

PIRCHEI Weekly

Agudas Yisroel of America

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כרשה: שמות הכפרה: הבאים ישרש יעקב... (ישעיהו כז:כח-כט; כט:כב-כג)

משיב הרוח ומוריד הגשם ותן טל ומטר לברכה ברכי נפשי (שבת מנחה)

דף יומי: נדרים פ"א



TorahThoughts

ואלה שמות בני ישראל (שמות א':א)

And these are the names of בני ישראל...

Most people think that they must do something unusual or remarkable in order to be considered an individual who was מקדש שם. This is incorrect. There are some special צדיקים who create a שם by just having their name mentioned. R' Noach Katz, the grandfather of the author of טוב מלבנושי יום טוב was such an individual.

Shortly before his passing, נח earned himself the nickname "ר' נח-הן." He casually mentioned to someone that when he would be asked in שמים if he had studied תורה, he would reply, "הן — yes," for he had completed ש"ס 55 times, the גימטריקה of הן (ה=5 and ו=50). He was still referred to as ר' נח-הן long after his פטירה.

ר' נח-הן had a great זכות: Whenever anyone heard this unusual name and asked why he was called that, the person would be told the story and that ר' נח had completed ש"ס 55 times. The questioner would be inspired and would redouble his own efforts in the תורה study.

On the words "ואלה שמות בני ישראל" — *And these are the names of the Children of Israel*, רש"י comments, "Although He counted them by their names in their lifetime, He counted them again after their death to make known how precious they are to Him." רש"י then quotes לבינושי's comparison of בני ישראל to the stars.

Regarding the parallel between בני ישראל and the stars, R' Mordechai Gifter זצ"ל explains in פרכי תורה: The stars are always

present, whether by night, when they are seen by everyone, or by day, when the sun's light renders them invisible to us. Similarly, בני ישראל, particularly the צדיקים, exist eternally, even after their deaths, when their "light" is no longer visible, but shines brightly in שמים. In the זכות of the influence that צדיקים have on their תלמידים and followers during their lifetimes, as well as after their deaths, they continue to reach greater heights, and that is their eternal existence in the עולם האמת.

The תורה tells us about people whose names allude to their evil ways — נמרוד and אדום, for instance. Their names are always associated with the ways of the wicked. Fortunate are those צדיקים — such as יוסף הצדיק and ר' נח-הן — whose names inspire others to emulate them and follow in the path of ד.

It is not only those who are famous who can reach this level. Even an ordinary Jew has the power to influence others positively simply by the mention of his name. For instance, a person can be so careful in using his time that when people mention his name they automatically mention that he is a מתמיד; or a person can be so careful in his dealings with others that anyone who mentions his name adds, "What a בעל מדות טובות he is!" Even a ישיבה בחור or young child who is outstanding in some way can cause people to associate those qualities with his name whenever it is mentioned. He also belongs in the category of those whose very names are a קדוש השם.

Adapted from: עלינו לשבח (with kind permission from ArtScroll)



Yahrzeits of our Gedolim

כ"ד טבת 5652 – 5713 ר' דסלר זצ"ל was born in Libau, Latvia, to ר' ראובן דוב זצ"ל, a תלמיד מובהק, ר' ראובן דוב זצ"ל, ר' חיים עוזר זצ"ל and a niece of ר' ישראל סלנטר זצ"ל. After learning in קעלם, he married בלומה, a granddaughter of ר' ישראל זיסל. During the Bolshevik revolution, in 1927, he moved to London. In 1941, he founded the Gateshead, R' Yehoshua Yeshiva in 1948. Many of his shmuesen and thoughts are collected in *מכתב מאלנהו* (six volumes). A compilation of some of R' Dessler's חדושים were printed in על הש"ס.

לעיני הבי ישעיהו דוב ע"ה בן יבלחטי"א יצחק צבי נ"י

Gedolim Glimpses

ר' דסלר זצ"ל would give his תלמידים a feeling for the eternity of עולם הזה: Imagine that you are at the largest beach in the world. ד' 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 עולם הזה. With this thought, one should weigh a fleeting pleasure against the reward for eternity.



