



PIRCHEI Weekly

Agudas Yisroel of America

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פרשה: שמות - הפטרה: ...הבאים ישרש יעקב... (ישעיהו כז:ו-כח:יג, כט:כב-כג) דף יומי: גיטין כ' ותן טל ומטר לברכה



Torah Thoughts



ויאמר אל תקרב הלם של נעליך מעל רגליך כי המקום אשר עומד עליו אדמת קדש הוא (שמות ג:ה).

And He [הקב"ה] said, "Do not come closer; remove your shoes from your feet, for the place upon which ... stand is holy ground."

The **אור החיים** points out something puzzling. There were two commands that the **הקב"ה** gave **משה**. The first command was to immediately stop and refrain from going any closer to the bush. The second command was to remove his shoes, because he was standing upon holy earth. The **אור החיים** asks, why did the **הקב"ה** allow **משה** to get to the point where he was already in violation of standing on holy ground with his shoes? Why did the **הקב"ה** not simply stop **משה** BEFORE he had transgressed the **אסור** of standing with shoes in a holy place?

R' Mattisyahu Salomon שליט"א gives an insightful answer based on the **אור החיים**. He explains that the ground upon which he stood was not holy *before* **משה** stepped on it. It was because of **משה**'s thought to attempt to understand what was happening that the ground became holy. **משה** made it holy! R' Mattisyahu quotes a **מדרש רבה** which states that in **משה**'s turning to see — **סר לראות** — the **הקב"ה** recognized the same

attitude he had in being troubled by **ישראל**'s pain, as in the **משה**'s inquisitive thought was a spiritual and lofty one, and made the ground underneath him become holy only at this time.

With this understanding, that the ground only became holy because of **משה**'s thought, we can now appreciate why the **הקב"ה** waited and could not have told **משה** to remove his shoes any earlier — the ground was not holy until this point in time.

R' Mattisyahu elaborated on this point with the following story, which he heard from the Steipler Gaon, R' Yaakov Yisroel Kanievsky זצ"ל:

The Steipler told R' Mattisyahu that he remembered that in the early days of **בני ברק**, the place was still forested in many areas. One Friday night, the Steipler was walking with the **חזון איש**. The **חזון איש** stopped at a tree. He said that it would be beneficial to stand under that tree for a few moments and bask in the **קדושה** of the place. The **חזון איש** explained: In this area some boys had spoken in learning on the previous night — **ליל Thursday night** — and the **קדושה** was still lingering in the area under the trees.

Adapted from a Torah thought by R' Mattisyahu Salomon שליט"א



Yahrzeits of our Gedolim

כ"ד טבת 5652 - 5713 1892 - 1953 ר' Dessler was born in Libau, Latvia, to ר' שלמה זיסל of Kelm, a **ראובן דוב זצ"ל**. His mother, **חנה בריינדל**, was a granddaughter of **ישרעל** and a niece of **עוזר זצ"ל**. After learning at Kelm, he married **בלומה**, a granddaughter of **זיסל**. During the Bolshevik revolution, in 1927, he moved to London. In 1941, he founded the Gateshead in London. At the request of **זצ"ל** of the **Ponevezher** **רב**, R' Dessler emigrated to serve as a **משגיח** in the **Ponevezh Yeshiva** in 1948. Many of his **shmuessen** and thoughts are collected in **מכתב מאליהו** (six volumes). A compilation of some of R' Dessler's **חידושים** were printed in **חידושי ר' אליהו זצ"ל על הש"ס**.

Gedolim Glimpses

R' Dessler זצ"ל would give his **עולם** a feeling for the eternity of **הבא**: Imagine that you are at the largest beach in the world. **די** grants you the time to watch a lone seagull visit once every thousand years and pick up only a single grain of sand at a time. However much time it would take for the seagull to empty the beach of sand is nothing when compared to the eternity of **הבא**. With this thought, one should weigh a fleeting pleasure against the reward for eternity.



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לעיני ר' ישראל בן אברהם ז"ל לעיני ה' ישעיהו דוב ע"ה בן יבלחטי"א יצחק צבי נ"י

Focus on Middos

Dear Talmid,

Late summer 1941 found R' Eliyahu Eliezer Dessler, זצ"ל, in Chesham in Buckinghamshire, UK, along with other Jewish refugees seeking a safe haven from constant German bombings of London. His son, Nachum Velvel, was learning in Telshe Yeshiva in the USA. His wife, Bluma, and daughter, Hennie, were trapped in Kelm. Through a series of נסִים, his wife and daughter found their way to Australia, where they remained for the duration of the war.

