

PIRCHEI Weekly

Agudas Yisroel of America

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פרשה: אחרי-קדושים הפטרה: הלא כבני כשיים אתם ל... (עמוס טז:טו)

דף יומי: בבא בתרא ק"ד **אבות פרק ג' 25 ימים לעומר**

מצות עשה: 38+26 **מצות לא תעשה:** 13+2



Torah Thoughts

... הוכח תוכיח את עמיתך ולא תשא עליו חטא (ניקרא יט:ז).

... you shall surely rebuke your fellow man, and **you shall not bear a sin over him.**

רש"י explains the words **and you shall not bear a sin over him**, as follows: If, through your admonishment, you embarrass the person, then you have committed a sin. This is a very important guideline for the מצוה of giving rebuke. It must be done sensitively and discreetly.

ר' גדלי' שארן זצ"ל offers a further interpretation of the words **and you shall not bear a sin over him**, do not raise up the sin over him. Don't reprove by saying, "How could you do such a terrible thing?" You are raising up the חטא above him, dwarfing him for what he did. This is offensive and ineffective. It is better to say, "How could a person such as you do such a thing?" Raise him up over the חטא; show him that such an act is beneath him. If done properly, the rebuke will have a lasting effect.

A רב who was speaking to a group of people in Florida about the power of a proper reprimand related:

"In the early 1900s, there were many pressures on בחורים. Some בחורים were leaving their faith and seeking 'greener' pastures. One בחור in the חפץ חיים was caught smoking on שבת. The חפץ חיים was informed about it, and he summoned the בחור to his room. The בחור stayed in the חפץ חיים's room for about two minutes.

Afterwards, he walked out quietly, and from then on kept שבת scrupulously.

"Imagine what the חפץ חיים's rebuke was like! If only we could have heard what went on in that room! We do not know what he said, but we know how effective it was."

Afterwards, one of the old men there, with a tear-stained face, approached the רב.

"Rabbi, I can tell you what the חפץ חיים said to that boy," he declared. "You see, I was that boy." The רב was stunned.

The man went on, "When I was called to the חפץ חיים's room, I was terrified. What could I say to the great צדיק? How could I justify smoking on שבת? I entered his room and, with a grimace of pain, the חפץ חיים approached me and took my hand in his.

"שבת," he said softly, and he began to weep. After a minute, he looked up at me and said it again: 'שבת.' His hot tears dripped onto my hand, and the sound of his weeping penetrated my heart. That's all it took – two minutes of the חפץ חיים's pain."

The חפץ חיים did not berate, belittle or put down this בחור. He simply impressed on the בחור how much he was pained by his desecration of שבת.

Those hot tears were the most effective rebuke.

Adapted from: **Rabbi Frand on the Parashah** (with kind permission from ArtScroll)



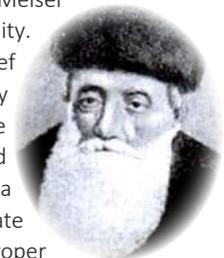
Yahrzeits of our Gedolim

י"ד אייר
5581 — 5672
1821 — 1912

אב בית דין, זצ"ל Meisels of Lodz, was born in the town of Hordock, Lithuania. Recognized as a young עלוי, he received the title מוֹרֵנו and was authorized to teach and render decisions on halachic issues at the tender age of 12. At the age of 19, he became the רב of his hometown. In 1843, he moved on to become רב in Darczin for 8 years, before spending 6 years in Prozzanyi as the רב. He then became the רב of Lomza, where he dedicated himself to raising funds to ransom as many Jewish boys as possible from the army. R' Elya Chaim remained in Lomza for 12 years before becoming the Chief Rabbi of Lodz. He is remembered for his humility and total dedication to the welfare of the Jewish people.

Gedolim Glimpses

The genius of צדקות of R' Elya Chaim Meisel זצ"ל were surpassed only by his humility. When he accepted the position as Chief Rabbi of Lodz, he arrived there one day later than originally scheduled. The community leaders explained apologetically that they had prepared a large crowd for his anticipated arrival date a day earlier to greet him and pay the proper respect. The רב smiled and said, "I am not accustomed to accepting payment in advance!"