לעיני ר' ישראל בן אברהם ז"ל

פרשת שמות

לעיני אמינו מרת ליבא ע"ה בת ר' דוד זאב הי"ד (נפטרה כ"א טבת ה' תשע"ג)

ספר שמות

לעיולי נשמת חנצה בת ר' מרדכי ע"ה

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Focus on Middos

Dear תלמיד,

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 נסים, his wife and child 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 a כולל to learn full time in Gateshead. R' Dovid had sent the same letter to 21 other רבנים. Eighteen רבנים did not to respond to R' Dovid's suggestion. Another three 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 הִרְבֵּה 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? 18 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

Story adapted from: An essay by Y. Rosenblum נ"י

The 9th International Pirchei שובי"ם Contest

Starting This Week

Do you remember of the past years' שובי"ם contests that had the participation of over 400 boys from the US, Canada and UK?

Next week's פְּרָשָׁה – the first פְּרָשָׁה of שובי"ם. Have you ever heard of this term? This is an acrostic of the פְּרָשָׁה of שְׁמוֹת פְּרָשָׁה, מְשֻׁפְּטִים, יִתְרוֹ, בְּשֵׁלַח, בָּא, וְאָרָא, אַרְיִזָּל. According to the אַרְיִזָּל, these פְּרָשָׁה are especially opportune for תְּשׁוּבָה and for strengthening our resolve to do מְצוֹת. This auspicious time is mentioned in the בְּאֵר הַיֵּטֵב אִי"ח תרפ"ה סִימָן ב'.

Many places worldwide dedicate these weeks for שיעורים to strengthen מְצוֹת in the home. Pirchei Agudas Yisroel Weekly will once again dedicate the next 6 weeks to strengthening the מְצוֹת of מְקָרָא וְאֶחָד. שְׁנֵים מְקָרָא וְאֶחָד. תְּרֹגוּם. R' Moshe Feinstein זצ"ל writes that the שְׁנֵים מְקָרָא וְאֶחָד תְּרֹגוּם of חַיִּים is equal in importance to all מְצוֹת דְּרַבְּנָן, and that the need had never been as great as in his times – and surely this applies even more so to our own times – to have a deeper understanding of תּוֹרָה שֶׁבְּכַתָּב, the *written תּוֹרָה*.

The Pirchei Agudas Yisroel Weekly שְׁנֵים מְקָרָא וְאֶחָד תְּרֹגוּם program has been designed as follows:

Boys from 1st and 2nd grade should complete the פְּרָשָׁה until שְׁנֵים.

3rd grade should complete until שְׁלִישִׁי.

4th grade should complete until רְבִיעִי.

5th grade should complete until חֲמִישִׁי.

6th grade should complete until שְׁשִׁי.

7th and 8th grades should complete the entire פְּרָשָׁה.

If you are interested in joining this special שובי"ם program this year and will 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 # and fax #. Due to the numerous requests, we will once again accept email submissions from parents or rebbeim of participants (please include same details as faxes) at shnayimmikracontest@gmail.com. We kindly request rebbeim to send a single fax/email per class/yeshiva with a typed list of names to facilitate accuracy. All names submitted will be entered into a raffle to win a beautiful set of גְּדוּלוֹת חוֹמְשִׁים.

We would also like to receive feedback from elementary schools or individuals that are interested in promoting this extra-curricular activity in order to train בְּרַי מְצוֹת boys to be fluent in this special מְצוֹת. Please fax/email any comments and/or suggestions to same fax/email.

Sage Sayings

When Dayan Yechezkel Abramsky זצ"ל wanted to describe the achievement of R' Aharon Kotler זצ"ל in bringing the concept of תּוֹרָה לְשִׁמָּה to America, he could think of no higher praise than to compare R' Aharon's impact to that of R' Dessler in England. "וואָס ר' דָּסְלָר האָט — געטאָן פֿאַר ענגלאַנד, ר' אַהֲרֹן האָט געטאָן פֿאַר אַמעריקע! — What R' Dessler did for England, R' Aharon did for America!"

