



PIRCHEI Weekly

Agudas Yisroel of America

January 1, 2022 - כ"ח טבת, תשמ"ב - Vol: 9 Issue: 13

פרשה: וארא הפטרה: ...בקבצי את בית ישראל.. (יחזקאל כה:כה-כט:כא)

מברכים ר"ח שבט [יום שני] (מולד יום שני: חלקים 15 + 02:23)

דף יומי: מגילה כ' ותן טל ומטר לברכה משיב הרוח ומוריד הגשם ברכי נפשי (שבת מנחה)



Torah Thoughts



אני אקשה את לב פרעה ... ולא ישמע אלכם ... והוצאתי את צבאתי את עמי
 בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל מֵאֶרֶץ מִצְרַיִם ... (שמות ז' ג,ד')

*And I shall harden פרעה's heart ... And he will not listen to you
 ... And I shall take out My legions, My people בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל from the land of Egypt...*

Why was it necessary to harden פרעה's heart? What would have been different if פרעה would have allowed the Jews to leave? R' Chaim Friedlander זצ"ל explains: Had פרעה heeded מֹשֶׁה's demand to release בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל from Egypt, we might be grateful in some manner to פרעה. פרעה did not want בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל to be thankful to anyone but Him. Consequently, He created a situation where it was obvious that only מִצְרַיִם – without any "assistance" – took us out of הקב"ה.

The מִדְרָשׁ teaches us the extent to which we must recognize our benefactor so that we can feel gratitude towards that person. מֹשֶׁה killed a מִצְרִי who was striking a Jew. When this became known, מֹשֶׁה was forced to flee the country, fearing for his life, and he came to מִדְּבָר. One day, as יִתְרוֹ's daughters were pushed away by the local shepherds, מֹשֶׁה stepped in and dispersed the would-be attackers. When the girls came home, they told יִתְרוֹ that an איש מִצְרִי had rescued them. The simple explanation is that מֹשֶׁה was dressed like a מִצְרִי, so they thought that it was a מִצְרִי who had intervened on their behalf.

The מִדְרָשׁ interprets the words differently by first citing a מִשְׁלָּה. A man was bitten by a wild donkey and ran to the river to cool off

the stinging bite. When he reached the river, he saw a child drowning and jumped in to save him. The child told the man, "If not for you, I would have drowned." The man replied, "If not for the wild donkey, I would not have been here to save you."

When יִתְרוֹ's daughters thanked מֹשֶׁה for saving them, he told them, "Do not thank me; thank the מִצְרִי that I killed. If not for him, I would not be here today." Thus, when יִתְרוֹ's daughters spoke of a מִצְרִי having saved them, they were referring to the מִצְרִי whom מֹשֶׁה had killed. The words of יִתְרוֹ's daughters can be interpreted as, "a מִצְרִי rescued us" — the מִצְרִי who caused מֹשֶׁה's running away is what saved them.

As noted above, ד' did not want us to have any trace of gratitude towards פרעה. The purpose of hardening פרעה's heart was to direct בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל to give praises and thanks only to ד'. If בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל would have departed from Egypt with misdirected gratitude, it would have undermined the entire נְצִיאת מִצְרַיִם and would have distorted its important lessons.

There are many valuable lessons we can learn from the fact that ד' did not want פרעה to receive any recognition. However, there is one important lesson that can easily be overlooked: **We must carefully think about all the people who help us (daily, weekly, or even once in a lifetime) and then show gratitude to them all.**

Adapted from: Peninim on the Torah (with kind permission from Rabbi A.L. Scheinbaum)



Yahrtzeits of our Gedolim

כ"ח טבת
5655 – 5716
1894 – 1955

R' Eliyahu Meir Bloch זצ"ל was born in Telshe, Lithuania. His father, R' Yosef Leib, was the ראש וְשִׁיבָה of Telshe. After his marriage, he spent twelve years as a ראש וְשִׁיבָה at Telshe. When the וְשִׁיבָה could not continue under the Soviets, R' Eliyahu Meir and his brother-in-law, R' Chaim Mordechai Katz זצ"ל, traveled to America to raise funds to move the וְשִׁיבָה to either יִשְׂרָאֵל or America. When he arrived, he heard of the Nazi invasion and later learned that he lost his wife and three of his four children. In 1941, he restarted the וְשִׁיבָה in Cleveland, Ohio. As the וְשִׁיבָה grew, he won the admiration of the locals. He was a staunch supporter of יִשְׂרָאֵל אֲגוּדַת of America and was an insightful מוֹעֵצַת גְּדוֹלֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל of their הִבְרָה.

