

... מאת כל איש אשר ידבנו לבו ... (שמות כה: ב)

... From every man whose heart motivates him ...

The נשיאים thought that they would fill any shortfall in the collections for the building of the מִשְׁכָּן, but they had totally **underestimated** the generosity and kindheartedness of some of the **ordinary people**.

One evening in 1975, the staff of Camp Kol Rina met to explore some innovations in their summer program. A staff member had been a מְדַרְיָד in the אגודה boys' camp in England. "We have a special day every summer called קדוש השם Day," he said. "Every bunk tries to make a קדוש השם — each boy on his own level." The staff liked the idea, and they implemented it.

That summer, R' Hillel David שליט"א gave שְׁעוּרִים to staff members. R' Lipa Geldwerth שליט"א was one of the רבנים. Upon hearing the idea of קדוש השם Day, R' David said to R' Geldwerth, "There is a shul here that I often drive by. It's always locked with rusty chains and looks as if it hasn't been used in years. I think it would be a beautiful thing if there could be a מִנְיָן in that shul one more time. Perhaps we could clean it up, or even make some repairs, and daven there. It would be a קדוש השם." R' Geldwerth agreed that it was a fine idea and enlisted the oldest bunk to carry it out.

R' Geldwerth located the man who had the shul's keys. On the appointed morning, R' David, R' Geldwerth, the boys of the oldest bunk, and a few older men from the area all came to the shul. One man wore a homemade cardboard yarmulke, another was wearing only his יד שַׁל יָד, while a third sat bewildered staring blankly at an old סדור.

However, Izzy Brooks, who had his own סדור, wore his טלית and תפילין as though he put them on daily and was totally familiar with the davening. R' Geldwerth asked him to serve as בעל תפילה. Izzy readily accepted. After שְׁהֲרִית, R' Geldwerth approached Izzy, complimenting him on his davening. Izzy told him that he had not missed a Monday or Thursday מִנְיָן, when they read from the תורה, since the First World War!

"But isn't the shul closed?" asked R' Geldwerth.

"Ever since our shul closed," Izzy said, "I drive twice a week to the shul in Liberty in my truck."

"But this shul seems so clean ... " said R' Geldwerth. "And what about the Ezras Torah calendar on the back wall? I see it's turned to the right page for this month. Who does that? What is the story of this shul?"

Izzy sighed. "In 1907 my father came with our family from the town of Suvalk (Lithuania) to America. In those days, there were more than 30 farms owned by Jews in the area and there was a מִנְיָן three times a day, as everyone took turns davening on different farms on a rotating basis. After a while, my father said that it's not right that we don't have a regular shul to daven in. He was a carpenter, so one day, he and I began building this shul. We finished in 1912.

"We had a מִנְיָן here every single day, throughout WWI, the Depression, until WWII. During the war, many of the young boys were drafted into the army and it got harder to have a מִנְיָן. Afterwards, many boys didn't make it back, and some who did were no longer religious and didn't care to come to shul. So we struggled with the daily מִנְיָן. Then we could have a מִנְיָן only on שַׁבָּת. The last time we had a מִנְיָן on Shabbos was in 1955. Since then, the shul is open only twice a year — on יום כפור, and on פורים — for the party." Izzy was embarrassed to reveal that the shul he loved was not even open on ראש השנה.

"But the shul is so clean! ... And what about the calendar?"

Izzy felt self-conscious. "You see," he began slowly, "I am the only one with the keys. Every ערב ראש חודש I come here and wipe off all the dust from the tables, chairs and ארון קודש. Then, before I leave, I turn the page on the calendar to the right month. I do it because this is the place where G-d lives. You see, the שַׁל עוֹלָם still has His soldiers."

Izzy Brooks lacked ישיבה training. Yet, his dignified care and concern for the shul's dwelling place in this world is a lesson for us all.

Adapted from: *Reflections of the Maggid* (with kind permission from ArtScroll)

Focus on Middos

Dear Talmid,

R' Shammai Zahn, נצ"ל, was a נאון not just in his learning but in his מְסִירַת נֶפֶשׁ for his תְּלִמְיָדִים. Beginning in 1951, he would to journey to Morocco in order to bring תְּלִמְיָדִים to the yeshiva. He dedicated himself to these תְּלִמְיָדִים and arranged their פְּסַח סְדָרִים, summer camps, wardrobes and even their weekly pocket money.

