



PIRCHEI Weekly

Agudas Yisroel of America

March 14, 2015 - כ"ג אדר, תשע"ה - Vol: 2 Issue: 21

פרשה: ויקהל-פקודי-פרה - הכפרה: ...בן אדם בית ישראל... (יחזקאל לו:טז-לח)
משנכנס אדר מרבנים בשמחה! דף יומי: כתובות מ' - חזק, חזק, ונתחזק!
מצות לא תעשה: 1 - מברכים ראש חודש ניסן (מולד יום שלישי בשעה: חלקים 3 + 34:21)



Torah Thoughts



זאת חקת התורה אשר צנה ד' ...

This is the statute of the תורה, which ד' commanded ... (במדבר יט:א).

The word חקת, decree, describes a מצנה that cannot be understood by way of human logic. The חקת that follows is the very mystifying מצות surrounding מצות אדמה, the red cow. One of the most intriguing laws of the פרה אדמה is that the טמא, spiritually unclean, person becomes טהור, spiritually purified, using its ashes, and the person who carries the מי חטאת becomes טמא.

Many מפרשים ask about the introductory words of זאת חקת התורה, *This is the statute of the תורה*. In teaching the מצות of פסח, the תורה introduces the מצות with the words זאת חקת הפסח, *this is the statute regarding the פסח*. Logically, it follows that the תורה should use חקת הפרה, *the statute regarding the cow* or חקת הטהרה, *the statute regarding becoming pure*. The expression of זאת חקת התורה indicates that this מצנה refers to the whole תורה. What connection do the laws of פרה אדמה have to the entire תורה?

R' Gedaliah Schorr, זצ"ל answers this by explaining the unusual wording of מצות התלויות בה, *the 613 מצות that are dependent on this [מצנה]*, recited in the יחוד לשם יחוד before performing a מצנה.

Every מצנה has a lesson or purpose that is applicable in some way to the rest of the 613 מצות. For instance, מצה, as we know, must be made quickly, so that the dough does not rise and become קמח שאין מחמיצין על המצות פד אין מחמיצין תנ"ל. חמץ tell us: *just as we rush so that the dough should not become קמח* - על המצות תנ"ל. *so must we move quickly to perform all מצות*. חמץ are teaching us that the lesson of זריזות, diligence and speed, is the lesson of מצה, but it has an important application for all other מצות as well.

The מצנה of פרה אדמה is the greatest חק. חק המלך, the wisest of all men, could not understand the meaning of the laws surrounding this מצנה. The lesson of פרה אדמה is that we are performing ד's commandment even though we don't understand it. This message is applicable to the rest of the 613 מצות. Although there are many מצות that seem quite logical, there is a level in every מצנה that is above our understanding.

The words זאת חקת התורה mean that the מצנה of פרה אדמה is the מצנה that teaches the lesson of חק that applies to the rest of the תורה. We must always remember the lesson from the פרה אדמה: there is a level in every מצנה that we don't understand. Nevertheless, we must perform the מצנה simply because it is the Will of ד'.

Adapted from: ספר אור גדוליו



Yahrzeits of our Gedolim

כ"ה אדר 5685 - 5763 1925 - 2003 R' Yisroel Yaakov Fischer זצ"ל was born in ירושלים to R' Aharon, son of R' Shlomo אב בית דין of Karlsburg, Hungary, and author of גרות שלמה and קרבני לחמי (קרובני לחמי) and Devora. By the age of 6 he was learning גמרא, and from 7 years old he always davened. As a teenager, he learned at עץ חיים as a תלמיד of R' Isser Zalman זצ"ל. At 18, he received סמיכה from R' Zelig Reuven Bengis. In 1961, Epstein chose him to be מוהל in the עדה הירושלית. At the same time, he became ראש ישיבה. In 1963, he was appointed רב of the זכרון משה shul, a position he held for 40 years. Upon the Satmar Rebbe's advice, Weiss selected him as a member of the בית דין of the עדה הירושלית in '74. Upon אריה ר' Freund's פטירה in 1989, he became רב בית דין.

Gedolim Glimpses

ר' זלמן ראווב בנגיס זצ"ל, the well-known אב בית דין and ירושלמי גדול ר' ישראל יעקב, יונגערמאן, was once visited by a יונגערמאן, R' Fischer זצ"ל. To the shock and surprise of the עולם, the גדול of ירושלים stood up! After the visitor departed, the גבאי questioned why he was worthy of such an honor. R' Bengis smiled and said, "A יונגערמאן who learned every single ר"ש in נגעים and אהלות is worthy of this honor."