R' Dessler was then 51 years old; he would pass away 12 years later. That summer, a letter arrived at his home from R' Dovid Dryan, the מוהל of Gateshead and founder of a small Gateshead ישיבה. R' Dovid proposed the idea of תלמידי חכמים כולל to learn full time in Gateshead. R' Dovid had sent the same letter to 21 other רבנים. Eighteen רבנים did not respond to R' Dovid's suggestion. Another 3 רבנים liked the idea, but wrote back that it was impractical considering the wartime circumstances.

R' Dessler alone replied positively to R' Dovid's letter: "My

heart sees a great light in the matter which Your Honor suggested — שְׂכָרְךָ הַרְבֵּה מְאֹד." With R' Dessler's encouraging reply to R' Dovid's letter, the face of English Jewry — as well as Jewry throughout Europe — was changed forever.

R' Dovid was charged. Together with R' Dessler, in 1942, he established the first group of young תלמידי חכמים. R' Dessler developed a unique curriculum in learning. The כולל flourished far beyond all expectations and completely changed the remote, obscure town of Gateshead. Some of his תלמידים became the ראש ישיבה and the משגיח of the ישיבה and opened the boarding school and seminary.

My תלמיד, what might have happened if R' Dessler had not replied to R' Dovid's letter? Eighteen other רבנים felt that the idea was not serious enough to even respond to it. Every opportunity for growth should be taken seriously. You never really know which one may change your life forever.

יהי זכרו ברוך!
רבני Your בְּיַדִּידוֹת

Story adapted from an essay by Y. Rosenblum מיי

2nd Annual Pirchei שובבי"ם ת"ת Contest

Do you remember last year's שובבי"ם contest that had the participation of over 200 boys from many States within the US, Canada and UK? This year we are calling it the שובבי"ם contest. Do you know why?

This week's פְּרָשָׁה is שְׁמוֹת – the first פְּרָשָׁה תיית. שובבי"ם תיית. Have you ever heard of this term? This is an acrostic of the פְּרָשָׁה שְׁמוֹת, תְּרוּמָה, מִשְׁפָּטִים, יְתָרוֹ, בְּשַׁלַּח, בָּא, וְאָרָא, שְׁמוֹת, and תְּצַנֶּה. According to the אריז"ל these תשובות are especially opportune for תשובה and for strengthening our resolve to do מְצוֹת. This auspicious time is mentioned in the בָּאֵר ב' הַיֵּטֵב אוֹיֵחַ תִּרְפִּיָּה סִימָן ב'.

Throughout the world many places have dedicated these weeks for שיעורים to strengthen מְצוֹת in the home. Pirchei Agudas Yisroel Newsletter will be dedicating the next eight weeks to strengthening the מְצוֹת. It is noteworthy that R' Moshe Feinstein זצ"ל writes that the חֵיוֹב of שְׁנִים מִקְרָא וְאֶחָד תְּרַגּוּם is equal in importance to all מְצוֹת דְּרַבָּנָן. R' Moshe notes that the need had never been as great as in his times – and surely this applies even more so to our times – to have a deeper understanding of תורה שְׁבִכְתָּב, the written תורה.

The Pirchei Agudas Yisroel Newsletter שְׁנִים program has been designed as follows:

- Boys from 1st & 2nd grade should complete the פְּרָשָׁה until שְׁנִי.
- 3rd grade until שְׁלִישִׁי.
- 4th grade until רְבִיעִי.
- 5th grade until חֲמִישִׁי.
- 6th grade until שְׁשִׁי.
- 7th & 8th grades should complete the entire פְּרָשָׁה.

If you are interested in joining this special שובבי"ם program this year and will איינה review the weekly פְּרָשָׁה according to 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 גְּדוּלוֹת חוֹמְשִׁים.

We are also interested in hearing feedback from elementary schools and / or individuals that are interested in helping to promote this extra-curricular activity in order to train בְּרַ מְצוֹת boys to be fluent in this special מְצוֹת. Please feel free to fax any comments or suggestions to 718 506 9633.

Sage Sayings

When Dayan Yechezkel Abramsky זצ"ל wanted to describe the achievement of R' Aharon Kotler זצ"ל in bringing the concept of תורה לשמה to America, he could think of no higher praise than to compare R' Aharon's impact to that of R' Dessler in England. "וואס ר' דסלר האט — געטאן פאר ענגלאנד, ר' אהרן האט געטאן פאר אמעריקע! What R' Dessler did for England, R' Aharon did for America!"

Source: The Jewish Observer



RAV KREISWIRTH ONCE HAD TO DEAL WITH A SERIOUS MEDICAL ISSUE.

RABBI, WE REPEATED THE SCAN, AND I'M AFRAID THAT THE PROGNOSIS IS REALLY BAD... AT BEST, YOU HAVE ANOTHER-

EXCUSE ME, DOCTOR. I TRULY APPRECIATE ALL YOUR EFFORTS, BUT ONLY G-D CAN BE CERTAIN ABOUT LIFE EXPECTANCY, NOT A DOCTOR OR EVEN A SPECIALIST!