Source: *The Jewish Observer*

AS A YOUNG REFUGEE ESCAPING FROM POLAND, RAV PINCHAS HIRSCHPRUNG WAS ONCE ON A TRAIN WHEN ANOTHER BOCHUR ENTERED HIS COMPARTMENT.

BOCHUR'L, WHO ARE YOU FAKING FOR? MAKE ROOM FOR A REAL YESHIVA BOCHUR...

BOCHUR'L, YOUR SUIT NEEDS MORE PATCHES...

THE BOCHUR INSISTED ON MOCKING HIM AND MADE THE TRIP VERY UNPLEASANT. WHEN THE TRAIN ARRIVED AT THEIR DESTINATION, RAV HIRSCHPRUNG WENT TO THE HOME OF THE LOCAL RAV.

THAT WAS AN AMAZING SHITCKEL TORAH YOU SAID... WHAT'S YOUR NAME?

HIRSCHPRUNG.

NO! NO! YOU ARE HARAV HIRSCHPRUNG!

THE RAV SUMMONED THE WEALTHIEST MAN IN TOWN...

HARAV HIRSCHPRUNG'S TORAH IS LIKE THAT OF A GADOL ADVANCED IN YEARS. YOUR HOME WILL BE BLESSED WITH SUCH A GUEST...

I WILL BE HONORED TO HOST HIM AND THANK THE RAV FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

AS THIS WAS HAPPENING, THE BOCHUR WHO HAD TRIED MOCKING RAV HIRSCHPRUNG ENTERED THE RAV'S HOME.

PLEASE COME INSIDE... HOW CAN I ASSIST YOU?

ER, ER...

I ASK THAT AS A PERSONAL FAVOR YOU KINDLY HELP HIM AS WELL. HE TRAVELED TOGETHER WITH ME.

MANY YEARS LATER, SOMEONE ASKED RAV HIRSCHPRUNG, "HOW DO YOU HANDLE PEOPLE WHO BOTHER YOU?" HE RESPONDED...

THE RAMBAM WRITES IN A LETTER TO HIS SON:

I have heard that people have criticized me, and you defended me... What they say about me doesn't bother me, so it shouldn't bother you. Furthermore, it gives them pleasure to do so, and it's a case of zeh neheneh - this one has benefit, v'zeh lo chascir - and the other suffers no loss!

MY SON, I HAVE LIVED MY ENTIRE LIFE THAT WAY!

R' PINCHAS HIRSCHPRUNG זצ"ל, BORN TO חיים ר' AND LEAH (N&E ZEHMIN) HIRSCHPRUNG (DUKLA, POLAND), WAS A תלמיד OF HIS MATERNAL GRANDFATHER, R' DOVID TEVLI בעל מנחת סולת) אהל תורה AND LEAH, THE MONTHLY JOURNAL OF ישראל HE JOINED בעל פה - גמרא דפים OF 1930, WHERE HIS רבי ר' MEIR SHAPIRO זצ"ל ATTESTED THAT פנחס HE BEGAN TEACHING AT חכמי לובלין AFTER RECEIVING HIS סמיכה IN 1932, AND BECAME ITS HEAD OF ADMISSIONS UPON R' MEIR SHAPIRO'S פטירה THE FOLLOWING OCTOBER. DURING WWII, HE FLED TO VILNA AND THEN, IN 1942, SECURED A CANADIAN VISA. THERE, HE ACCEPTED THE POSITION OF רב דקהלת עזת ישורון IN MONTREAL. WHEN התורה מרכז נשיבת מרכז התורה OPENED, HE SERVED AS ראש נשיבה. IN 1953, HIRSCHPRUNG RE-ESTABLISHED MONTREAL'S BAIS YAAKOV SCHOOL FOR GIRLS, WHICH WAS RENAMED הירשפרונג בית יעקב IN HIS HONOR AFTER HIS פטירה. HE WAS NAMED נשיבה ראש OF תומכי תמימים ראש IN 1965, AND IN 1969 SUCCEEDED הושע הירשהורן AS CHIEF RABBI, OF MONTREAL. HIS גאונים WAS MATCHED ONLY BY HIS מצד AND צדקות.

