah in Yerushalayim.

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Chizuk Corner

Rabbi Y. Y. Friedman

We are approaching the holy Yom Tov of Chanukah. Is Chanukah called a Yom Tov? Absolutely! The Gemara calls it Yom Tov. However, the description of this Yom tov is "Lehodos u'lehallel".

There is a big discussion what is the definition of Lehodos. Rashi seems to hold that saying "al hanissim" is what the Gemara is referring to. The Rambam and others seem to say that the word Hodaah is referring to the lighting of the Menora.

The obvious question on the Rambam is why does the Gemara talk in riddles? Why doesn't the Gemara say straight out to light the Chanukah candles?

I believe the answer is that when we are standing by the Menora we are not merely lighting candles. We are admitting [which is one of the definitions of "Hodaah"] that Hashem has performed a great miracle for us.

This concept is known as "Pirsumei nissa." This means that we are publicizing and acknowledging that Hashem has done great miracles for us.

I believe that Rabbi Schwab explains that the Modim that we say on a daily basis means that we acknowledge all the good that Hashem does to us throughout the day.

Rav Uren Reich Shlit"a elaborates on this train of thought. He says something fascinating. He gives a mashal to bring out the concept.

Imagine an old man is walking in the street and the wind is howling. As a result, he trips and he drops his package. A young man who was passing

by catches him. The old man thanks him profusely.

Then the young man goes and picks up his packages, and again the old man thanks him profusely.

Then the young man gets him a chair and the old man once again thanks him very much.

Then the young man offers him a drink to which the old man gratefully accepts. Again, the old man starts bentching him.

The young man asks the older man why he keeps thanking him. He already thanked him at the beginning. The old man smiled and tells him, "You keep doing different favors for me and I need to recognize each favor individually."

Similarly, says Rav Uren, Hashem is constantly doing Chassadim for us every second of the day. Each breath that we take is a gift from Hashem, so ultimately, we should be praising Hashem nonstop.

However, our Chachamim understood that it may be difficult for some people to thank Hashem on every breath, so they gave us the bracha of Modim to say three times day. This gives us an opportunity to thank Hashem for all the chassadim that He is doing for us the entire day.

Getting back to Chanukah, when we light the Menora we are also admitting to the miracles of the wars that Hashem fought for us. We are acknowledging that it was Hashem that fought our wars.

The truth is that we have gone through a year loaded with unbelievable mind-boggling open miracles that Hashem has been performing for Klal Yisroel, and especially in Eretz Yisroel.



Tens of thousands of rockets, drones and missiles were fired toward Eretz Yisroel from Gaza, Lebanon, Iran and Yemen and the casualties and deaths were so few.

I heard that a war specialist analyzed all the attacks that happened over the past year and he said that according to the statistics of the deaths and casualties that should have happened c"v, the actual deaths and casualties was close to 0%.

In other words, it's impossible in the laws of nature to explain how this happened.

However, we do have an explanation and we say this three times a day "v'al nisecha she-bichol yom". Hashem is making tremendous miracles for Klal Yisroel as we can see with our own eyes.

It is clear that Hashem is protecting Eretz Yis-

roel above the laws of nature.

This is what Chanukah is about. We light the candles and we proclaim that yes, Hashem makes tremendous miracles for us even in the Galus. We acknowledge that we are in Hashem's hands and He is fighting for us.

We know that Hashem Has promised that when Moshiach comes He will once again make for His beloved nation

miracles and amazing wonders.

Chanukah is a time that Hashem has performed miracles. Chanukah is a time that Klal Yisroel acknowledges all the miracles and love that Hashem has for His children.

Let's be zoche this Chanukah to participate in the kindling of the Menorah in the Bais Hamikdash as we will sing with much joy "Haneiros Hallalu" and Al Hanissim Amein.



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Zichru Toras Moshe

Rabbi Moshe Hirschberg

DYSFUNCTIONAL



In the late 1960s, there was a middle-aged man named Rav Yitzchok who was experiencing terrible stomach pains. The pains persisted for several days. He went and consulted with his doctor, who sent him to a specialist in Mount Sinai Hospital who ran a series of tests.

A week later, Rav Yitzchok was called back to the doctor's office to discuss the results. The doctor informed him that the results didn't look good, and that he only had a minute chance of survival. While Rav Yitzchok was trying to digest the news, the doctor added, "And I opine that you take your four remaining weeks, gather together your final wishes, and instruct your family how to distribute your possessions, because this is it."

Rav Yitzchok was unwilling to just settle with this heartbreaking news, "A Yid is never hopeless," echoed in his mind. He remembered numerous stories of people with similar diagnoses who, after davening and learning, saw impressive *yeshuos*. With that mindset, he mustered the courage to ask the doctor, with tears streaming down his cheeks, "Is there no solution? Is there no way to survive?!"

"There is *one* option," replied the doctor, "but I do *not* recommend it. It's an invasive procedure with a *very low* rate of success. Even if you decide to undergo the surgery, your lifespan will be extended no more than an-

other six months. Nothing more than that. And your quality-of-life during those six months won't be a dream. You'll be bedridden and connected to a respirator, which is no fun. I don't see any purpose in such a life. Rather, take your remaining time in this world, fly to Europe, explore the museums and attractions, and enjoy your final few weeks."

Rav Yitzchok thanked the doctor for his advice and made his way to the *posek ha'dor*, **Reb Moshe Feinstein**, to discuss the matter.

Reb Moshe looked over all the details of the *shaila* before sharing his *da'as Torah*. "First, you must know that the mindset of the doctor is coming from the secular view of life," Reb Moshe went on to explain, "but that is not *hashkafas haTorah*. The secular world sees life for its pleasure, and thus a life *void* of pleasure is *worthless*."

"We, on the other hand, know that life is a preparation for the World to Come, and in a short time, a person can gain himself invaluable reward. So, before determining if to stretch life or not, we must primarily understand what we are dealing with."

MADE FUNCTIONAL

"With that being the case," Reb Moshe then ruled, "it's worth undergoing surgery just so you can put on *tefillin* even *once* more! Surely if you'll also be able to daven thereafter. And besides, you must also consider the chance of outliving the six-month forecast. The doctor wasn't notified by Hashem what your lifespan will be, so without a doubt, you should go ahead with the surgery and leave the rest up to Hashem!"

Rav Yitzchok returned to the doctor and told him that he'd like to move forward with the surgery. The doctor, as expected, began to lash out at him. "You have no comprehension of what's awaiting you. Just enjoy your few remaining weeks."

But despite the attempts of the doctor to dissuade him, Rav Yitzchok stood his own and replied, "I dis-

cussed the matter with R' Feinstein, who instructed that I undergo the surgery."

Being a respectful doctor, he honored the request and performed the surgery. Rav Yitzchok's next few months went by as expected, with much pain and being confined to a bed, but with much *siyata d'Shmaya*, from then on he started improving until he was completely healed — contrary to the prediction of the doctor.

Several years passed, and Rav Yitzchok was once again sitting in the doctor's waiting room for a periodic checkup. To his utter shock, he saw his doctor wearing a yarmulka and *peiys* — something he hadn't had when Rav Yitzchok last saw him! He knew the doctor was Jewish, but he certainly hadn't come off as religious in any way or form. Rav Yitzchok couldn't resist, and he told the doctor, "*Tischadesh* on your new appearance!"

The doctor responded, "It's all credited to you. That ruling of Reb Moshe left me restless. How can a Rabbi undertake such a ruling and instruct a fellow Jew to endure such a procedure? He surely understands what the patient will be facing. I decided that I must pay a visit to this Rabbi."

"I entered his home in the Lower East Side and was then greeted with the Rav's enlightening smile and sat down. After some talk, I proceeded to unload what was weighing on my heart, namely his ruling regarding your situation. Reb Moshe heard me out, and then responded, 'Indeed, the Jewish perspective is unlike the common understanding of life. We live life for the purpose of gaining Torah and mitzvos for *Olam Haba*, and therefore it pays to remain alive just so that Rav Yitzchok could perform *one more mitzva*. Each mitzva is priceless and would be worthwhile that he remains alive for it.'

"I was blown away by the clarity Reb Moshe presented me with," the doctor continued, "and now you understand why I changed my direc-

tion in life. Until then, my life was purposeless: I worked to eat, and then ate to work, ad nauseum. Now I see how much meaning there can be in life, and I'm forever grateful to you for enlightening me to this."



TRADING FUND



William Abood was a partner in FXCM, a large trading firm on Wall Street, where people from around the globe would exchange their money. All their business brought in a great profit, and he used his wealth smartly: He was very generous when distributing tzedakah, and he was the go-to address for many organizations. For example, R' Zechariah Wallerstein went to him to help cover the mounting budget for his high school, Ohr Naava.

One day, Abood's whole enterprise went under. When the English currency dropped, his company continued trading it without coverage. In a short time, his multi-million-dollar company went bankrupt, to the point that it suddenly became illegal to exchange funds with them. In a short few minutes, he had nothing left but some pressing court cases.

Sometime later, R' Wallerstein approached William and asked him how he was able to move on with this misfortune. He went from being a wealthy individual to having nothing; how was he continuing after such a downturn? R' Wallerstein was known for approaching people who faced life-challenges and probing them as to how they overcame them. When he then would speak with his students, who also faced serious challenges, he would be able to relay how others with similar challenges overcame them.

"Let me tell you something," came William's reply. "In the 1990s, I worked at a small firm here in Man-

hattan, which had a total of thirty traders. There was one large table where all thirty of us sat. I grew very close to the employee on my right; we worked together for years, and we developed a very warm relationship.

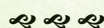
"One day, he was offered to manage a trading firm from a company who wanted to become the *biggest in the world*. His friend received notice that the growing corporation was looking for a man suitable for the great task, and he was chosen. 'You can hire a staff of whatever size you want,' he was told. 'Anything so that we can build up this project.'"

This friend had sought out many helpers to assist him, and William was excited about it. The new firm was even offering open checks to their new workers — something quite tempting. When the day came for his friend to take along his new team with him, William realized that he was not one of them. This "friend" hired fifteen of the thirty members of their firm, leaving out his close friend. William was no doubt frustrated at the unexpected shutout.

He held his grudge for a year and a half — until September 11. As soon as William heard about the plane hitting the 98th floor of the Twin Towers, his whole frustration vanished. Had he been hired for that new firm, William wouldn't be with us. All those fifteen traders who the friend had taken were all killed in that attack, leaving nothing of their upstart firm.

"And now," William then turned to R' Zechariah and said, "you can understand why I bear no grudge. Ever since then, I consider every day as a gift from Hashem, something that I'm undeserving of, and that's why I'm so thankful for my life. Also, all my children were only born thereafter. Had I been hired then, I would be long forgotten, with no one to continue my name."

This is why he no longer complained about life-challenges — life is a gift!



IT'S GOOD TO BE ALIVE

It was fifteen years after R' Zidell was diagnosed with dementia. His



disease wasn't allowing him to conduct his affairs as he once had. For decades, he'd been waking up at the crack of dawn, learning a several-hour *seder* until 7:30, and then making his way to the 8:00 *Shacharis* at the Tenka shul in Boro Park.

Several months before his *petirah*, R' Zidell was visited by his grandchildren and great grandchildren too. His grandson asked him how he was feeling, to which he responded, "Baruch Hashem," with a heartwarming smile.

One grandchild, Baruch, knew what was really cooking. He knew how his grandfather really felt about no longer being able to attend his usual *minyanim* he so much liked. He was thus a bit shocked at how R' Zidell had responded "Baruch Hashem" despite all that.

"It's good to be alive," continued R' Zidell. "If we are alive, we must be appreciative and thankful for Hashem always returning our *neshamas*. There's nothing that we can complain about!!"

Baruch was overtaken by the words he was hearing. R' Zidell was an old-time student of Yeshivas Chaim Berlin, and he more or less had nothing to his *Olam Hazeih*. He was barely eating due to the side-effects of some of his medicines, and his regular *sedarim* were now very minimal. Of friends, too, he had nothing, yet he remembered "*dai la'adam she'hu chai* — it suffices that one's alive." With that mindset, he was always upbeat, and whenever he was asked how he was doing, he responded that he is doing great.

R' Moshe Hirschberg is the author of "Zichru Toras Moshe — Heartwarming Stories for the Shabbos Table." To receive the Weekly Zichru Toras Moshe please call 732 569 8111 or email: the.zichru.toras.moshe@gmail.com

By: Rabbi Zevy Golombeck

Did You Know?