Gedolim Glimpses

During WWII, R' Elya Meir Bloch זצ"ל walked into a סִפְרָיִם store on the Lower East Side and asked for a קְצוֹת הַחוּשָׁן. With tears in his eyes, the owner handed R' Bloch a dusty קְצוֹת and said, "This is the last קְצוֹת to be sold in America. There is no demand!" R' Elya Meir responded: "Don't worry, I can assure you that thousands of copies of the קְצוֹת will be printed and sold in America!"

יְהִי מִנְבִיָּא — אִישׁ חָכָם עֲדִיר מְבִיָּא
 — A wise person is preferable to a prophet!



Dedication opportunities are available. If you would like to sponsor or receive this publication via email, please send an email to pircheiweekly@agudathisrael.org

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





What Goes Around Comes Around

וַיֹּאמֶר ה' אֶל מֹשֶׁה אָמַר אֶל אֶהְרֹן קח מִטָּךְ... (שְׁמוֹת ז': י"ט)
And he said to מֹשֶׁה, "Say to אֶהְרֹן, "Take your staff..."

רְשִׁיי אֶהְרֹן, not מֹשֶׁה, was designated to strike the river. רְשִׁיי explains that the river had protected the infant מֹשֶׁה when his mother placed his basket in it. It would be wrong for him to be the instrument to inflict a plague upon it. If the תּוֹרָה considers it proper to demonstrate gratitude to an inanimate object, which has no feelings, surely one must be careful to show gratitude to a fellow man, who has very strong feelings.

Baruch Malinowitz is a great Jewish philanthropist. His charitable donations have helped thousands of individuals as well as countless תּוֹרָה institutions. Each year on סִכּוֹת, Baruch and his family travel to spend the יוֹם טוֹב in יְרוּשָׁלַיִם. One year, he decided to hire a גַּבְאֵי צְדָקָה, R' Dovid Ellinson. This individual was hired not to relieve him of the responsibility of dealing with the requests, but to allow him the time to listen to each story.

Baruch would hand each person a card to give to R' Ellinson. There were 5 different cards, each with a code — which only R' Baruch and R' Ellinson knew — denoting a specific amount of money. However, there was one additional interesting stipulation — if he ever felt that Baruch had misjudged the situation, R' Ellinson had full rights to overrule Baruch's judgment and substitute his own assessment. The system worked perfectly for the first 2 weeks, until R' Yitzchak Kleiner walked through the door.

R' Kleiner came to Baruch in tears and began. "Twenty-two years ago my nephew was born with a growth near his brain. Since this was a non-threatening tumor, the doctors advised against surgery. Now the young man is engaged and the tumor just became aggressive. The doctors have warned that without surgery he has less than 3 months to live. Only the doctors in America are willing to operate. But there is no insurance —"

Moved by R' Kleiner's story, Baruch tried to reassure him

and gave him the highest-level card, indicating that R' Ellinson should give him the largest allotted donation.

The next morning there was a knock on Baruch's door. It was R' Ellinson, his גַּבְאֵי צְדָקָה.

"I was hoping you would come. I know exactly what this is about." But Baruch had no idea what his trusted גַּבְאֵי was about to tell him.

"I have to share with you an incredible story. Twenty-four years ago, my wife and I lived in an apartment. We had a 2-year-old and a 3-month-old. One day a terrible fire broke out. My wife thought that I had run out with both children, but I had taken only our oldest. We looked at each other and realized what had happened. We were crying and begging the firemen to allow us to go back for our baby, but they insisted that if we went back upstairs we would never come down alive.

"Providentially, at that very moment, a bus stopped at the behest of a thoughtful passenger who insisted on getting off to see if he could help. He was informed of the situation and was warned not to attempt to go upstairs. But — thankfully — he ignored this warning. He unobtrusively made his way to the back of the building, climbed the fire escape and, through Herculean efforts, saved the baby's life and delivered him back into his mother's arms."

R' Ellinson looked at Baruch, tears rolling down his cheeks. "The man who saved my child's life is R' Moshe Kleiner — the sick boy's father."

Regaining his composure, R' Ellinson continued, "The הַשְׁגָּחָה is obvious. Twenty-four years ago he saved my child's life, and now he needs me to help save his son's life. What would my life be if he hadn't been there at that moment? I owe him everything. I beg you to please help the boy have a fighting chance to live."

Baruch needed no further encouragement. He covered the entire cost of the surgery, and the young man's life was saved.

Adapted from: *Touched by a Story 2* (with kind permission from ArtScroll)

Focus on Middos

Dear תּלְמִיד,

Once, at an alumni convention of Telshe, רֵאשׁ הַיִּשְׁבָּה, R' Eliyahu Meir Bloch, נִצְ"ל, sharply departed from his typical uplifting *shmuess*. He began his keynote speech with the words "מַעַן טֵאָר נִישַׁט זַמַּן אַ גַּנָּב" — *One is not allowed to be a thief!* Agitated, he told the assembled of his personal experience on a recent trip.