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לעיני ה' ישעיהו דוב עי"ה בן יבלחטי"א יצחק צבי נ"י

Focus on Middos



Dear Talmid,
 A woman whose relative had just passed away approached R' Yisroel Yaakov Fischer זצ"ל with a שאלה about the מצוות אבילות. Often, situations arise in which a mourner is exempt from, and is not even allowed to observe, all the details of the מצוות אבילות. This woman was in precisely such a situation. When she went to ask R' Fischer her שאלה, he ruled leniently. Nevertheless, the woman still felt uncomfortable about exempting herself from אבילות. Her anxiety only increased when a certain חכם heard about the פסוק.

"How can you be מקל?" he asked her indignantly. "What about כבוד המת?"

The woman sent her שאלה once more to R' Fischer to make sure she had understood him correctly. The messenger came back with the report that, yes, she had understood correctly, and R' Fischer still stood behind his ruling. A few minutes later, her phone began ringing, but she was too intent on listening to her messenger. Then came a knock at the door, and there stood R' Yisroel Yaakov's grandson.

"The רב sent me to ask what is wrong with your telephone," he said, pointing to the still ringing machine.

The woman quickly picked up the phone. To her shock, the caller was none other than R' Fischer. "Don't let people דרין you קאפ!" he instructed her. שאלתך ערוך, and what I פסקו is what I פסקו!" She breathed a sigh of relief upon hearing these words.

My תלמיד, R' Fischer in his חכמה as an experienced פוסק realized that if the question was being presented again, then the mourner must have been feeling guilty. It wasn't enough for the פסוק to be repeated. The widow also needed the reassurance of the conviction of his voice, so he had to speak to her on the phone. It is not what we say that gets our message heard, but rather how it is delivered that often can make the real difference!

יהי זכרו ברוך!
 רבינו, בנידיות

Source: Based on an article in Yated Ne'eman

Sage Sayings



R' Yisroel Yaakov Fischer זצ"ל considered it his Heavenly mission to answer people's שאלות. He once had a painful infection in his leg. Someone suggested that perhaps he should take a temporary respite from his demanding schedule. He replied, "אין דער קבר וועט איד האבן גענוג צייט צו - Heaven forbid! - חס ושלום" - In the grave, I will have plenty of time to rest."

Source: Yated Ne'eman (with kind permission from the publisher)

Understanding Davening

יש אומרים שפגשת זכור ופגשת פרה חייבים לקרותם מדאורייתא

...some (ראשונים) are of the opinion that the reading of פגשת פרה and פגשת זכור is a מצוה (אורייתא תרפ"ה סעי' ז) דאורייתא

Many אחרונים discuss the source for this opinion of the ראשונים. ערוך השלחן. ראשונים (סעי' ז) learns it from a ספרי on the words in the middle of פגשת פרה ... לחקת עולם: פגשת פרה ... and it shall be for the children of Yisroel ... as an everlasting statute (במדבר י"ז). פגשת פרה adds ספרי (במדבר י"ז): פגשת פרה ... that this מצוה is applicable in all generations, even when there is no בית זכר אל תשכח: פסוק. Others learn it from the פסוק: פגשת פרה ... Remember how you angered ה' אלקיך במדבר ... עגל הזהב (דברים ט"ז). It would be improper to publicly read about the sin of the עגל הזהב. Instead, we allude to it by reading about its פרה through the ashes of הפרה.

לענין ר' משה צבי הרן טוביה הלוי זצ"ל



This Week in History

המסכת חג פגות

The הלכות מגילה תרצ"ה סימן א' רמ"א writes in a beautiful idea that one should begin the תורה by learning פורים. He explains that this מצוה is hinted at in the words ליהודים היתה אוירה ושמחה - the Jews had light and rejoicing; the word אוירה, light, is a reference to the spiritual light of תורה. Based on this רמ"א, many have the custom to start their סעודת פורים with one of the הלכות of פסח. פסח is exactly 30 days before פגות and there is a הלכה למשה מסיני to start learning הלכות י"ט יום טוב before the פגות.

With this in mind, we have chosen the next international contest of the Pirchei Agudas Yisroel of America Newsletter: the learning of one הלכה in פסח every day until פסח.

The 3 סימנים that are practical for most of us and have 26 סעיפים are: סימן ק"ו: הלכות הכנת הסדר, סימן ק"י"א, (חדש ניסן ובו ג' סעיפים הלכות סדר ליל סדר) סימן ק"י"ב (ובו י"א סעיפים) (ובו י"ב סעיפים).