A very chashuva friend and Rav by the name of Harav Hagaon Hagadol Rav Ariel Rabin Shlita, a Rav in Staten Island, told me over that he saw from Rav Elya Weintraub in his letters that people who are critical of themselves and don't appreciate or think well of themselves, are oiver on an issur de'oraysa of "lo sasuru acharei levavchem vacharei eineichem" which is brought down as part of the sheish mitzvos temidios not to be a koifer.

The reason why its kefira and apikorsus is because if you don't hold of and appreciate yourself, then it means you think that Hashem made a mistake by making you. You think that Hashem made a world that could be bad and evil.

Every person is mechuyav to believe that if Hashem created him it obviously means that the world is not perfect without him. You have to appreciate who you are now at this present moment.

Rav Yehuda Mandel says that when you criticize yourself you're being oiver on the pasuk about suicide, that a person is not allowed to kill himself! Criticizing yourself is like committing suicide because you can't grow, you can't amount to anything if you don't hold of and appreciate yourself and value yourself.

Rav Yehuda Mandel always says from Rav Wolbe that there's a mitzva of dan lekaf zechus on yourself. You have to be dan yourself lekaf zechus and say I'm really great and gevaldig. You need to hold of yourself, appreciate yourself and realize the whole world needs you!



Gold Mines

Based on the teachings of Rav Yehudah Mandel

By: R' Baruch Rosenstock

be satisfied (ויקרא 25, 19), is a commandment, commanding us, don't be skimpy! The Torah here is telling the shemittah observers don't be all stressed out that shemittah is coming, and begin to skimp and save for the 7th year. The Torah teaches us to live in the present and eat לשוב, realizing Hashem runs this world he is the only source of our livelihood.

We see from here how important it is not to get too emotionally involved in the future and thereby compromise our present quality of life. We have to live in the present and enjoy the present and not be filled with fear of what will be.

The Madreigas Ha'adam in Darkei Bitachon (perek 6) writes very strongly not get too worried about tomorrow and think, "How will we manage in the coming years?"

The Alter writes that the pasuk of ואכלתם וישבעו - לחמכם - you will eat your food to



Rav Yehuda Mandel

Bitachon Weekly



שלום בית ונר חנוכה

It is interesting how the חנוכה in רמב"ם ends off by saying that שלום is more important than חנוכה. The רמב"ם says that ימי חנוכה are ימי שמחה והלל. When people have a מצוה to be בשמחה it can still be loaded with stress (to do it right, etc.) and he can hurt others because he's so worried

about his מצרה.

Part II

But if he remembers the people around him and is nice to them, then it's a sign of being relaxed with a "chilled" happy רוח. The same רמב"ם says that if you forget the עני then it's שמחת כריסו - a selfish שמחה isn't the real relaxed שמחה and not only because it's a חסרון ב"א לחברו, but also the very שמחה isn't the real type of שמחה.

Part III

Notice how ושמחת בחגיך אתה ואשתך - how שמחה needs to always be a social experience. People enjoy being with each other, and this is the תורה way - be happy together. And in general, חנוכה can be viewed as an אחדותדיק יו"ט especially since if a person sees someone else's מנורה he makes a special ברכה. And the more שמחה you have with someone else's מצוה the more it becomes your own.

Part IV

This is the לב ששמח בגדולת אהרן of יו"ט who was אחיו. By the way, we can give a reason why we light נרות perhaps to be מרמז that if you really want to overcome your own יוני streak i.e. your unique יצה"ר and weakness - make sure to be on fire!

If you are smart, you take ימי חנוכה into the rest of the year

ימי חנוכה are a message. Everyone knows that before you light the נרות you can ask for whatever you wish. It is a major עת רצון. A חכם realizes that just like יחיד created their own מצוה דרבנן, חנוכה, so can a חיד decide that he'll make this עת רצון last forever. חנוכה means ימי חנוכה and חינוך is הקב"ה מחנך us during חנוכה.

Part II

A human is eventually נפטר and then he'll become everybody's yaarzeit licht since now he is only a נשמה and a נשמה is a נר. During ימי חנוכה we light our own נר and we ponder what a human being is all about. He is a total giver who gives warmth and light and he's made out of the fire of העבודת ה'.

Part III

Even if you're sitting home doing nothing - you need to realize that the very existence of every individual brings warmth and light to the entire world! כי חייב כא"א לומר בשבילי נברא העולם. But ideally, you should be a giver (like ר' חיים וואלאזין ז"ל says). But ideally going into an out-of-town כולל makes you a giver and it's ידוע that those yungeleit are the happiest (ע"פ ר"נ וואכטפוגל ז"ל).

Part IV

Without darkness there is no light and just like וחושיך על-פני תהום יהי אור in a state of הקב"ה said. So must every human light up the darkness (i.e. peckel) of his life with his insistence that the הקב"ה will help (מדת בטחון). For 8 days a person has to שטייג until he becomes הטבע למעלה מן הטבע which #8 symbolizes (מהר"ל).

You keep moving upwards despite your "חושיך" of sins and נסיונות and depressions and anxieties and mistakes (all kinds of חושיך), and those who keep moving and aren't phased by setbacks are indeed למעלה מן הטבע since the nature of a person is הבכורה - giving up and being נתפעל.

תפלות is the perfect example of unrelenting לאה אמונה which gave her 6 שבטים.

Use the incredible power of חנוכה for the rest of your life!

The יוני of חנוכה has a beautiful message: Every day a person should praise the הקב"ה (or write) 1 goodness of his life. The next day he should praise for something else without stopping to continue praising for yesterday's goodness. This should go on and on for 8 days until you have 8 מעלות altogether in front of you.

Part II

This is why חנוכה is so special - you are beholding all 8 at once and are thanking for all. 8 symbolizes (מהר"ל) (למעלה מן הטבע) and doing things like this is a ברכה for a person and will cause him to continue having a life of unending goodness. P.S. The continuous mentioning of old ישועות without forgetting them is the key.

Part III

This is why זכירת יצ"מ is so important and so prevalent all over our davening etc. הקב"ה wants to do only good for us, so he gave us a יוני of חנוכה which is actually a חינוך in how to have a good life. This is similar to the ספר החינוך who says that the שורש of מצות is because the הקב"ה wants to give us a good life and therefore gives us ברכת המזון מ"ע which causes more goodness.



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Ahavas Yisrael

The Chinuch Chaburah

R' Tzvi Moshe Schultz

Disclaimer: The information here is researched. We tried to make sure it's accurate, but we are human and mistakes do happen. We apologize in advance for any errors.

Continued from last week.

Editor's note:

The goal of this column is to explain the reason of minhagim. But of course everyone is doing what's right and everyone should proudly keep to their family minhag.

There are many different way to serve Hashem and different kehilos put their focus on different things.

We all have different personalities and different methods to combat the yezter hara.

THERE IS NO RIGHT AND NO WRONG. NO ONE IS HIGHER AND NO ONE IS LOWER. To Hashem it makes no difference if one served him with a shtreimel or bend down hat. It's just as big of a difference to Him as if one's shoe size is a 10 or 10.5.

He loves us all equally. We are all tzaddikim and will be getting the same Olam Haba. What is important to Him is that we all fulfill our unique purpose in life and we feel positive in our hearts about people who are different than us.

Examples of being different than the goyim:

1. Chasidim don't wear a short jacket, because that is seen as a western, modern, non-Jewish form of dress. Rather, they wear long jackets. On weekdays they wear a long jacket called a rekel. On Shabbos they wear a fancier jacket with a belt and designs, called a bekeshe.

2. Chasidim don't wear a tie. A tie is considered to be a form of modern dress, which chasidim avoid.

3. Chasidim wear an "up hat," not a "down hat." A "down hat" is the typical fedora that Litvish Jews wear, with the brim down. This was a style of hat that was also worn by the non-Jews. Therefore, Chasidim wear a hat with the brim up, in order to be different. One popular type of Chasidish hat is the felt hat, which is called a "samet." There are two different types: the hoicher samet, which is taller, and the flatshiger samet, which is flatter.

4. Chasidim in Europe used to wear short pants, to differentiate themselves from the non-Jews, who wore long pants. Nowadays, most chasidim only wear short pants on Shabbos. They usually wear them together with special white socks, known as veisse zacken.

5. Many chasidim don't wear a wristwatch, because it's a sign of modernity. Rather, they wear a pocket watch. Others do wear a wristwatch, but purposely wear it on their right hand, in order to be different from the modern world which wears it on the left hand.

- Examples of following the tradition:

1. A kasket is a felt cap that Jews used to wear in Europe. Now, many chasidic boys wear them on Shabbos.

2. Lubavitcher Chasidim pinch their hats into three corners, because that's the type of hat that the last Lubavitcher Rebbe had. They also don't wear a shtreimel, unlike other chasidim, because the last Lubavitcher Rebbe didn't wear one.

to be continued

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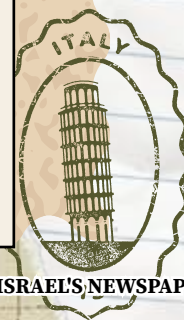
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lets get to know our family

By: Rabbi Chaim Tzvi Blau

Bitachon Power

The Quote - The Lesson - The Story

The Quote: "If a man only seeks methods of escaping or pleading with his oppressors, but neglects to ask of Hashem to save him, he is like a man who is being flogged and addresses his pleadings to the wooden stick. There is no greater foolishness than that."

THE LESSON: What makes this idea so incredible and amazing is that the Baal Bitachon understands that the ONLY ONE Who can save him is Hashem. The ONLY ONE he must turn to is HASHEM! The Baal Bitachon realizes that if he looks to other people to rely on and beg, and banks on THEM, it is as if he is relying on a wooden stick. and just as we all understand undoubtedly that relying on a wooden stick is the most foolish insane thing to rely on in the gantzeh velt so it is with relying on a man of flesh and blood! Whereas when we rely on Hashem we have the stick in OUR hands and we are in the BEST HANDS!

THE MASHAL: I HEARD FROM מו"ר רב קלמן קראהן זצוק"ל A MASHAL from the Ben Ish Chai: *There was once a fellow who got lost in a forest. Suddenly, he saw a lion and he became scared for his life! Shaking like a leaf, he took his walking stick and pretended it was a gun. He pointed it in the lion's direction and pretended to shoot.*

Meanwhile up in the tree there was a hunter who saw what was going on and he shot the lion in the head a few times until the lion was dead. The hunter then saw the fellow jumping up and down kissing his stick. The hunter climbed down from the tree and told the fellow, "You think it was your stick that saved you? It was my shooting the animal that saved you."

The same is the person who thinks that it was his hishtadlus that gave him koach or money or health or anything else.

This is the biggest nisayon of hishtadlus to separate the fact that 'I did hishtadlus,' from the real Source and cause for my Hatzlacha! Don't be like the fool who kisses the stick!

THE STORY 1: THERE IS A FAMOUS STORY

about Reb Zushe. Reb Zushe once stood davening and begging the הקב"ה for a ישועה that he desperately needed. He decided that he would write down all the possible options of how the הקב"ה would take him out of his situation. Sure enough his תפילות בחסד ה' were answered and he saw a great ישועה. The way the הקב"ה sent him his ישועה was not even one of the ways that Reb Zushe had thought of! Reb Zushe understood with greater clarity than ever before, the פסוק:

"רבות מחשבות- בלב איש -ועצת ה' היא תקום"

THE STORY 2: One winter morning, RABBI FISCH-EL SCHACHTER SHLIT" A driving down 13th Ave. toward his yeshiva. He made a turn onto 50th Street and realized that he was stuck behind a garbage truck. He decided to back up back to 13th Ave. and drive until 52nd Street, but again to his מזל there was another garbage truck blocking the



way. Left with no choice R' Fischel continued on 13th Ave. driving a few more blocks out of his way. A couple blocks later, he turned into 54th Street. After driving for about a few seconds lo and behold there was another garbage truck. R' Fischel looked behind him to see if he was able to back up. But there was an 18-wheeler tractor trailer behind him. He was stuck.

R' Fischel did what every good Jew does; he took out a Mishnayos and began to learn. A minute later he saw a young man from his Yeshiva running down the block without a coat. He rolled down his window and asked "You need a ride"? The man replied "Yes, thanks!"

As the yungerman got into the car he explained that his wife had a baby the night before and he ran out without his coat or any money. He then related to R' Yosef, "I was davening for a ride, and only after 4 times, my תפילה was answered and you drove by.