R' Zahn was once collecting for the ישיבה in a nearby town, West-Hartlepool, England. He finished his door-to-door collection late at night. He had no car, the last train returning to Sunderland had left earlier in the day and all the hotels were closed for the night.

He somehow found his way to the local police station and explained his predicament to the desk sergeant. He then requested permission to sleep in one of the cells. Respectful of the smiling Rabbi, the British policeman allowed R' Zahn to spend the night in a prison cell.

On another occasion, R' Zahn was returning from collecting for the ישיבה in Scandinavia. The seas were rough, and due to heavy storms, the return trip was very slow and rocky. His boat finally arrived on Friday not long after שַׁבָּת had begun. He remained standing on the deck of the boat, unable to remove his luggage. A local priest passed by and asked why he did not disembark. R' Zahn then explained the הַלְכוּת of שַׁבָּת that were pertinent regarding מְלָאכָה הוֹצָאָה, תְּחוּמֵי שַׁבָּת, מְקַצָּה and said that

he would stay on the boat unless a gentile could assist him. The priest got the message. Together they walked through the streets with the priest leading the way. He carried the רַב's luggage, תְּפִלְתֵּי and טְלִית and checked him in at a local hotel.

My תְּלִמִּיד, R' Zahn's beautiful heart and pure מְסִירַת נֶפֶשׁ was able to create a קְדוּשָׁה די and win over the heart of anyone he met. He lived the תוֹרָה he learned and his מְדוּת טוֹבוֹת were his hallmark. Is it any wonder that he was זֶכֶה to produce some of the greatest and most famous מְרַבְּצֵי תוֹרָה from England?

הֲיֵי זְכָרוֹ בְּרוּךְ!

בְּיָדֶיךָ,

Your רבני

A letter from a Rebbi based on interviews

Halacha Corner

הַלְכוּת עִנְיֵי דְיוֹמָא:
הַלְכוּת שְׁנֵים מִקְרָא
אַחַד תְּרַגְּמוּ

- The תְּרַגּוּם is read to understand the meaning of the תוֹרָה. Therefore, it is important to understand difficult words when being סְדָרָה מְקַצָּה.

- The שְׁלִיָּה explains that the main purpose of מְקַרָּא וְאַחַד is to count and learn about any of the מְצוּת within the סְדָרָה. Even a סְדָרָה without any מְצוּת must be read as it is still part of this מְצוּה and is considered a חֵלֶק of the counting.

*Since we only discuss 1-3 הלכות, it is important to consider these הלכות in the context of the bigger picture. Use them as a starting point for further in-depth study.

2nd Annual Pirchei ת"ת שובי"ם Contest



7th week of ת"ת שובי"ם — שובי"ם of ת"ת contest

Is your school or city represented in the Pirchei international שובי"ם of ת"ת contest? Whether you are from North Miami Beach (FL), Chicago (IL), South Bend (IN), Karmiel (Israel), Baltimore (MD), Clifton - Edison - Lakewood - Passaic (NJ), Brooklyn - Far Rockaway - Inwood - Kew Gardens - Monsey - Staten Island (NY), Cincinnati - Cleveland - Wickliffe (OH), Gateshead - Manchester (UK), or elsewhere, you can still join the amazing קדוש ד' of the hundreds of תלמידי who have participated.

To participate, boys in 1st and 2nd grade (6+) should complete the פְּרָשָׁה until שְׁנֵי 3rd grade (8+) until שְׁלִישִׁי 4th grade (9+) until רְבִיעִי 5th grade (10+) until חֲמִישִׁי 6th grade (11+) until שְׁשִׁי 7th and 8th grades (12+) complete the entire פְּרָשָׁה. Please send a weekly fax to 718 506 9633 – include your grade, name, school, city, state, contact and fax #.

Grade 1 — Nesanel Yehuda Keller, Chaim Oksenberg, Yitzi Stender, Yeshiva Chaim Berlin; Shmuel Haas, Yeshiva Torah Vodaath; **Brooklyn, NY**; Betzalel Royhanian, Yeshiva Spring Valley, **Monsey, NY**; Aron Tzvi Papoff, Yeshiva Tiferes Tzvi, **Chicago, IL**; Chaim Feifer, Yeshiva Derech Hatorah, **Wickliffe, OH**; Yossi Scherer, Cincinnati Hebrew Day School, **Cincinnati, OH**; Shua Kahn, Yeshiva M'kor Boruch, **Passaic, NJ**; Aryeh Silver, South Bend Hebrew Day School, **South Bend, IN**.