If you are interested in joining this special program this year and of course will continue to review the weekly פגות as per your grade level, please send a fax every week signed by a parent to 718 506 9633 - include your grade, name, school, city & state, and your contact number and fax number. Your name will be entered into a raffle to win a beautiful set of גדולות מקראות after פסח.



LEARNING FROM OUR LEADERS

בס"ד
PIRCHAI AGUDAS YISROEL OF AMERICA

THE BRISKER RAV, RAV YITZCHOK ZEV HALEVI SOLOVEITCHIK ZT"l, SUFFERED FROM ILL HEALTH. ON HIS PHYSICIAN'S ADVICE, IN 5714 (1954) HE TRAVELED TO SWITZERLAND, WHERE HE STAYED AT THE HOME OF R' WOLF ROSENGARTEN, ZT"l.

REBBI, LET ME GET A WASHING CUP AND BOWL...

R' WOLF, PLEASE SIT DOWN. IF YOU BRING ME ANYTHING ELSE I'LL LEAVE IMMEDIATELY. MY SONS ARE WITH ME, AND THEY HAVE THE MITZVAH OF KIBBUD AV. THEY WILL BRING ME WHATEVER I NEED.

ONCE, THE RAV WAS WALKING WITH R' WOLF IN ZURICH...

COULD YOU PLEASE DIRECT ME HOW TO GET TO THE HOSPITAL THAT SPECIALIZES IN TREATING POLIO?

REBBI, I KNOW OF THE FACILITY; IT IS VERY FAR FROM HERE. WHY WOULD REBBI BE INTERESTED IN KNOWING HOW TO GET THERE?

I WOULD LIKE TO VISIT THE HOSPITAL. I KNOW OF A CERTAIN GIRL THERE, A DAUGHTER OF A RELIGIOUS FAMILY. THE FAST OF TISHAH B'AV IS APPROACHING AND I'M CONCERNED SHE MIGHT FAST. IT IS PIKUACH NEFESH (A LIFE-THREATENING ISSUE)!

I UNDERSTAND REBBI'S CONCERN, BUT I... I AM WORRIED ABOUT REBBI'S HEALTH. I HAVE A SUGGESTION...

LET'S CALL A LOCAL JEW WHO LIVES IN THE AREA OF THE HOSPITAL TO DELIVER THE MESSAGE IN THE NAME OF THE BRISKER RAV.

IT'S NOT GOOD ENOUGH... I KNOW HER PERSONALITY; SHE WILL NOT LISTEN TO A STRANGER'S MESSAGE.

REBBI, HOW ABOUT SENDING A TELEGRAM SIGNED BY THE BRISKER RAV WITH REBBI'S PRECISE INSTRUCTIONS?

YOU HAVE GOOD IDEAS, BUT A TELEGRAM IS NOT GOING TO WORK EITHER. LET ME EXPLAIN...

I KNOW HER FAMILY; THEY ARE METICULOUS IN OBSERVING ALL THE MITZVOS. ONLY IF SHE SEES THAT I MADE THE EFFORT TO COME ALL THE WAY TO THE HOSPITAL AND HEARS MY ORDERS DIRECTLY WITHOUT ANY INTERMEDIARY WILL SHE FOLLOW THEM...

R' YITZCHOK ZEV זצ"ל, THE BRISKER RAV, WAS BORN IN VOLOZHIN, RUSSIA, TO R' CHAIM AND LIFSHA SOLOVEITCHIK. R' CHAIM WAS THEN THE ROSH YESHIVAH OF VOLOZHIN. AT THE AGE OF 16 R' YITZCHOK ZEV (KNOWN AS THE גרייז OR R' VELVEL) WAS A MASTER OF ש"ס WITH EVERY רש"י. BEFORE WW II, HE WAS THE RAV AND ראש ישיבה IN BRISK. HE MARRIED הונדל AUERBACH AND THEY HAD 12 CHILDREN BEFORE THE WAR, SOME OF WHOM DID NOT SURVIVE INFANCY. HIS WIFE AND 3 CHILDREN PERISHED הני"ד DURING THE HOLOCAUST, BUT HE ESCAPED WITH SOME OF HIS CHILDREN TO ישראל, WHERE HE RE-ESTABLISHED THE BRISK ישיבה. HIS BRILLIANCE IN LEARNING WAS ONLY SURPASSED BY HIS יראת שמים AND HIS STRINGENCY IN הלכה. HE WAS ONE OF THE GREATEST LEADERS OF ORTHODOX JEWRY AND ALL THE גדולי ישראל IN גדולי ישראל AND ABROAD SOUGHT HIS OPINION.



For any inquiries or comments please feel free to call 347-838-0869 • Illustrated by: Yishaya Suval 718-395-9794

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