R' Fischel told him, "My friend, you're making a mistake. The first three תפילות were answered by the first three garbage trucks. The fourth? By a tractor trailer."

Sparks of Bitachon

PARSHAS MIKEITZ | 5785 | ISSUE NO. 10

PARSHA SPARKS

In Parshas Mikeitz, Pharoh was disturbed by his strange dreams and was dissatisfied with the interpretations of his wise men. He had actually dreamed the interpretations as well, and had forgotten them; that's why he knew he wasn't hearing the truth.

Finally, the Sar HaMashkim told him about Yosef. Upon seeing Yosef, Pharoh remarked, "I've heard that you're a man full of wisdom, who knows how to interpret dreams. Can you tell me what my dreams mean?" Yosef responded that it was not his own wisdom, but rather Hashem's. He explained to Pharoh that it was a mistake to rely on him because all his wisdom comes from Hashem. Yosef would only be able to transmit the knowledge that Hashem would insert into his brain, so to speak.

HaRav Yechiel Perr, zt"l, asks: What lesson can we learn from Yosef emphasizing that all his wisdom is only from the Ribono Shel Olam? He answers: Yosef understood that Pharoh was relying on him for his wisdom and talent. Yosef explained that Pharoh's reliance would ensure that Yosef would not succeed in explaining Pharoh's dream. The Passuk says **אל יתהלל-חכם בחכמתו** – even the smartest man should not rely on his own intelligence. Without Hashem's help a person cannot understand anything! We may not believe in our own kocho's; we must take Teva out of the picture and put Hashem there instead. Only then can we hope to be successful.

STORIES WITH A SPARK

We were trying to use the vacuum cleaner, but there was no suction. I looked inside the hose, and I saw there was a cover inside that was the same size as the suction hole, and it was causing the clog. I tried pulling it out without success. I tried sticking a pen in and pushing it out, but that didn't work either. I did not know what to do.

My little girl saw me getting frustrated, and she told me, "Don't you always say we should sing Hakol Yachol? That we can't do anything and only Hashem makes things happen?" She was right!

I thanked her for reminding me, and then we sang Hakol Yachol together. Then I tried pushing out the clog again and lo and behold! It popped right out!

I could not get it out with "Kochi ve'otzem yadi," but with Hashem, of course I could!

I was at the beach with my friend, reveling in Hashem's magnificent world, watching the sunset at the water's edge. Suddenly, without warning, a tremendous wave came crashing into me, knocking my very expensive glasses off my face. I stood there soaking wet, dazed, disoriented and despondent. My glasses were gone, lost forever in the ocean! I could've kicked myself. What had I been thinking - standing so close to the water? My glasses were no ordinary ones; they had been custom-made to my specifications and they cost a small fortune.

I often listen to the hotline, A Life With Bitachon, so I tried to remind myself that Hashem is the Kol Yachol and nothing is beyond His Power. It still seemed ludicrous, however, to even hope that my glasses could be found in the rushing surf or the endless sands.

As we were leaving through a different area of the beach, my friend noticed something shiny on the sand. She bent down for a closer look and then rubbed her eyes in disbelief. It was my lost pair of super-expensive glasses! What are the odds of such a thing happening? Then again, in a sense, it wasn't surprising at all - nothing is impossible for the Kol Yachol!

(Mrs. Hershberg)

PARSHA SPARKS

The Shevatim relayed to Yaakov Avinu the whole conversation they had with the Egyptian ruler, who had asked them if they had any more brothers. Upon hearing that they did, the ruler had ordered them to bring their youngest brother down to Mitzrayim. Yaakov responded to the Shevatim with the words, "למה הרעותם לי" - why did you harm me?"

The Medrash Rabba writes that except for this one instance, Yaakov Avinu never spoke devarim beteilim in his life. The Chofetz Chaim asks why this question of Yaakov was considered devarim beteilim? He explains that in reality, there is no such thing as one person harming another; therefore, Yaakov Avinu should not have responded by blaming them.

Do not say to another person, "Why did you mess me up?" When Yidden are attacked, R"L, do not react with, "Anti-Semites!" Such responses indicate that you are forgetting that people are just puppets with no intrinsic power of their own. Everything that happens is perfectly designed by HaKadosh Baruch Hu for the benefit of his Creation, and is therefore the best thing that could have happened.

Q&A

Evasive Landlord

Q *I am renting a house. Whenever something needs to be fixed, I ask my landlord to take care of it. However, he always tries to get out of paying and he claims that it is not his responsibility.*

My friends tell me, "If you want to get anything from your landlord, you have to keep pressuring him until you get what you want." Is that the correct approach?

A We live in a society that gives us the message that in order to succeed, we must fight for our rights.

While it is true that you do not have to be a pushover, and there certainly is a time and place that you can—and should—respectfully and diplomatically request to be listened to, nonetheless, if you are not receiving cooperation, applying force or pressure is not the Torah way.

The Gemara teaches us that the correct approach when faced with resistance is not to make a Machlokes. The Chofetz Chaim says that if you are Mevatter for the sake of shalom and pay for repairs from your own pocket, not only will you be reimbursed



for all the money you laid out, but Hashem will repay you double!

Therefore, instead of following the futile approach of the outside world (including the advice of well-meaning friends) which robs you of your Simchas HaChaim and decreases your quality of life, take the advice of Chazal who are truly interested in helping you. You will benefit financially and emotionally, both in this world and in Olam Habah.

Sparks of wisdom

“ A person has to thank HaKadosh Baruch Hu for all the people in his life who make him miserable, since they are the shluchim of Hashem, and were sent for his benefit. ”

לעילוי נשמת הרה"ח ר' שמחה ישכר דוב בן ר' משה חיים ע"ה והרה"ח ר' יעקב יצחק בן ר' משה ע"ה

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Adapted from "A Life of Bitachon Hotline" 845.470.5577

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Ahava Rabbah

Heart-Sharing: Sharing our love with others

A Freilichen Lichtega Chanukah to all!

Everyone reading this article should have more Brochos then the number of wicks lit this Chanukah by all Yidden worldwide!

Nun Gimmel Hey Shin - Nissim happen to all Yidden! Chanukah is such an exciting time! It's a time of Nissim and miracles. Can you create a Chanukah book with eight pages of Nissim that have happened to you this past year? Here are some examples to get you started: If you are reading this and you see with your eyes - remember that's a Nes! If you have a heart that is beating - remember that's a Nes. You can also include stories of how you asked Hashem for something and got answered. Al Nisecha Shebichol Yom - Every day we have miracles and we can thank Hashem for them. Everything we have is straight from Hashem. Hashem loves us, cares for us, protects us, and keeps giving us good. May you and all the people you know be Zoche to more and more Nissem L'maleh Min Hateva every single second of every single day forever!

I was davening: Hashem, "Please look at your holy and pure Yidden." Chanukah is the time that we set aside to recognize Nissim and connect to thanking Hashem for miracles. Chanukah is celebrated by a lot of Yidden that don't know about other parts of Yidishkeit. This is so profound because Rabbi Avigdor Miller zt"l talks about the way we can "give back" to Hashem is by recognizing and thanking Hashem! "Hashem, see how your people recognize Your miracles and thank You for them. In this Zechus please keep showering the entire Jewish nation with billions of miracles and brochos!"

Hashem is Kulo Tov and Brocha. Let's all get involved and spread enjoyment and excitement. We can draw out pictures of these Tovos with our family/friends/students/neighbors

and clients. In this way, we can pump people up by helping them feel grateful in so many ways.

Ahava Rabba! Pumping people up

One of the ways to pump people up is to play games with them. Did you know that Hashem made humans have a need for fun and by providing that need you build Ahava, Achvah, Shalom and Reius. People of all ages need to have fun. This includes children and adults.

Fun can include dancing, singing, and playing games. Playing open ended games using creativity supports mind expansion. This expansion is very healthy for all people to engage in.

Story:

Many times, I have people who are going through different challenges in relationships come to sessions. This can include relationships between parent and child, spouse and spouse or teacher and student. One of the main things I tell them to add is a fun component. I share how they can get excited and have fun in so many ways using expansion. This changes the dynamic of the relationship because you are connecting about something that is not personal and you are doing exclusively as a giver to promote the friendship and joy. The more fun and laughter in the games, the better.

Expansion games include an open-ended element, having fun, and a game where everyone automatically is right no matter what they share. For example: everyone say something you are grateful for that starts with the first letter of your name, no matter what you say, you are right. And if the three-year-old says a random word that doesn't start with the first letter of his name we still make it an amazing response and he is right! Another example is turning on the music and having one person be the leader and everyone follows their dance moves! When there is an adult that joins in- it

is more meaningful and fun for the children.

There was a family that came, that had been through some very challenging Nisyonos. It seems that all the members of the family were having a very hard time with each other. They started playing one fun game/activity/dance a day and the dynamic shifted. This is because they now are building a new relationship based on this open-ended expansion and fun where everyone is right no matter what. After having fun for about two weeks, many of the other components shifted for the better as well.

I just love to try to give people support and chizuk. As an aside: Doing for others makes us feel so good ourselves and fills our own emotional bank account!

Idea: It's so easy to share love with other people.

- Go out with a friend for one hour on or around Chanukah. If you don't have one hour you can go out for 20 minutes

- Make a Chanukah set up for your spouse/child/grandmother/student/employee as a surprise. You can use things from the dollar tree. The main thing is that your sincerity is in it.

- Text or call random people to wish them Happy Chanukah!

- Bring added fun into the house by playing one of the games below:

Eight ways to use paper plates for a fun Chanukah game

1. Heads up: You will need paper plates, markers or crayons and Kichel cards. (You can make your own cards by writing down Jewish experiences on small pieces of paper - experiences include dancing at a wedding, eating herring at a kiddush, playing Guitar in Tzfas, waiting in line at the airport, Bentching Licht etc.)

Everyone chooses one card. No one

shares their card and everyone only knows what it says on their card. All players simultaneously place their paper plate on their heads and draw a picture of what it said on the card they received. For added fun, use a two-minute timer and everyone has to race the clock. Then all the players remove the plates and everyone has to guess what they drew. Once people have had time to smile, laugh, and guess, you can create a pile of the players cards so the players will have multiple choices to choose from.

2. The menorah plate: What you need: ten paper plates, string, markers.

Cut eight paper plates in half. Place them in a horizontal line making a huge menorah. Tape them together in the line. Use two plates for the Shamash. Add string for the wicks. Draw or write all over the plates your favorite things. Include your favorite places, foods, toys, people and all other things you like. Remember Hashem loves us and wants us to enjoy all of our favorite things.

3. Hide the plates: What you need: Eight paper plates and markers. Draw Chanukah pictures on eight plates. Hide the plates around the house. Then have everyone else find them.

4. Wind chimes: What you need: Paper plates, pipe cleaners, bells from dollar tree, empty water bottles. Roll one plate up and tape it together. Leave a hole and both ends of the roll. Add a few bells to a pipe cleaner. Create three pipe cleaners with bells. Twist all three pipe cleaners together on the top. Attach the pipe cleaner to the inside of the plate using tape. Move the wind chime to hear the sound. Use empty water bottles to tap on your arms and create a beat. Dance and sing and thank Hashem for all his great Nissim that have happened to you recently.

5. The name game: What you need: Paper plates and crayons. Write the letter of your first name on a paper plate. See how many things you can thank Hashem for that begin with that letter. Write or draw the things you thought of on your plate.

6. The dreidel plate game: What you need: one paper plate, one crayon, one dreidel. Draw eight circles on the paper plate. Fill in each circle with different numbers such as 10, 100, 1,000, 1,000,000. (Using very high numbers creates more laughing moments) Each player spins the dreidel on the plate. See what circle it landed near and how many points you get. Play a few rounds and then add up the points. Give everyone who plays a surprise prize.

7. Donut plates. What you need: paper plates, markers, glitter, gel pens, colored paper, scissors, glue. Every player gets one paper plate. Use the added supplies to create your own flavor donut. You can cut out a hole in the middle of the plate for the hole in the donut. Every donut has to be different. Have the youngest player say what flavor they want to create, then the second to youngest says what flavor they are creating. As you get to the older members it will be harder and harder to think of ideas. This is the fun part: come up with very original flavors for your donut. You can do sprinkles, jelly, chocolate, pink icing, white icing. Then get creative how about a jelly bean flavored donut. Use expressive arts supplies and have a blast.