Due to some unforeseen circumstances, the רֵאשׁ הַיִּשְׁבָּה was short of cash. He asked a businessman whom he knew quite well to lend him one hundred dollars until the next day, when he could cash a check. The רֵאשׁ הַיִּשְׁבָּה detected some hesitancy on the man's part. The רֵאשׁ הַיִּשְׁבָּה smiled and diplomatically reassured the businessman that

he would bring him the money the very next day. The man was still reluctant. The רֵאשׁ הַיִּשְׁבָּה was pained and said incredulously, "I was clear that I will bring you the money tomorrow. Don't you trust me?"

The man, embarrassed, said, "It's not that I don't trust you, Rabbi. It's just that I've had a bad experience with a loan."

When the full impact of his words hit R' Elya Meir, he was beside himself. Apparently, another תּלְמִיד הֶכֶם had borrowed money from him and had not yet repaid the debt as promised.

He raised his voice in anger and distress to the תּלְמִידִים: "Do you understand what matters have come to? A בַּעַל הַבַּיִת does

not trust a רֵאשׁ הַיִּשְׁבָּה with one hundred dollars until the next day because of a 'bad experience!' You came here expecting to hear some deep thoughts. You may go back home and say that you came to Cleveland to hear the Telshe רֵאשׁ הַיִּשְׁבָּה say, "מַעַן טֵאָר נִישַׁט זַמַּן אַ גַּנָּב!"

My תּלְמִיד, remember! You represent the תּלְמִיד הֶכֶם to the rest of the world! Your every action or non-action has a ripple effect. The תּפָּץ הַיָּמִים explains that the same is true with granting a loan. It does not stop with the simple favor, but it continues, it helps the recipient's family life, הַפְּרָסָה and the זְכוּיּוֹת grow with each new generation!

הֵי זְכָרוֹ בְּרוּךְ!

בְּיַדֵּיכֶם,

Your רַבֵּי

Story adapted from: *The Jewish Observer* (with kind permission)

- There are various equally acceptable methods to fulfill the obligation of being מַעֲבִיר סְדָרָה.
- One may read each פְּסוּק of מַקְרָא twice followed by the

corresponding תְּרַגוּם. The last פְּסוּק of מַקְרָא should be reread after the last תְּרַגוּם so that one ends off with words of תּוֹרָה (ו: תּוֹרָה).

Reviewed by R' Gedalyahu Eckstein

*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.

Halacha Corner

הלכות

שְׁנַיִם מִקְרָא וְאַחַד תְּרַגוּם



The 8th International Pirchei שובבי"ם Contest

It's just **week 2** of the **8 weeks** of our annual Pirchei Newsletter 8th International ת"ת שובבי"ם contest and there are already 100+ entries... Can you find your name?

The **הזון איש** once told someone that **מאריכין לו ימיו** [מַעְבִּיר סְדֵרָה ח] will be blessed with long life (בְּרָכוֹת דָּף ח), a guaranteed בְּרָכָה of long life from ר' הונא בר יהודה and אמי. How many weeks would we travel for a בְּרָכָה of שְׁמַיִם from יְרֵאֵת הַקְדוּשׁ? The **הזון איש** then added, "If we are lax in this דְּרַבְּנָן, חַיִּיב דְּרַבְּנָן, we are lacking in אַמּוּנַת צְדִיקִים."

It is noteworthy that R' Moshe Feinstein זצ"ל writes that the חַיִּיב of שְׁנַיִם מְקָרָא וְאַחַד תְּרַגּוּם is equal in importance to all מִצְוֹת דְּרַבְּנָן.

The Pirchei Agudas Yisroel Newsletter שְׁנַיִם מְקָרָא program has been designed as follows: Boys from 1st and 2nd grade should complete the פְּרָשָׁה until שְׁנֵי פְּרָשָׁה, 3rd grade until שְׁלִישִׁי, 4th grade until רְבִיעִי, 5th grade until חֲמִישִׁי, 6th grade until שְׁשִׁי, 7th and 8th grades should complete the entire פְּרָשָׁה.

To join the contest, please send a weekly **fax** to **718 506 9633** or **email** to thepircheinewsletter@gmail.com signed by a parent – include your grade, name, school, city, state, contact and fax #, and which פְּרָשָׁה. Participants will be entered in a raffle for a beautiful set of מְקָרָאוֹת גְּדוּלוֹת חִמְשִׁים.

All entries received before this Monday at 7:00 p.m will be announced in the following week's newsletter.