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This week's Pirchei Weekly is sponsored

לע"נ מרת דבורה בת הרב שמשון זעליג ע"ה



Focus on Middos

Dear Talmid,

R' Elya Chaim Meisels זצ"ל, Chief Rabbi of Lodz, Poland, was not only renowned for his concern for the poor and downtrodden, but was also legendary for his insightful חכמה and intellect.

It once happened that he heard complaints that the milkmen watered down the milk. He summoned them to his home. Once they were seated, he addressed them as follows:

"רבותי, a very serious problem of כשרות has come to my attention. It concerns a mixing of meat and milk. It may result in terrible losses, for if it proves correct, I shall have to prohibit all the כלים in town from being used. Now, I thought of a solution, but I need you to be honest. If I can be sure that the milk sold here is not absolutely pure, then I may be able to pasken otherwise. That is why I have called you here."

The milkmen readily confirmed that their milk was diluted.

"And none of you sell pure milk? Undiluted milk?"

asked the רב innocently.

"None of us," they all cried in unison.

R' Elya Chaim Meisels rose to his full height and, looking down upon the seated tradesmen, said sternly:

"Very well. Let me warn all of you: Adding water is stealing! From now on you are to stop diluting your milk. Should any of you continue the practice, I shall declare your milk unfit to drink..."

R' Meisels wisely understood that one who acts improperly often overlooks the עברה in his actions. The milkmen diluted the milk, blinded to the fact that this was theft. It was insignificant in their eyes, and they would readily admit this to the רב to solve his "dilemma."

My תלמיד, when discussing a wrongdoing with a sibling or friend, keep in mind the wisdom of R' Elya Chaim, and understand that others don't necessarily see their actions in the same way that you do.

יהי זכרו ברוך!

רבני Your בדידות,

Story adapted from Men of Distinction

Sage Sayings



One winter, R' Elya Chaim Meisels זצ"ל was collecting money for firewood for the poor. At one גביר's home, he spoke to the בעל הבית at the open door. When asked by the shivering man why he didn't come in, the רב told him, "The house is warm." R' Meisels was sending this גביר the message: "א זאטער קען דעם הונגעריקן נישט פארשטיין" — One who is satiated cannot understand a hungry man!"

Source: Men of Distinction

There's a new pirchei hotline! Call now - 718-663-0212

Understanding Davening



הרחמן הוא יחזיר לנו עבודת בית המקדש... למנצח בנגינת מזמור... אגא בכח גדלת ימינך... רבונו של עולם...

There are different מנהגים regarding what is said after the actual counting of ספירת הרחמן. There are those who say only הרחמן. There are those who say only תפלה to קרן העומר that we be זוכה to bring the שתי הלחם next year, and hopefully bring the למנצח בנגינת קאפיטל... is based on the fact that this תפלה has 49 words, representing the 49 days of ספירה. The ערוך השלחן writes that the תפלה של עולם... is a mystical תפלה whose words contain great depth. He continues, "Even though this תחנה really should not be publicized, nowadays it is said with great fervor and התפעלות הנפש!"

Learning ערב שבת Contest



to Shmuel Avigdor Zabrowsky, Grade 2, Bais HaTorah, Lakewood, NJ, and to everyone who joined the 3rd International חג הלכות program! Besides the grand prize, we also must give special mention to Binyomin Schwartz, Grade 4, Kesser Torah, Sydney, Australia, Yisroel Zev Zabrowsky, Grade 1, Bais HaTorah, Lakewood, NJ and Yaakov Nisenfeld, Grade 5, Politz Hebrew Academy, Philadelphia, PA, who completed the learning every day!

The next Pirchei Newsletter contest is designed to make your ערב שבת fulfilling and memorable. The contest: During the weeks leading up to שבת פרשת שלח and until קבלת התורה, learn at least 45 minutes before מנחה every שבת, in either your נשיקה or local מדרש בית. If you learn for an hour or more you will get an additional entry into the raffle.