8. Story plates: What you need: paper plates and one Spring Hill Times paper. Each player finds one amazing story in the Spring Hill Times to draw out on their plate. Everyone guesses what story they are drawing out. If no one can guess then the person who drew it shares what the story was.

Bonus game: Create a food menorah on a paper plate. We used snackers, licorice and chocolate chips but you can use any food you have in the house to create a menorah!

Bonus game: Each player creates one carnival booth for everyone in the family to enjoy. Here are some ideas of booths.

❖ Menorah surprise: Have one thing hidden under eight large colorful cups set up as a Menorah

❖ Have a Chanukah coloring sheet

❖ Magic bottles use empty wa-

ter bottles and add inside all sorts of gemstones and beads found at the dollar store. Then add water and seal shut.

❖ Knock down the menorah. Add food coloring to empty water bottles. Fill each water bottle with water and tape shut. Use the colored water bottles to form a menorah. Use a ball and see how many candles you can knock down just like by bowling.

❖ Dreidel tape mirror maze. Create a dreidel on the floor out of tape. Use a mirror to step on the tape line without looking down.

❖ Throw the dreidel on the sponge: set up sponges and have the players throw the dreidels and try to land on the sponges.

❖ Thank You, Hashem, poster. Have a poster with 100 boxes. Each person fills in as many boxes as they say out loud things they thank Hashem for.

❖ Throw the beanbags on the dreidel. Make a huge dreidel out of oaktag. Try to throw the beanbags on the dreidel.

❖ Write a Chanukah picture and bring to a Friend

❖ Light up spooky house: Create a small room into a spooky house. Use flashlights, dress up gear and art supplies.

Bonus Chanukah expansion songs

Tune: Latka llatka hop in the pan
Latka llatka dance in the pan
Dance and dance as fast as you can
Dance and dance and turn around
Touch the ground
And then fall down
(Substitute different motions)

Tune: Maoz Tzur
Soon it will be Chanuka
When Yidden light the menorah
We eat latkas and play games
Singing songs around the flames
What can you do on Chanuka
That will be so much fun
We can spin spin and spin
Spin until the song is done
We can spin spin and spin
Spin until the song is done
(Substitute different motions for the

underlined word)

Tune: I have a little dreidel

I have a little dreidel

I made it out of clay

And when its dry and ready oh dreidel I shall play

(How many funny lines can you change the song to? Here are some examples)

I have a little dreidel

I made it out of Glue

And when its dry and ready it got stuck to my shoe.

I have a little dreidel

I made it out of gum

And when its dry and ready it got stuck to my tongue.

I have a little dreidel

I made it out of snow

And when its dry and ready it melted on my toe

I have a little dreidel

I made it out of rain

And when its dry and ready it went right down the drain

FUN FUN FUN! Mail a picture of one of the games above that you did (you can draw the picture or take a photo) to enter a chance to win a surprise prize. Include your name, phone number, email and full address. Mail to 18 Congress Street Lakewood New Jersey 08701 to be received by January 10th 2025.

(Not responsible for any raffles accidentally left out.)

Reminder to check out the raffle in issue #174: Pump people up and win!

Song:

Tune: Oh Chanukah oh Chanukah

Oh Hashem Hashem You're always with me

Hashem Hashem You are protecting me

No matter what

No matter when

You're with me and my best friend.

When it's dark

When its night

I turn to You and I find the light

Every single day

You're doing miracles

for me

In so many ways

Every single day

You're doing miracles for me

In so many ways

Oh Hashem Hashem You're my best friend

No matter what no matter when

I am relying only on You

I love You and I thank You.

When it's dark

When its night

I turn to You and I find the light

Every single day

You're doing miracles

for me

In so many ways

Every single day

You're doing miracles for me

In so many ways.

Oh Hashem Hashem You're my best friend

No matter what no matter when

I am relying only on You

Ein od Milvado - It's only You!

When it's dark

When its night

I turn to You and I find the light

Every single day

You're doing miracles

for me

In so many ways

Every single day

You're doing miracles for me

In so many ways.

Oh Hashem Hashem You're my best friend

Thank You thank You again and again

Ein Od Milvado Its only You

I am relying only on You!

As an adult, I try to sing this song all the time! I try to change up the motions or dance steps as I sing this song. This creates a function called expansion. When we add change to something while we are singing, it helps solidify the feelings associated with it. The more times we sing and add a small change, the more neural pathways we have connected to what we are doing. This helps it become more integrated into our beings.

Feeling Hashem's Love!

I was at the bank and one of the people who worked there asked me, "Are you making money these days?" I said, "I never make money. G-d is putting money into everyone's accounts." They asked three times and I kept repeating the same thing. I said "I never make money. G-d is putting money into all of our accounts. Its 100 percent G-d." Then I was sitting and waiting for a while. At first I felt like I was in a rush but then I remembered what I heard from Rabbi Golombeck that this is exactly where I was meant to be. So I sat down and I started to think of the six Mitzvos Temidios and all of a sudden I was thinking, "Wow now I am getting diamonds by Hashem for thinking the six Mitzvos Temidios. This is actual money that I am making!" I felt so loved by Hashem. I was getting diamonds while sitting in the bank!

Later that week, I heard Mr. Safdie talking and saying how we don't earn a living, we don't make money, Hashem provides money- we get money only from Hashem.

May it be a happy lichtaga Chanukah for all.



I took this picture on my walk! Can you find 100 menorahs on the windows in your town?

Text how many Menoras you found over Chanuka to the number below so we can announce in a future issue IY"H how many Menorahs was the most that was found! Creating a game of finding the beauty in Hashem's gorgeous world helps us solidify the experience, thus making it a real part of us.

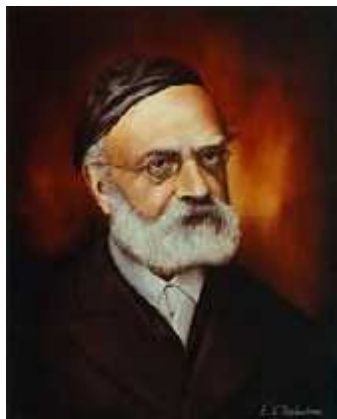
Disclaimer: All information is for educational purposes only. For any medical or mental health advice contact a healthcare professional. Names and identifying details have been changed. Thank you to my parents and family for always pumping me up and being there for me! Thank You, Hashem, for showering me with daily love and kindness in millions of ways. © 2024 Dr. CFY PhD LCSW Text/call 732-534-2250 to give feedback on Ahavah Rabbah.

בשבילי הרב שמשון רפאל הירש זצ"ל

פרשת מקץ/חנוכה תשפ"ה

ת"ר מצות חנוכה נר איש וביתו,

והמהדרין נר לכל אחד ואחד,



ת"ר נר חנוכה מצוה להניחה על פתח ביתו מבחוץ, ובשעת הסכנה מניחה על שלחנו ודיו (שבת כא ע"ב) משמע מדברי הגמרא שיש דגש מיוחד במצות הדלקת נר חנוכה של עניין "איש וביתו" ונוסף עניין "והמהדרין" נר לכל אחד ואחד

מבאר רבינו לימוד גדול למדנו בעניין הדלקת הנר איש וביתו, בימי אנטיסמיזם ומלכות יון הרשעה אשר ביקשה "להשכיחם תורתך ולהעבירם מחוקי רצונך" מעיר רבינו, עלינו לתת על לבנו שגזרות מלכות יון הרשעה לא התעוררו מאליהם,

בחלומותיו הפרועים של אנטיסמיזם לא היה עולה על דעתו שאפשר להמיר יהודים על דתם לתרבות היוונית, גזרות אלו היו כתוצאה מהבנת אנטיסמיזם שהיהודים ואפילו הגדולים והחשובים שביהודים אינם נאמנים יותר לתורת ה' ולמצוותיה,

ומוכנים להתערב בתרבות היוונית, ומכאן היתה קצרה הדרך לטמא ולחלל את בית המקדש עד כדי כך שהפך המקדש וכליו לבית מסיבתם של היוונים,

אך למרות שאלפים ורבבות מכל החוגים פשוטים כחשובים נכנעו וכרעו לתרבות יון, ונטמאו כל השמנים. אבל כל עוד דלק ניצוץ אחד קטן של היהדות והקדושה בלב יהודי אחד. הספיק הניצוץ הקטן הזה להבעיר בחזרה את האש הגדולה,

על אף שהיה נראה שאפסה כל תקווה, נמצא פך אחד שכוח של שמן טהור שחתום בחותמו של כהן גדול שהיה בכחו להדליק שוב את המנורה הטהורה, ומאותו ניצוץ קטן שבה הקדושה,

מצוות חנוכה "איש וביתו" אנחנו מפרסמים את הנס של מציאת פח קטן דווקא בביתנו עם כל אחד ואחד ממשפחתנו, לא בבית הכנסת, בימי היוונים אפילו במקדש ביתם של הכהנים היה מחולל על ידי הכהנים עצמם, מצוות הדלקת הנר היא בביתך, אפילו שמחוץ לביתך הכל כבוי, גם אם אתה היהודי היחיד שמדליק את האור וביתך הוא הבית היחיד שדלוק בו אור הקדושה, איש אחד בבית אחד כדוגמת פך השמן היחיד והשכוח בכחו להאיר את כל החשכה. "איש וביתו" רק אתה וביתך, וביותר אל תסתפק במועט, תוודא שכל אחד ואחד מבני הבית ידליק את הנר של התורה והמצוות.

"והמהדרין נר לכל אחד ואחד" כל יחיד שאור הקדושה זורח בתוכו יש בכחו להאיר לכל הסובבים את אור התורה והקדושה, ואז האור הגדול והחזק יהיה אפילו כלפי חוץ כדן הגמרא "נר חנוכה מצווה להניחו בפתח ביתו" והאור הגדול של איש וביתו אשר יאיר לכל אחד ואחד בתוך ביתו יהיה בכחו אפילו להאיר כלפי חוץ, עד כדי כך גדול כחו של היחיד. שכן למדנו שמעט מן האור דוחה הרבה מן החושך. ורק בשעת הסכנה עד יעבור זעם "מניחו על שולחנו ודיו"

למדנו מנס החנוכה שאפילו שנראה על פניו שהיו זמנים קשים לעם ישראל שאפילו הכהנים הגדולים שלכאורה היו אמורים להיות מנהיגי האומה ונושאי פך השמן הטהור, הם אלה שגרמו לטומאת השמן הטהור,

ואף על פי כן ולמרות כל החשכה,

ניצוץ אחד קטן שעוד בער בלב יהודי אחד יש בכחו להבעיר בחזרה את האש הגדולה והטהורה, וזוהי עבודתנו בחנוכה, איש וביתו. שלמרות הכל נוודא שניצוץ הקדושה והטהרה דלוק בנו ובבני ביתנו. עד שיהיה "נר דלוק לכל אחד ואחד."



CRYSTAL CLEAR VISION



WHEN YOU SEE

Ignore the length his Peyes



Ignore the color of his
Shoes



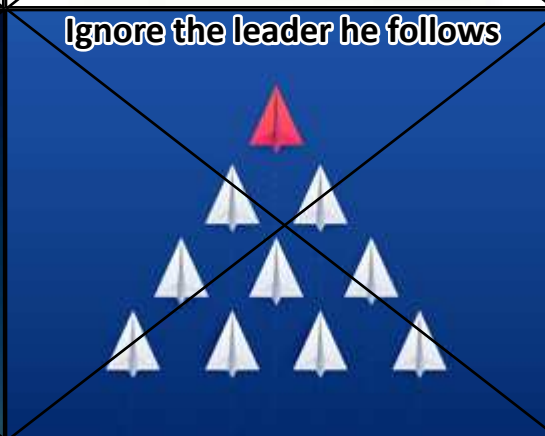
Ignore the type of car he
drives



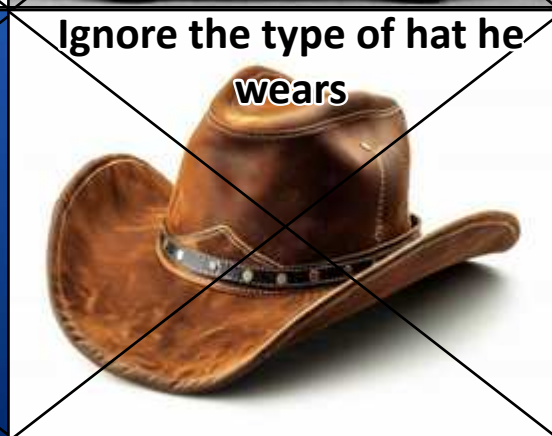
Ignore his mistakes



Ignore the leader he follows



Ignore the type of hat he
wears



Ignore the nusach he uses
to talk to Hashem with



MIKETZ- 27 KISLEV 5785

Ignore his occupation



Don't Accuse!
Don't Judge!
Don't Convict!