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A CERTAIN NEWLY APPOINTED ROSH YESHIVA ONCE CAME TO THE BAIS YISROEL'S TISCH ON FRIDAY NIGHT. HE WAS HONORED BY HAVING HIS NAME CALLED OUT, AND SEEMED APPRECIATIVE. AFTERWARDS, THE REBBE, R' YISROEL ALTER; HIS GABBAI (ATTENDANT AND ASSISTANT), R' BINKE, AND HIS SHALIACH (WHO WAS SENT ON MISSIONS FOR THE REBBE), R' KLEINLEHRER, WENT HOME.



REB LEIZER MOISHE WAS RECENTLY APPOINTED ROSH YESHIVA. WHEN YOU ANNOUNCED HIS NAME, YOU SAID, 'LEIZER MOISHE,' LIKE EVERYONE ELSE! TRUE, THAT'S THE CUSTOM AMONG CHASSIDIM, BUT HE MIGHT HAVE FELT BAD. WE NEED TO FIX IT...



GO TO HIS HOUSE AND TELL HIM THAT YOU HEARD ME EXPRESS MY DISTRESS TO THE GABBAI OVER THE FACT THAT HE HADN'T ANNOUNCED HIS NAME WITH PROPER RESPECT. TELL HIM THAT I APOLOGIZE!



REBBE, IT IS QUITE LATE... PERHAPS THE ROSH YESHIVA HAS ALREADY GONE TO BED?

NO, I'M SURE HE HASN'T GONE TO SLEEP YET. GO, AND THEN REPORT BACK TO ME.

R' KLEINLEHRER FOLLOWED THE REBBE'S INSTRUCTIONS AND KNOCKED ON THE ROSH YESHIVA'S FRONT DOOR.

OY! IS EVERYTHING ALL RIGHT? HOW CAN I ASSIST THE REBBE'S SHALIACH?

THE REBBE SENT ME TO CLARIFY THAT THE GABBAI'S CALLING OUT NAMES WITHOUT TITLES IS A GERRER MINHAG. THE REBBE REALIZED THAT THIS MAY SEEM OFFENSIVE TO A ROSH YESHIVA, AND APOLOGIZES.

OH, THANK YOU! I AM SO PLEASED AND IMPRESSED WITH THE REBBE'S SENSITIVITY.



R' KLEINLEHRER CAME BACK TO THE REBBE AND FOUND HIM WITH A BROAD SMILE ON HIS FACE.

NU, WAS HE SLEEPING ALREADY?

REBBE WAS RIGHT. HE WAS AWAKE AND WAS VERY PLEASED TO HEAR THE REBBE'S EXPLANATION.



SHOIN, NOW HE'S SLEEPING WELL! OY, HOW EASY THIS WAS TO RECTIFY!... IT IS FORBIDDEN TO HURT PEOPLE'S FEELINGS.

R' ABRAHAM MARDKI (AMRI AMET) וְחִיהָ רִאֲדַע יְהוּדִית ר"י, THIRD SON OF R' YISRAEL ALTER Z"l, WAS BORN IN GORA KALWARIA, POLAND. UNTIL THE AGE OF TEN, HE LEARNED UNDER HIS GRANDFATHER, R' YEHOUDA ARI'EH LIEB Z"l (שְׁפַת אֱמֶת), AND WAS ALREADY RECOGNIZED AS AN ELOVI. AT HIS AGE, HE BECAME ENGAGED TO HIS COUSIN, CHIEF SARA. THEY MARRIED IN 1910. IN 1940, THE AMRI ESCAPED TO ISRAEL ALONG WITH HIS SONS, R' YISRAEL, (בֵּית יִשְׂרָאֵל) R' BINKE, (כַּנְי מִנְחָם) R' PINCHAS MENCHAS AND (לֵב שְׂמֵחָ) R' SHMUEL BUNIM. HIS WIFE AND CHILDREN PERISHED WHILE TRYING TO ESCAPE. HE REMARRIED IN 1948 TO WEINFELD. AFTER HIS FATHER'S PASSING, HE ASSUMED THE MANTLE OF LEADERSHIP. FOR THE NEXT 29 YEARS, WITH HIS UNUSUAL CARING, BRILLIANCE AND PASSION, HE WAS ABLE TO REBUILD GERRER AND WAS A MAJOR FORCE IN THE GREAT REBIRTH OF ISRAEL.



For any inquiries or comments please feel free to call 347-838-0869 • Illustrated by: Yishaya Suval www.leilshishi.com

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