The contest's basic rules: There is no particular שנים לקרא to learn and you can even review נאחד תרגום. If you arrange for a group, and you have a קדושת to learn about שבת or קדושת, you will receive an extra entry in the raffle. This contest is open for all ages up to 12th grade. If you are interested in joining this program, please send in your signed faxes by Monday 2:00 pm to 718 506 9633. Please include your name, grade, נשיקה, city and state, your contact and fax #'s and your name will be entered into a drawing for a beautiful set of גדולות חומשים!

לעניני משה צבי בן הרי טוביה הלוי זצ"ל



LEARNING FROM OUR LEADERS

בסי"ד
PIRCHEI AGUDAS YISROEL OF AMERICA

IT WAS A COLD WINTER NIGHT...

THIS IS RABBI FELDMAN. I SINCERELY APOLOGIZE FOR DISTURBING YOU SO LATE AT NIGHT, BUT THIS IS AN EMERGENCY. THE HEAT JUST STOPPED WORKING A FEW MINUTES AGO, AND IT'S ALREADY GETTING VERY COLD.

RABBI, I'LL BE OVER WITHIN THE HOUR.

THE PLUMBER ARRIVED, AND THE HOUSE WAS ALREADY FREEZING.

SO, WHERE'S THE BOILER?

IT'S IN THE BASEMENT. LET ME TAKE YOU DOWNSTAIRS...

I WONDER WHY THE PLUMBER'S VAN IS PARKED OUTSIDE THE MASHEIACH'S HOUSE SO LATE.

ALL THE LIGHTS ARE ON IN THE HOUSE. LET'S CHECK IF EVERYTHING IS OK!

THE FRONT DOOR WAS UNLOCKED, AND THEY WERE EVEN MORE SHOCKED WHEN THEY FOUND THEIR REBBI RESTING ON THE FLOOR OF THE LIVING ROOM.

REBBI, WHAT'S GOING ON? AND WHY IS REBBI LYING ON THE FLOOR?

IT'S FREEZING IN HERE. IS EVERYTHING OK?

EVERYTHING IS FINE... I WOKE UP THE PLUMBER IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT TO REPAIR MY HEAT. HE HAD TO GET OUT OF BED AND IS NOW IN THE BASEMENT WORKING TO FIX THE SYSTEM...

...IT'S JUST NOT RIGHT THAT I SHOULD SLEEP COMFORTABLY IN BED WHILE HE IS WORKING ON THE BASEMENT FLOOR...

R' HIRSH זצ"ל WAS BORN IN PINSK TO R' AVROHOM SHMUEL AND CHASHA FELDMAN. HE LEARNED IN BARANOVITCH UNDER R' ELCHONON WASSERMAN ה"י"ד, AND ALSO DEVELOPED A CLOSE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE משיג"ה, R' YISROEL YA'AKOV LUBCHANSKY ה"י"ד. IN 1930, HE WENT TO THE MIR AND STAYED FOR 8 YEARS. HE BECAME A תלמיד מובהק OF R' YERUCHEM LEVOVITZ זצ"ל. HE THEN TRAVELED TO KELM TO ABSORB THEIR דרך IN מוסר. DURING WWII, HE WAS ARRESTED AND SENT TO SIBERIA. IN 1945 HE MARRIED MIRIAM LIEBERMAN. AFTER THE WAR HE WAS A MENAHEL IN A YESHIVA KETANAH IN VERSAILLES, FRANCE. IN 1950, HE MOVED TO AMERICA AND WAS APPOINTED BY R' AVROHOM KALMANOWITZ AS משיג"ה OF MIR. HE DELIVERED VA'ADIM IN חכמה ומוסר FROM THE ALTER OF KELM AND NEVER MISSED OR REPEATED A שיעור FOR CLOSE TO 30 YEARS. HE WAS A SURROGATE 'FATHER' TO HIS TALMIDIM AND SERVED AS A BRIDGE TO THE KELMER מוסר OF EUROPE.

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



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