ANOTHER YID:

**Remember that he is
part of your family!**



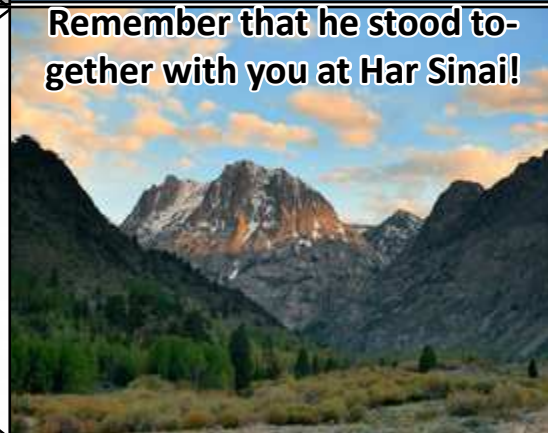
**Remember that he is
your other half!**



**Remember that Hashem cre-
ated the world just for him!**



**Remember that he stood to-
gether with you at Har Sinai!**



**Remember that Hashem
loves him to no end!**



Give him a smile!



**See his chelek Elokei
m'mal his neshama!**



**Hold his hand and help
him through life!**



**Accept him and love him
to pieces!**



Story Time

Stories From 'A Life With Bitachon'

Edited by Sari Grunwald

#1886: This story was called in by a woman from Eretz Yisrael who heard it directly from her friend. This friend's daughter went to a store for a certain article of clothing and was told it would cost 350 shekels. She knew she didn't want to spend that much, so she went over to the store owner and asked, "Do you know if this might be going on sale in the near future?"

The owner said, "I'm sorry. This article of clothing is for year-round use and we never put it on sale. Nothing doing."

"There's no way I'm spending 350 shekels," thought the daughter. "At most, I'm willing to spend 150. But they said this never goes on sale. Oh, I really need it - what should I do?"

Then she stopped herself. "One second, what's the correct attitude? What should I be saying? I've learned that I should tell myself that I'm the biggest Ba'alas Moifess in the world! I can effect wonders with my spiritual powers. Hashem," she continued. "You can do anything and everything. Even if the owner said they never put it on sale, the play-doh, clay-dough owner is not in charge. You're the only One in charge. I'm going to try again a different day. I'm sure Hashem will work it out."

She walked into the store a few days later, and what did she see? The article of clothing that she wanted was ON SALE for only 100 shekels! Amazingly, she paid even less than she'd been prepared to pay - a steal of a deal!



#1887: This story was called in by the wife of a Rabbi Amsel. Her husband told her that he went to daven in a local shul and put his phone into one of the special cell phone lockers provided by the shul. After he finished davening, he tried to open the locker door to get his phone back, but somehow the door had gotten locked - and he didn't have the key.

"Oh no! I need my phone. What should I do?" thought Rabbi Amsel. He went to the gabbai who told him, "I'll get the bag of keys for the lockers and we'll figure out which key it is." They tried key after key until they had tried them all, but not one of them opened the locker door. "This is really strange," muttered the gabbai. "Honestly? I'm at a total loss - I really don't know what to do. I'm so sorry."

Rabbi Amsel felt his heart sink. This was bad news. Then he said to himself, "Wait a minute - is it a key that opens up a locker door? No, I'm going with Bitachon, that it's only Hashem Who is the true Master Key. Hashem can do anything and everything; He will open the locker door for me."

"I'm going to put my hand in the bag one more time," he told the gabbai, "and I'll take a random key and say, 'Hashem, it's You opening the locker door.'"

Rabbi Amsel rummaged in the key bag and closed his fingers on the first key that came to his hand. Then he slipped the key smoothly into the keyhole, turned it easily with a pleasant click, and the locker swung open!



#1888: This story was called in all the way from Montreal by a very, very choshuva yungerman, Rabbi Bieder. He had an appointment at the American embassy to get a birth certificate for one of his children. They were running over a half hour late, which was a problem because the embassy would reschedule any person who came a half hour late to their appointment.

"Maybe we should just come back another day," said Rabbi Bieder's son. "We're almost there," Rabbi Bieder



answered. "I think it doesn't hurt to try."

When they arrived, the guard told them, "I'm sorry. I'm not allowed to let you in. That's the rule. You're going to have to make another appointment."

"Please, can you do me a favor and ask if I can go in anyway?" Rabbi Bieder requested.

The guard replied, "I'll speak to them if it makes you happy, but I know the way they work. I've been here for many years. A rule is a rule and a policy is a policy, and they don't make exceptions. I'll ask for you, but I know exactly how they're going to react." He came back a couple minutes later, and reported, "They said absolutely no. Flat -out - NO. I'm sorry."

"Thank you so much for trying," said Rabbi Bieder. It was clear that unless a miracle happened there was no way they'd be getting a birth certificate that day. Between embassy policy and the guard, it wasn't happening.

Then, as if a switch had flipped in his brain, he started questioning his line of thinking. "Between embassy policy and the guard?? Are they the ones in charge?? I know Who's really in charge - it's my Father in Heaven, HaKadosh Boruch Hu, the Ribono Shel Olam. He can do anything and everything. I'm not leaving yet. I'm calling the Bitachon Hotline - A Life With Bitachon. Let me get some chizzuk."

He pulled his phone from his pocket, flipped it open, and dialed the number. Just as he was making his selection from the menu, he suddenly heard the guard calling him.

"You know, you're very lucky," he declared to Rabbi Bieder. "From one minute to the next, the embassy staff just changed their minds - they said you can come in, no problem!"

Rabbi Bieder and his son were happy to comply; and they got the best service, better than ever!



#1889: This story was called in all the way from Tzfas by a Mrs. Benjamin. She had gone grocery shopping and was planning to pay with her bank card. When she got to the checkout, the cashier shook her head regretfully.

"I'm sorry," she told Mrs. Benjamin. "Our computer has been down all day. It's not working. We're only able to take cash."

"But I don't have any cash with me. All I have is my bank card," Mrs. Benjamin protested.

"Look, I'll humor you. I'll try," said the cashier. "Here, I'm showing you. But I know it's not going to work." She tried swiping the bank card, and indeed, as she had predicted, the payment didn't go through. "See?" she said.

"Oh no! What do I do now?" thought Mrs. Benjamin. "Do I have to undo my whole shopping trip and put all the groceries back? Do I have time to go home and get cash?" Then a thought popped into her mind. "Who says I need the computer to work for my bank card to go through? Hashem is the One who makes everything happen; Hashem doesn't need a working computer for my bank card to work."

She turned to the cashier. "Please, can I trouble to try one more time?"

The cashier raised her hands, exasperated. "What? You want me to try one more time? I've been here all day. I KNOW it won't work! I've tried many times. I just tried a minute ago. Look at my system! Look at the computer! Look, everything is down. It's not working! Sorry!"

"Now what? She doesn't even want to try," thought Mrs. Benjamin in dismay. Then she strengthened herself. "It's not up to her. Who is really in charge? It's only Hashem."

She pushed her shopping cart to another lane where a different cashier was working. "You want me to try your card again? O.K. But don't get your hopes up. You know our computer is down and it's not going to - hey! What do you know? The transaction just went through! This is your lucky day!"

"Not luck at all," thought Mrs. Benjamin, smiling a secret smile as she nodded at the second cashier. "It was You, Hashem. Only You! Thank You, Hashem!" ❖



The Spring Hill Times

Bulletin Board



Smile!
Hashem is hugging you!

**MAZEL
TOV!**

**Mazel Tov to Rabbi and
Mrs. Aryeh Leib Gelb (Chestnut
Ridge, NY) on the engagement of
their daughter!**

Dear subscriber

Each week, we give the magazines to a mailing company. In order for you get it in time for Shabbos, it goes in the mail over a week before Shabbos.

Sometimes a magazine won't reach its destination. Even if you never get it, we paid for printing and mailing it.

If you don't get your magazine please let us know and we will extend your subscription.

BS"D

**Nkasef HaNekodos
CHANU KaH**

*(Parshas Mikeitz and Chanukah)
By Mrs. S. Mordechai*

*The kinderlach gather
for a game of chance
in a world where there
is no happenstance.*

*Some with a fast twirl,
others with a wobbly roll,
to fall on letters with the
highest value, the goal.*

*A dreidel with four sides,
every turn give it a spin.
For Nais Gadol Haya Sham:
Nun Gimmel Hay Shin.*

*There is hope in Egypt.
Can you perceive the glimmer,
the spark?
Can you see the flame
flicker in the dark?*

*Spelling Goshna in Mitzrayim:
Gimmel, Shin, Nun, Hay;
Where Yaakov Avinu and his family
descended to galus, 210 years to stay.*

*Yosef HaTzaddik dons the Kesser Torah;
hadar lo, the firstborn.*

*He lays the foundation and
unites his nation with his Ox's horn.*

*He was sold as a slave to prepare
for his family in Goshen.
From Galus to Geulah Yosef set the gal-
galim in motion.*

*Yosef knew that Hashem's Shechina HaKe-
dosha would go down with B'nai Yaakov to
exile.
Before their arrival, hu CHiMaiSH by im-
posing Chodesh, Milah, and Shabbos on
the vile.*

*Enemies of Hashem: Eight galuyos,
all peas in a pod.
Yavan attacked our ruchniyus
and tried to cut the chevel between us and
Hashem Tzvakos, our One G-d.*

*Yavan outlawed Chodesh, Mila, and Shab-
bos to try to make us stray.
"You are just like us, not your Father's
Children," they haughtily say,*

*AND "the Shechina is not in your midst,
proclaims Elokai Yisrael, you are not
mine."
"You have no chailek in Ha Kodesh Baruch
Hu" on the horns of our oxen, they forced
us to etch a sign.*

*When our avodas Hashem, Visborach,
was less wax than wane;
Yavan entered our inner-sanctum*

to plunder, pillage, and profane.

*Yehudah HaMacabee for Ha Kadosh Ba-
ruch Hu took a stand
and rallied Yidden to join the war
from all corners of the Holy Land.*

*"Mi Kamocha Bo'ailim Hashem?"
was their impassioned cry.
"Who is for Hashem?
Mi Yavo Alay?"*

*The ChaSHMONAim were Kohanim who
fought for Torah within the leopard's jaws.
They fasted and prayed for Siata d'Sha-
maia, risking their lives for Torah and
Hashem's Heilige cause.*

*B'nai Bina, Chasdai Elyon: they were the
chalash, the me'at, the tahor
who vanquished the strong, the many, the
tamei, the wicked with "Hashem Echad"
their battle roar.*

*On their own prowess, the Maccabees did
not rely. Always on their lips were the es-
rim v'chamesh osios of the "Shema."
They rested in the arms of the Maoz Tzur.
Now, we laud their triumph with Chanu
KaH.*

*One flask of shemen ziet
Yavan could not defile or steal.
From the holiest of holies this single flask
was pure, bearing the Kohain Gadol's seal.*

YUMMMMM!

BUT NOTHING COMPARED TO WHAT'S WAITING FOR YOU IN OLAM HABAH!

The Golden Menorah was lit and from the clutches of choshech we were free. On Chaf Hay Kislev, they performed Chanuchas HaBayis and Pirsumei Nisa in the courtyard of Bayis Shaini.

One day's oil burned for 8 days and Hashem replaced Yavan's fallacious sign. "Don't listen to Yavan," Hashem declared: "You are forever and always mine!"

The Yavanim could not break our keshet to our Tante in Himmel. We light Neros' Menorah for eight nights

and celebrate with sufganiot and Shin Hay Nun Gimmel.

L'hodos v'l'hallel for the myriad miracles with forty-four candles we burn, waiting for the time iyH soon when our Father's Shechina, to dwell in our midst, will return.

Then, like the ChaSHMONAim, we will all be B'nai Bina and Chasdei Elyon. Nismach v'neranen certain that we are Hashem's beloved children, Bas Tzion.

Three hundred and fifty eight equals our dreidel's Nun Gimmel Hay Shin. We're ready for MOSHIACH and Chanukas HaBayis Shlishi with our next eternal spin.