AFTER DISCUSSING IT WITH HIS FAMILY, RAV KREISWIRTH DECIDED TO TRAVEL TO ERETZ YISROEL TO ASK ADVICE FROM R' YAAKOV YISROEL KANIEVSKY, THE STEIPLER GAON.

OY! REFUAH SHELEIMA! Hmm... I'M THINKING... DID YOU EVER NOTICE THE UNUSUAL PLACEMENT OF THE WORDS WE SAY EVERY MORNING BASED ON THE GEMARA SHABBOS 127?

IS THE RAV REFERRING TO "EILLI DEVORIM - THESE ARE THE ITEMS WHOSE FRUIT A PERSON ENJOYS IN THIS WORLD, BUT THE PRINCIPAL REMAINS INTACT FOR HIM IN THE WORLD TO COME"?

CORRECT! THE LIST INCLUDES *BIKUR CHOLIM* - VISITING THE SICK, THEN INTERRUPTS WITH *HACHNASAS KALLAH* - PROVIDING FOR A BRIDE, AND THEN CONTINUES WITH *ULVOYAS HAMEIS* - ESCORTING THE DEAD. THE MITZVAH OF *HACHNASAS KALLAH* ACTS AS A BARRIER BETWEEN THOSE WHO ARE SICK AND THOSE WHO DIE. IT HAS THE POWER TO DISRUPT THE NATURAL PROCESS OF ILLNESS TO DEATH. GET INVOLVED IN THIS MITZVAH, AND MAY THE *ZECHUS* OF THIS GREAT MITZVAH PROTECT YOU WITH A *REFUAH SHELEIMAH!*

RAV KREISWIRTH FELT ENERGIZED BY THE STEIPLER'S ADVICE AND BLESSING, AND IMMEDIATELY DEVOTED A LARGE PORTION OF HIS TIME AND ENERGY TO THE MITZVAH OF *HACHNASAS KALLAH*.

... I'm personally involved with this orphaned bride and I have committed myself to raise all the funds for this girl's wedding.... May you be blessed...

Yishaya Suval

RAV KREISWIRTH PAID A VISIT TO THE SPECIALIST...

...RABBI, THIS IS A TRUE MIRACLE... I OWE YOU AN APOLOGY...

DOCTOR, IT TAKES A GREAT MAN TO SHOW SUCH HUMILITY. LET ME SHARE WITH YOU WHAT TRANSPIRED SINCE MY LAST VISIT...

RAV KREISWIRTH TOLD THE AWE-INSPIRED DOCTOR ABOUT HIS VISIT TO THE STEIPLER GAON AND HIS NEW UNDERTAKING.

RAV KREISWIRTH WAS MENACHEM AVEL A YOUNG WIDOW:

REBBI, HOW AM I GOING TO MARRY OFF MY 10 BEAUTIFUL CHILDREN?

PLEASE DO NOT LET THIS QUESTION EVER GET YOU UPSET... *BLI NEDER* I WILL NOT LET YOU DOWN; I WILL UNDERTAKE TO PAY THE EXPENSES TO MARRY OFF ALL YOUR CHILDREN!

RAV KREISWIRTH LIVED 25 YEARS MORE AND, TRUE TO HIS WORD, HE PAID FOR THE WEDDING EXPENSES OF THESE 10 CHILDREN AND COUNTLESS MORE!

ר' צ'אם קרעסוויטש זצ"ל WAS BORN IN WOJNICZ, POLAND, TO פ'רלע און אַברעם יוסף. AT THE AGE OF 15 HE WAS KNOWN AS "THE CRACOW ILU" IN ישיבת חכמי לובלין. HE GAVE שיעורים IN THE הישיבה IN PIASECZNO ON התלמידים AT AGE 18. HIS זבחים ON ספר RECEIVED FROM ה' חיים עוזר זצ"ל AND מרחשת (THE כתבים WERE LOST DURING WWII). IN 1939, HE FLED TO LITHUANIA, WHERE HE MARRIED שרה, R' AVROHOM BRODZINSKI'S DAUGHTER, ESCAPING WITH HER TO ארץ ישראל. AT THE END OF WWII, HE RETURNED TO POLAND TO RESCUE JEWISH CHILDREN SHELTERED BY GENTILES DURING THE WAR. IN 1947, HE MOVED TO THE U.S. AND SERVED AS ראש ישיבה IN SKOKIE, ILL. HE WAS FAMOUS FOR HIS WORD-FOR-WORD KNOWLEDGE OF בבלי וירושלמי, IN תוספות, רש"י, AND פטירה. IN 1953, HE MOVED TO ANTWERP, SERVING AS אב בית דין / מרא דאתרא UNTIL HIS פטירה.