L'hodos v'l'hallel to our Maoz Tzur for the myriad miracles and R. Yitzchok Kaufman (The Spring Hill Times); R. Zev Golombek (The Bitachon Hotline); Artscroll (Schottenstein Editions: Parshas Mikeitz: Text and Commentaries, Siddurim, Tehillim); R. Daniel Glatstein (The Light and the Splendor: Chanukah, Tu B'Shvat); R. Aryeh Pinchas Strickoff (Inside Chanukah: Fascinating and Intriguing Insights on Chanukah, Its Miracles, and Its History); R. Moshe Weissman (The Midrash Says: The Book of Bereishis); and EK, SN, R.SS, SF, LJ, JF, CYS, AU, MM, DD, CDS, RF, RRM, RD, AG, CEG, NF, TS, and RRM.

Rabbi Zevy Golombeck

Illuminating Words of Chazal

"Everything about Hashem, His Torah and His world is supposed to bring out positive emotions and help us have a healthy relationship with Hashem." Rav Yehuda Mandel

In Toras Avigdor in Parshas Toldos, it says that Yitzchok would not have chosen even Rav Akiva Eiger or the Ramban to give the brachos, because they weren't perfect enough. If they weren't perfect enough, then for sure I would not be perfect enough.

It made me feel down reading it, seeing how important it is to be perfect, and I'm so far from perfection. I felt like I belonged more in the class with Eisav than with Yaakov c"v.

The answer is exactly the opposite. It's the most soothing feeling, and I loved this Toras Avigdor. I loved it because I walked away with positive feelings and positive emotions, and I'll explain to you why.

Why do people feel rejected? Because they feel like they have to be perfect. You think you're not Mr. Perfect, and because of that you feel like a second-class citizen.

Well, zagt R' Yerucham in Daas Torah yud tes a mesorah from R' Chaim Vital b'shem the Arizal, that in the earlier generations HaKadosh Baruch Hu expected perfection and wanted them to be perfect. That was their tafkid and that was their tachlis. The reason why is because when you start in the beginning of the chain then Hashem expects more of a person because that's going to be maaseh avos siman labanim. That's going to last all the way until today. That means that till today the reason why we're shteiging and thriving is because the Avos were shleimus – Avraham, Yitzchok and Yaa-kov. Because if Hashem would have started the chain with not perfect people, then we wouldn't be around today.

So that's what Hashem expected from them and that's why they had to live up to. And that's why Eisav, even though, on the outside nobody would have realized his imperfection, but

Hashem with a magnifying glass needed him to be perfect in order for Klal Yisrael to shteig and thrive like we are like never before. Every block and every building in wherever we are there's another beis medrash, another kollel, another cheder, another bais Yaakov. It's ayom v'nora that Klal Yisrael is in galus 2,000 years and this is all from because we started from having shleimus of Avos hekedoshim.

Which leads us to point number two, that Hashem expected shleimus from them, but not nowadays. Hashem doesn't expect shleimus from us. R' Gershon Leibman told my Rebbi that Hashem doesn't really have any expectations on us, so whatever we do is kulo great, kulo gevaldik, kulo amazing.



In the biography on R' Yaa-kov Galinsky, it says the same thing in the name of the Chofetz Chaim. The Chofetz Chaim brought it out with a story that a baker came over to the Chofetz Chaim and said you know, nobody likes my

bread. This one complains and says it's stale, this one complains it's not fresh, this one complains it's half-baked. Everyone has a problem, and I can't make any money.

Then it was during the war and Chofetz Chaim met him and he had a big smile on his face. And the Chofetz Chaim said why are you so happy? He said, "I have such a successful business."

The Chofetz Chaim said, "What changed?" The baker explained, "During a war, people don't care if the bread is stale, if it's rotten, if it's moldy, they'll just eat whatever they can get. They take it and they want doubles and triples."

Zagt the Chofetz Chaim, that's the difference. In the olden days Hashem wanted perfection, but nowadays it's as if Hashem says okay I don't have any expectations from you. I don't care if your bread is moldy, if it's rotten, if it's spoiled, I don't care if it's smelly, I don't care if it's ugly or dirty, I'll take whatever you're able to give. And when it's during the war time, zagt the Chofetz Chaim, people just want doubles and triples. People are so hungry that by them every drop of food is like a golden luxury.

That's why, zagt R' Yerucham from R' Chaim Vital b'shem the Arizal, our avodah nowadays, our imperfect avodah is far greater in Hashem's eyes than Tannaim and Amoraim. To the extent that R' Yerucham says don't repeat this too many times, because then you're going to become a baal gaavah. But nowadays, as R' Yehuda Mandel my Rebbe says over, don't

stop saying this, because maybe one day we'll believe it. We don't believe it, but the truth is that our avoda is greater than Amoraim and Tannaim because we are so far removed from Hashem, we don't have any real tangible relationship with Hashem. Hashem, like R' Avigdor Miller says, is more like the Name in the siddur, an abstract concept. And still we're serving Hashem like never before, that brings Hashem so much nachas.

So that which really leads us to what R' Dan, the einikel of R' Chatzkal, brings in his sefer Shaarei Geula from R' Chatzkal, that lucky is the person who lives in today's generation because every aveira we do Hashem is dan l'kaf zechus. Hashem says what can I expect from people nowadays. And every mitzvah that we do Hashem magnifies it a thousand times more. Ashrei to the person who is born in today's generation!

So therefore, because we don't have to meet expectations, we don't have to serve Hashem with an ol and a burden and a pressure. Our avodas Hashem can be relaxed, with menuchas hanefesh!



On Sunday Parshas Vayishlach, Yeshiva Bais Binyomin (Stamford Yeshiva) in Monsey, New York, celebrated a beautiful Hachnasas Sefer Torah leiluy nishmas the Roshi Yeshiva Rav Meir Hershkowitz, Rav Simcha Shustal and Rav Moshe Shapiro zatzal. The sefer was also written Leiluy nishmas, the Menahel R' Dovid Hersh Meyer, R' Michoel Bender and R' Aharon Moshe Jacobs zatzal.

The Simchas HaTorah and Ahavas HaTorah displayed by the talmidei hayeshiva was a great Kiddush Hashem!

שישו ושמחו בשמחת התורה!

The Bitachon Perspective

Q & A with Rabbi Zevy Golombeck
By R' Shalom Yedidya Klatzko

Q. I am scared of the dark. Is that considered a lack of bitachon, or can I say that this is the personality Hashem gave me?

A. There are many kinds of fears that Hashem created people with, such as being scared of the dark, fear of heights, fear of dogs, stage fright, claustrophobia etc. Since, this is an inborn nature, it does not indicate that you are lacking in bitachon.

Nonetheless, it is possible to minimize these fears by means of doing exercises in bitachon.

If you are scared of the dark, contemplate: what makes you panic? You feel insecure. You don't know what's behind the darkness. If you're scared of heights, you feel insecure being so high up in the air; what if you fall?

Your exercise is: when in such a situation that you feel like panicking, realize that you are in Hashem's hands and you're completely protected. There is no difference to Hashem whether it's light or dark. The same Hashem that's protecting you when you're on the ground is protecting you when you're high up in the air. The same idea applies to all other fears.

Q. I grew up in a certain neighborhood, and I like the school I go to, and I have lots of friends. Recently, my parents decided that our family is going to move to a new neighborhood.

I am very apprehensive about the move; I'm concerned that I won't adjust to the new community and I'll have a hard time acclimating.

What is emunah and bitachon perspective about this?

A. The reason you're nervous is because you think, 'the reason I'm settled where I am is because I 'happen' to enjoy the school and I 'happened' to have found friends. Now that my family is relocating, perhaps I won't be able to adapt to my new community'.

However, the truth is, the reason you were settled in your prior community is not because of the circumstances. It was because Hashem, your loving father, was looking out for you and gave you friends and a good school.

Hashem is not limited by circumstances. Hashem is directing your family to move to a new neighborhood, and he will continue looking after your needs and find you wonderful friends, just as he did in

former neighborhood.

And the more you realize that all the good in your life is orchestrated by Hakadosh Baruch Hu, the more relaxed you will be. And Hashem will reward you by helping you adjust in the smoothest way possible.

Hashem Loves You

Rav Duvi Bensussan shared that he once took his students to Florida as a reward for an extra-curricular nightly learning program. They went on a major trip, and it was very hot, over one hundred degrees outside. Rav Duvi had recently accepted upon himself to only recite Brachos upon food and drink if someone would answer Amen, as a Zechus for a friend who needed a Yeshua. Rav Duvi very much wanted to drink water, but all of his Talmidim were on rides and no one was around to answer Amen.

After a very long time, a not-yet frum Yid from Eretz Yisroel approached Rav Duvi and asked him if he knew of any amusement parks and attractions in Florida, because his wife and kids were 'bouncing off the walls' looking for something to do. Rav Duvi gave him a long list of places to go to keep his family happy and fulfilled. After he finished helping him, Rav Duvi asked him if he could kindly answer 'Amen' to his Bracha on a cup of water. The man rolled his eyes and said in Hebrew, 'Ein Beraira', 'I have no choice'. Rav Duvi asked him why he would mind just saying the word 'Amen'. This Yid replied that he hates anything to do with Yiddishkeit. Rav Duvi then realized that he now has a major problem, because even if this Yid would reluctantly answer 'Amen', it probably would not be acceptable, since he is purposely not keeping the Torah due to hatred and anger, instead of out of ignorance, which might make him into a 'Mumar'.

Rav Duvi decided to speak with him and demonstrate to him that if he thinks into it, he will discover how he really loves Yiddishkeit more than anything else in the world.

"There are hundreds of 'Eino Yehudim' in this park, so why did you come over to ask me for help, when you could easily have asked so many other

non-Yidden to guide you?", Rav Duvi asked.

"Because I knew that you really care for me more than anyone else and that we are all one family," the man replied.

"So you don't really hate Yiddishkeit?" Rav Duvi asked the man.

"Correct. I know deep down that if I was really stuck, I could count on any Yid to be there for me. I just never experienced authentic Yiddishkeit growing up, so I just parroted and repeated what other people around me said."

If so, Rav Duvi thought to himself, then this man has done Teshuva, since he now understands that Yidden and Yiddishkeit are the very best thing in the world. "BARUCH ATA HASHEM ELOKEINU



MELECH HAOLAM SHE-HAKOL NIHYEH BIDVARO", Rav Duvi immediately recited out loud, and the man enthusiastically recited "Amen!", with Rav Duvi taking a long-awaited drink of Hashem's wonderful delicious beverage called 'Water', which gives people life and energy and quenches their thirst.

Every Yid knows deep down that Hashem loves them, since Hashem gave us a Neshama from Himself which is completely pure and Heilig, and can never be ruined! As we say in our Sefer Hashem Loves You, (Available by pressing '9' on the Hashem Loves You Hotline) 'Your Neshama is a light from Hashem Himself which can never be extinguished!'

Thank Hashem all day and all night for this special gift called 'Your Neshama'! It's from Hashem Himself and its pure goodness! Keep singing dancing and praising Hashem! You will access the power and light of your Neshama and feel a real and tangible Simchas HaChaim!

Hashem loves us unconditionally!

Taken from The Hashem Loves You Hotline 267-833-0596

THIS WEEK

Stories Reported in The Spring Hill Times from Previous Years' Issues

MIKETZ 5782 ISSUE 30

YIDDEN LOVE TO THANK HASHEM



The eyesight in one of Avromi's eyes was becoming blurry. He went to an eye specialist who took some x-rays.

The doctor said that he saw something on the x-ray but wasn't sure what it was and therefore he would need to do further testing.

Avromi* started thanking Hashem for everything he sees; the trees, the grass, his family, his friends etc. and the blurriness disappeared!

He went to the doctor who confirmed that it was all gone and that his eye was as healthy as could be.

Thank You, Hashem, for the wonderful gift of "eyesight".

FATHER TRUSTS IN HASHEM

A ten-year-old girl took a medicine and had an allergic reaction. Her body started shutting down and she was rushed to the emergency room where her numbers kept on dropping. The nurse told them, "Usually when this



happens the patient doesn't make it. But Jews are different, you have faith and you have G-d helping you".

B"H things stabilized but she was in a coma for six weeks.

The father, in a moment of faith, turned to Hashem and said, "I know clearly it's all in your hands, please make my daughter better".

Ten minutes later he received a phone call, that his daughter was talking and responding! Indeed, fortunate is the one who trusts in Hashem [R' Zevy Golomeck]

THE GARBAGE CAN MYSTERY

A resident in Chestnut Ridge, NY, was surprised to see the garbage cans he put out by the street in the morning for pickup, back in place by the house. He couldn't figure out who moved them. He asked his wife if she did, but she said no.



Upon further investigation on the security cameras they have, they noticed a father of a child who comes to their daycare moving the cans for them!

MIKETZ 5783 ISSUE 79

HASHEM SENDS BOY CHOCOLATE MILK

R' Moshe* always gives his son a cup of milk before they start out on their walk to Cheder.



One morning, he forgot and his son was very thirsty.

On the way to cheder, they passed a truck that sells dairy products. A worker took two bags of chocolate milk and threw it at them telling them they could have it! Hashem sent them exactly what they needed at the right time! [Kav Hashgacha Pratis]

HASHEM LOVES YESHIVA BOCHUR

Shmuel,* a Bochur from Ashdod, had an MP3 player to listen to shiurim. He asked a friend of his if he wanted to come with him to a nearby shul to download more shiurim from Kol Haloshon.



While they were walking, Shmuel said to his friend that he had bitachon that Hashem would send him a delicious meal. He was in the mood of a good meal.

His friend looked at him with surprise, "How in the world are you going to get a delicious meal late at



night in the middle of Ashdod?"

Shmuel replied "Hashem is a Kol Yachul, just wait and see."

They went to the shul and downloaded what they wanted to. They left the shul and heard a noise coming from a nearby building. Someone walked out and told them that they were in the middle of a yahrzeit meal for the Rebbe. "Please come in and partake." They went in and had a hearty fleishig meal in the middle of the night just as Shmuel wanted!!! [Kav Hashgacha Pratis]

HASHEM LOVES OUR TORAH

During seder, somebody came over to R' Dovid* to look up something in his Gemara. While he was looking, R' Dovid wanted to see a Rambam in Pe-



rush Mishnayos. Instead of asking back for his Gemara, He took out a M'eiri which is known to quote the Rambam perush mishnayos. He opened it to the exact page he needed!

P.S. Editor's Note: Just the other day I wanted to see something in Pirkei Avos. And I opened a siddur to the exact place I needed!

In other news: I was walking home Leil Shabbos parshas Vayishlach from shul and my son asked how come Yaakov Avinu was afraid of Eisav. Why didn't he have bitachon. On Shabbos day there was a sefer with about 1000 pages by my seat. I randomly opened it up and it 'coincidentally' opened to the page where he discusses why Yaakov Avinu was afraid of Eisav!!

MIKETZ 5784 ISSUE 127

HASHEM LOVES THE JEWISH NATION



R' Yitzchok had something on his front lawn that needed to be repaired.

He came home one day and he saw his non-Jewish neighbor fixing it for him!!!

In other news:

R' Naftali had something hanging down on his car and was dragging along on the floor. He went to mechanic. The mechanic said, "Oh you are Jewish?" I'm going to service you first!"

!וחסדי מאתך- לא ימוש



HASHEM'S PROTECTION IS FIRE-PROOF!

The Baker family had a fire in their house. Because they live with Emunah and bitachon, instead of getting scared, they all said, "Baruch Hashem, no one was hurt in the fire! We see that Hashem is protecting us!"

They just felt loved, cared for and protected by Hashem!

Yidden from all types, came to help them They said: "We are going make sure you have a place to stay until the house is restored." "Don't worry about all the expenses incurred from the fire; we are going to help you with it."

And then the next day, more Yidden came to offer support and assistance!

Klal Yisrael doesn't know how to stop giving! [R' Zevy Golombeck]

HASHEM IS OUR TRUE DOCTOR



The Brauns had a child who was sick. The doctors gave up hope. The Brauns kept on saying "המחדש בטובו בכל יום תמיד". Again and again. המחדש בטובו בכל יום

תמיד

And their child started getting better. The doctors couldn't believe it! ברוך רופא חולים!

REMEMBERING THE MIRACLES, THE CHESSED AND THE TESHUVA

From Last Year - 5784

Klal Yisrael is Returning to Hashem

A wife of an injured soldier told visitors at the hospital that while her husband was in Gaza fighting she was talking to Hashem every day and every night.

"I was so far away from Hashem, but then I saw that people want to kill us for being a Jew and I understood that I needed to go back to my yahadut, to my Hashem."

The visitors asked what they could get for her. They offered her whatever she wanted. She responded that she didn't want anything, she had everything she needed. Then she remembered one thing that she needed:

Can you get me pamotim (candles) for Shabbat, I want to start keeping Shabbat. This is the moment for us to go back to Hashem and to speak to Him. [Living Kiddush Hashem Foundation]

ומלאה הארץ - דעה את ד'

Two soldiers were fighting on Simchas Torah in Sderot. They were both not frum. At one point, they ran out of ammunition. They were surrounded on all sides by terrorists and the enemy fire kept on coming closer and closer. They knew that there was no way they were going to survive. One of them said, "If I get out of this alive, I'm going to start keeping Shabbos."

That very second, they have no explanation why, the terrorists started going away. And they lived to tell the tale. They clearly saw how Hashem sent away the terrorists! There was no other explanation!

They both are now keeping Shabbos

and are coming closer and closer to Hashem!

In other news:

A Yid in Eretz Yisrael who used to call himself 'Gedol Hakofrim' - the biggest non-believer, gave money, as a z'chus for the hostages, towards a new sefer Torah for a shul in Kibbutz Kerem Shalom.

!!ושבת עד ד' אלוך!!

Klal Yisrael is Coming Home to Hashem!

A Yid from Lakewood, New Jersey, works for a boss who isn't frum. His boss is 55 years old and for his entire life had nothing to do with Hashem.

Now, because of the situation, in Eretz Yisrael he started wearing tefillin!

What happiness is going on in Shamayim!

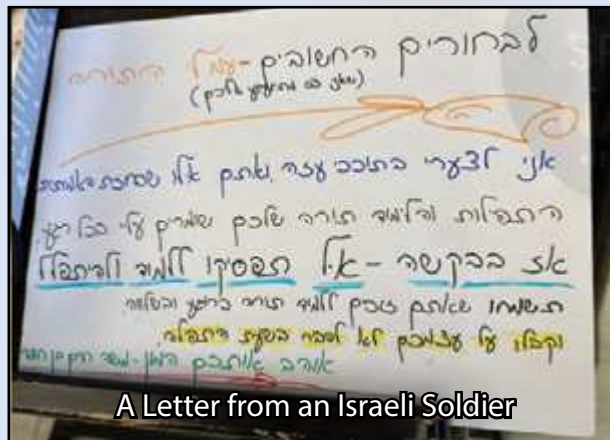
In other news....

Dvir* a not-yet-frum man in Eretz Yisrael, works together with frum people. His mother was one of the people who were captured in Gaza. His co-workers convinced him to put on Tefillin as a z'chus for his mother to be freed and that if she would be freed, he would accept to wear Tefillin every day.

When some of the hostages were freed, he put on tefillin. After his mother was freed, he purchased a pair of tefillin to wear daily!

In other news:

A mother, who isn't yet frum, and has a daughter captured by Hamas, publicly said that she thanks Hash-



A Letter from an Israeli Soldier

em for choosing her to be a mother of a child who is captured. She davened to Hashem to free her daughter. She said, "Hashem, she is Your child."

In other news:

A Yid was in a taxi and the driver by the name of Rami, who isn't yet fully frum and doesn't wear a yarmulka, gave him a whole lecture on how Klal Yisrael has become one nation and everyone is loving each other and doing chesed!

Brooklyn Boy Helps Defeat Hamas

Avraham Levi, a 7-year-old boy from Brooklyn, New York, completed the entire sefer Tehillim six times as a protection for Klal Yisrael!

אלה ברכב - ואלה בסוסים - ואנחנו בשם ד' אלוךינו נזכיר!

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Our Readers Share

Editor's Note: Some of these stories are from many months ago.

The Spring Hill Times

cars must have pulled out, right next to my mother's house, it was literally Yad Hashem!

-A Reader

Bitachon Yeshiva

A few months ago, we were applying for our son to go to different mesivtos, and there was a particular

days after that and asked, "What's doing with the moving?" I was so surprised because this yeshiva has lots of applicants and really doesn't need my son. I replied that we don't have it settled 100% but we're working on it." He said, "I can't accept him until you know for sure, call me when all your children are registered in the schools."

I had a booklet with a lot of important numbers that I needed for the new neighborhood, including the menahel's number, and I lost it. I really wanted to call him because things were moving along and my children were one by one getting accepted into the schools in that neighborhood, and I wanted to tell him. So I thought to myself, what should I do, I did not have the number. "Hashem, I can't make the phone calls, there's too much going on, I'm just going to wash my dishes, put on music and leave it up to You."

I put on Bitachon music, and a few minutes later, I got a call, and guess what, it was that menahel!

He asked, "What's going on? Keep me posted!" I could not believe it, I felt so clearly that Hashem was taking care of me, running the show. I don't have to work so hard and get overwhelmed, if I can't do it. Hashem's running the show anyway. All this time, I didn't have his number, and he was the one who was calling me.

My son didn't even take a farher, he never even met him, and my son is not the best student. It's unbelievable that this menahel was coming after my son. It makes sense that someone would run after the perfect talmid, but that's not my son. Because I just trusted Hashem and left it up to Him, He helped me and sorted everything out for me.

Thank you for your beautiful publication!

-A Reader

Hashem Watches Over Us



I was in a store with my brother, and he grabbed a teddy bear off the shelf and wouldn't let go of it. So, my mother had to buy it.

Afterwards, my brother fell down, and could have been badly hurt, but because he was holding his teddy bear so tightly he landed on the teddy and not on the ground!

-A Reader



one we were interested in, and we applied there. It's a small yeshiva and not easy to get in because there are a lot of applicants. When we applied, they told us, "Because you live in a different neighborhood, and we don't have a dorm, it's really not going to work."

I called up the menahel and said that we're planning to move before the year starts, and I really think this is a good fit, so please consider at least to give him a farher. The menahel said, "Absolutely not, unless there's something definite, we can't deal with it right now." He added, "Because you live in a different neighborhood, it's hard to get information about you, it's not going to work out."

A few months passed, and I thought, *things were moving along, I should call the menahel*. But I couldn't find the number, and didn't have the time to find it. I said to Hashem, "I can't do it. Whatever you figure out for me is good. I really think this is the right place for my son, please just help me out."

The next day, my son came home from Yeshiva, and said, "Believe it or not, my rebbe told me that the Yeshiva called him and spoke with him for a long time."

The menahel called me a few

Parking Found!



I was driving over to my mother's house to help her with something, because she needed to go out. When I got there, there were no parking spots. I was just about to call my mother, but I decided I would not call her, I would just find a spot somewhere, and talk about what there is, not what there isn't.

Then, all of a sudden, I saw a spot that I hadn't seen before, one of the

PASSING BY SOMEONE? SHOW HIM A SMILE! GREET HIM NICELY!

Leiluy Nishmas:
Chana bas Rav
Mayer Tzvi A"H

TRAVELING THE PATH OF OUR GEDOLIM

This short story illustrates the depth of Rav Chaim Kanievsky's kibud av vaeim.

One day, the Stiepler's daughter told her father that Chaim's back was hurting him. The Steipler thought she was talking about his son! Reb Chaim was already married, so he went to his house and told him he needs to get into bed.

Reb Chaim didn't understand the reason for this command, but he didn't ask any questions and without a word he got into bed. The Steipler told him that he had to rest and stay in bed until the next morning.

Later that day, the Stiepler realized that his daughter was referring to a different Chaim, Rav Chaim Kluft, a grandson!

Discovering the mistake, the Steipler smiled and said he must go back to Rav Chaim- knowing him, he would stay in bed until the next day because his father had told him to! He hurried back to Rav Chaim, who was laying in bed with a sefer in his hand, and told him: You can get up! And Rav Chaim simply got up again, no questions asked!



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Where in the Parsha do we find a connection with these pictures?

Parsha Fun



Parshas
Miketz
-Shabbos
Chanukah -
Riddle 117:

To hear the answer to the question, press x14 # 117 on the Chaishek HaTorah Line 845-720-4040

On the Friday of Chanukah, there are two sets of Hadaikah. Some have a custom to first daven Mincha; afterwards they proceed to light their Menorah. Shabbos candles they will subsequently light at the designated time. Do you know the reason for this custom which you just read in rhyme?

פרשת מקץ

1. Which direction is קדים?
2. Where do we find that the good things a רשע does are incomplete?
3. What was the shortcoming of being a עברי?
4. Can a עבד become a king in מצרים?
5. Why did they need to give יוסף a haircut?
6. What does צפנת פננה mean?
7. What did they do to make that the stored wheat should not rot?

Questions until רביעי

If you would like to submit answers and be entered into a raffle for a \$25 gift card, please call 9294964093. Cheder Bnei Torah. To get this Parsha sheet emailed to you every week, send a request to torahshleimah@gmail.com. Sponsorship opportunities available. לעילוי נשמת ר' **לעילוי נשמת ר' נתן ז"ל קאפפערל תנצב"ה** Sponsored

Answers for the Parsha Pictures

Prison: Yosef imprisoned the brothers for 3 days.

Wine: The brothers and Yosef drank wine together.



Hashem's Stunning world!

Thank You, Hashem, for
Tables! We can enjoy so many
activities on a nice elevated
clean surface!



Thank You, Hashem, for
Sales! We can get things we
want at great prices!



5
Weekly



Thank You's

By: R' Simcha Elefant Yerushalayim
Ir Hakodesh
לזכות משה יהודה בן שושנה

Thank You, Hashem, for
Perfume! It can add such
pleasant aromas to people
and things!



Thank You, Hashem, for
Pretzels! A yummy filling
snack that's so clean and easy
to eat!



Thank You, Hashem, for Show-
er Curtains! They keep the water in
the shower enabling our bathrooms
to stay nice & dry!



Many times all the water in the
house was used up. You needed
to get dressed and go outside in
the cold, rain or snow and pull up
water from the well.



&

**IT'S IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT AND YOU NEED A
DRINK OF WATER?**



**Just go into your kitchen and
turn on the sink. Or drink
from a water bottle or from
the various juices in your
fridge! Thank You, Hashem!**





Doctor Dr. Chaim Altzisgut M.D. Date _____

I'm prescribing 1 medications for you.

Patient

I have no satisfaction in my work or in my learning.
Please help!

The reason why you feel this way is because we all come from a different world where we were near Hashem and were in a state of pure bliss. We felt infinite love, acceptance and comfort.

Now that the neshama is confined to a physical body it lost all that and will never feel complete satisfaction until it's once back close to Hashem.

Start realizing that everything in your life is Hashem. Everything in your life is His love. Make every experience you go through a way of connecting. Be obsessed with Him day and night and your life will become completely transformed!

**DON'T FORGET
YOUR DAILY EXERCISE!**



**Remind Yourself that Hashem
Loves You to No End!**

WONDER DIET
Lose Aveiros Naturally



Just Tell Hashem That You Are Sorry!



LET US IMAGINE

Let us imagine for just a few minutes that the world as we know it would turn on its head, and automatic functions, such as breathing, blinking, and swallowing, would require conscious thought to occur...

Life would be exceptionally difficult. People would need to think about each breath (talk about labored breathing!) This constant preoccupation would distract them from all other activities, making it difficult to converse, work, daven, learn, etc.

When deeply involved in an activity, people might forget to breathe. Eventually, they would faint or turn blue from lack of oxygen. At that point, they would quickly command their lungs to breathe, but they would again forget a few moments later... If they stopped breathing for too long, it might be too late to be revived, c”v. Oxygen deprivation could cause serious brain damage. If a child forgot to breathe for five minutes, he could be damaged for life...

People would stare unblinkingly, causing their eyes to dry out and sting. Eventually, the lack of oxygen in the eye lens could lead to vision problems or even blindness c”v. Not blinking can also cause a buildup of particles and debris in the eye, which is irritating and could lead to infection. Conducting a conversation with an unblinking friend would also be quite awkward.

When the body gets very hot, it sweats to prevent heatstroke. People would forget to produce sweat, making exercising or being in the sun very dangerous. Even if they would remember, people generally dislike the feeling of sweat and would therefore not produce it.

Similarly, when the body is too cold,

it shivers or produces goosebumps to preserve body heat. Since people would forget or refuse to do this, many common situations, such as walking outside on a cold day without proper protection, playing in the snow, or swimming in cold water could be lethal.

When trying to eat, people would be forced to coordinate their breathing and swallowing reflexes. If they would forget to breathe while eating, it would be terribly dangerous. If they would forget to command their mouth to swallow, they would likely try speaking with food still in their mouths. This could lead to a mess at best and choking at worst. If people would accidentally breathe and swallow at the same time, they could easily choke...

Since eating would require such intense concentration, people would no longer talk over food. Simchos such as weddings, brissim, and kidushim would be silent affairs as everyone busied themselves with their food. Alternatively, people simply wouldn't eat in public...

People would need to sleep with oxygen masks so they could breathe while they sleep. This would be expensive and uncomfortable. If c”v someone forgot to put it on one night, they wouldn't wake up the next morning...

Parents would be beside themselves with worry about their children's breathing and swallowing habits. The constant anxiety would wear down their emotional and physical health.

Since babies can't will themselves to do anything, they would need to be hooked up to oxygen tanks and feeding tubes from birth. They would

also need consistent eye drops to prevent dryness from lack of blinking. This would be expensive, time-consuming, and nerve-wracking for the parents.

These machines would interfere with the natural bonding that mothers have when feeding their babies. They would also prevent normal physical growth. Babies would try to turn over and crawl but would knock down the machines in the interim. This would c”v cause them to stop breathing.

As they would mature, they would need tons of physical therapy to teach them about breathing, swallowing, and blinking. They would be dependent on their machines until they would mature enough to be trusted to breathe on their own and eat safely. What a sad existence!

In short, if automatic functions required thought, people would be dying left and right due to simple forgetfulness; people would be emotional wrecks and unable to concentrate on even the simplest tasks.

Who utilized incredible wisdom to designate certain functions as automatic so that even the tiniest baby automatically knows to breathe, swallow, blink, shiver, and sweat when necessary? Who implanted in the human brain the chochma to know exactly when and how much to execute each function? Hakadosh Baruch Hu, our loving, caring Father, that's Who! Thank You, Hashem, for enabling us to live in comfort as our bodies perform so many complicated tasks without our conscious input, 24/7, 365! We love You, Hashem!

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Thank You to All Those Who have Reached Out to Help!



Help Yossi and the rest of the bochurim have ayin tova for the staff of Yeshivas Lev Hayehudi. They pushed off fixing dorm door, and a cat came in and parked himself on a student's bed...



* Now the yeshiva will take the situation more seriously, and the problem will be taken care of.

* The cat needed a night inside, and is only alive because of that.

* The environment at this yeshiva is such that everyone's head is full of Torah and learning, even the maintenance staff. The bochurim should learn from this how to totally immerse themselves in Torah and not let cats get in the way of their learning.

* Yossi probably hadn't changed his sheets in a while. Now he got the push he needed to clean up after himself and the cat.

* The bochurim can get together and fix the front door, showing the staff that they care about the facility and are available to help out when necessary.

* Closing of the entrance requires financial outlay and permission from the yeshiva's administrator. Or perhaps someone was sick and the paperwork kept on getting bounced around, or they couldn't find someone to fix it for a reasonable price. In reality, they were trying to take care of it.

* Yossi and friends should recognize that the staff does in fact deal with many issues and has simply neglected this not small but possibly relatively small issue.

* The bochurim may have many complaints about the yeshiva. Perhaps they may have bogged down the staff with all of their concerns.



Shira was happy that she had finished her Shabbos grocery shopping already on early Friday morning, just before the mayhem begins in the stores.

When she arrived at home, she began to unload her groceries. It was then that she realized that one of her bags must have ripped, and several essential items fell out. Now she would have to go back to the store and wait on long lines. In addition, she had a loss of money.

Help Shira have ayin tova for her situation.



You can send your suggestions for the AYIN TOVA CASE to:

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Yeshivishe Stories

The Chinuch Chaburah

R' Tzvi Moshe Schultz

Rabbi Akiva Eiger and Rabbi Yaakov of Lisa were two of the greatest Torah scholars of their generation. They were also good friends.

Once, they traveled together to Warsaw to attend a rabbinic conference. When they arrived in Warsaw, a large number of people came to greet them. The people ushered the Rabbis into a fancy coach. The coach had no horses to pull it. Instead, the important people of the community pulled the coach themselves, as a way of showing honor to the Rabbis.

Rabbi Akiva Eiger got out of the coach. He assumed that it had been brought to honor Rabbi Yaakov of Lisa, and he also wanted to pull the coach to give him honor.

Meanwhile, Rabbi Yaakov of Lisa also got out of the coach. He assumed the coach was for Rabbi Akiva Eiger, and he wanted to honor him by helping to pull it. In the confusion, no one noticed both Rabbanim helping to pull the coach.

When they arrived at their destination, they realized that the coach was empty! They asked the Rabbis why they had gotten out. Each one responded that they wanted to give honor to the other one. Then the people realized that they were not just great in Torah, but also great in their humility.



Reb Akiva Eiger & the Nesivos

Rabbi Akiva Eiger was once traveling somewhere by wagon. The terrain was very difficult. Multiple times the coachman had to get out of the wagon and physically push the wagon through the snow or the mud.



Because he was standing in deep snow, the coachman's socks got soaking wet. Rabbi Akiva Eiger said to him: "Your socks must be very wet. Here is another pair you can put on." The coachman was very appreciative, and he felt like a new man when he put them on.

But then he started thinking to himself: "The luggage compartment is locked. Where did he get the socks from?" When they got to their destination, he looked at Rabbi Akiva Eiger, and saw that, sure enough, he was not wearing any socks.

He had given the coachman his own pair!"

Think about this

A. What are some other ways we could show honor to a Rav?

B. What can we learn from the way Reb Akiva Eiger and R' Yaakov from Lisa treated each other?

A. Why do you think Rabbi Akiva Eiger didn't just ask the coachman to unlock the luggage compartment, so he could get him a new pair of socks?

B. What are some other things that we could share with others?

More Chinuch Opportunities:

For Mechanchim: Join the Chinuch Chaburah, and share ideas and materials with rebbeim from around the world. Send the message "subscribe" to: chinuchchaburah@gmail.com

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Bitachon Fish

MRS. FLEISHER WAS MAKING TUNA LATKES FOR HER FAMILY



I NEED A FEW
MORE CANS



I'M NOT ABLE
TO GO TO THE
STORE NOW.
HASHEM IS THE
HAKOL YACHOL
AND HE COULD
SEND ME
TUNA CANS



LET ME BRING THIS TO
MRS. FLEISHER. MAYBE
SHE CAN USE THEM



THIS IS UNBELIEVABLE. I JUST HAD BITACHON
THAT HASHEM WILL SEND ME TUNA CANS!

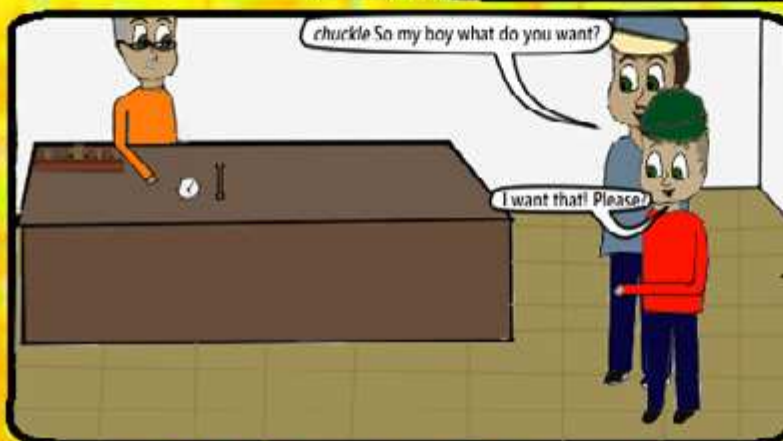


HASHEM IS SO AMAZING!



C MIX OF TOPI

This week's topic:
CHANUKAH



CHANUKAH

MIX OF TOPI

This week's topic:
CHANUKAH



The Greenbaums took the message and were chozer b'teshuvah

Hashem wants US to be the best we can be.

He's clutching us towards Him so longingly

We need to take the messages of His deep desire

And continue soaring upwards, keep climbing higher

CHANUKAH

*Hashem is
Wonderful!*

*Life is
Wonderful!*

*Klal Yisrael is
Wonderful!*

ומלאה הארץ
דעה את ד'

**SPREADING HASHEM'S
GOODNESS ALL AROUND
THE WORLD**