Below are the current contestants:

Grade 1 – Avner Dovidof, Asher Goharti, Avi Horowitz, Eliyahu Yochanon Idler, Daniel Lipshitz, Chanoch Shapira, Shua Streicher; Yeshiva Torah Vodaath; **Brooklyn, NY**; Naftali Moradian; Torah Institute; **Baltimore, MD**.

Grade 2 – Avrohom Menachem Weitman; Yeshiva Toras Aron; **Lakewood, NJ**; Dovid Friedman, Yosef Scop, Moshe Chai Ungar; Yeshiva Ahavas Torah; Yisroel Bauer, Menachem Blum, Tzvi Goldman, Moishe Gross, Zevi Itzkowitz, Daniel Kelman, Aharon Mandelman, Chaim Markovitz, Shmuel Sprung, Eli Stern, Binyomin Taub, Shmuel Teller, Aryeh Yaiche, Ezra Yavne, Avi Zafir; Yeshiva Torah Vodaath; **Brooklyn, NY**; Tzvi Aronovitch; Yeshiva Ketana of Queens; **Fresh Meadows, NY**; Nesanel Scherer; Hebrew Day School; **Cincinnati, OH**.

Grade 3 – Shmuel Becker, Shragi Bohensky, Nosson Borenstein, Gershon Daniel, Moshe Glazer, Shaya Hazins, Yaakov Kohn, Shua Leff, Binyomin Meyers, Moshe Portnoy, Yehuda Schabas, Shmuel Tzvi Sheffield, Shimmy Victor; Torah Institute; **Baltimore, MD**; Eli Friedman; Cheder Bais Yisroel; **Lakewood, NJ**; Shlomo Barber, Yossi Inglis, Ashie Merl,

Yehoshua Obermeister, Yosef Dov Teitelbaum; Yeshiva Ahavas Torah; Chaim Herbstman, Yehuda Itzkowitz, Yitzchak Dov Kanner, Yisroel Kolodny, Shimon Markowitz, Avi Ostrivitsky, Shlomo Paneth, Yitzchok Shapiro, Alexander Shlaff, Gavriel Spitz; Yeshiva Torah Vodaath; **Brooklyn, NY**; Yitzchok Kohn; Yeshiva Derech Hatorah; **Cleveland, OH**.

Grade 4 – Shmuel Beren; Talmudical Academy; Baruch Katz; Torah Institute; Malkiel Cohen; Yeshivas Chofetz Chaim; **Baltimore, MD**; Menachem Belsky, Moshe Lebovits, Yosef Mordechai, Shmuel Spero; Yeshiva Ahavas Torah; Zevi Bucholz, Aryeh Davis, Nosson Zvi Diamond, Shalom Friedman, Avi Idler, Yeshaya Shalom Ledereich, Tzvi Yehuda Lederer, Alexander Leshkowitz, Dovid Taub, Yoel Weinberger, Noam Weisel; Yeshiva Torah Vodaath; **Brooklyn, NY**; Avi Scherer; Hebrew Day School; **Cincinnati, OH**; Shneur Zalman Jacobs; Hebrew Academy; **Cleveland, OH**.

Grade 5 – Yosef Slansky; Talmudical Academy; Shua Leib Bergmann, Meir Boruch Meltzer, Yisroel Meir Glazer, Naftali Neuberger, Naftali Tabrikian; Torah Institute; **Baltimore, MD**; Avrohom Eliezer Eckstein; Cheder Toras Zev; Eli Katz; Yeshiva Even Yisroel; **Lakewood, NJ**; Yisrael Davrayev; Tiferes Elimelech; Nissim Benaïm, Noam Brown, Kalmy Obermeister; Yeshiva Ahavas Torah; Moshe Mandelman, Binyamin Minzer; Yeshiva Torah Vodaath; **Brooklyn, NY**; Aharon Drazin; Hebrew Academy; Chaim Yaakov Aminifard, Shimon Yehuda Beer, Dovid Yisroel Doria, Shmuel Uziel Feifer, Reuven Kohn, Yerachmiel Levovitz, Nosson Meir Rozen, Yehoshua Dovid Scheinbaum, Yisroel Isser Scheinbaum, Aharon Tenenbaum, Yisroel Moshe Weinberg; Yeshiva Derech Hatorah; **Cleveland, OH**.

Grade 6 – Avrohom Chaim Toplan; Yeshiva Ketana of Bensonhurst; Mordechai Kohn; Tiferes Elimelech; **Brooklyn, NY**; Yitzchok Teichman; Yeshiva Beth Mikroh; **Monsey, NY**; Yehoshua Boruch Aminifard; Yeshiva Derech Hatorah; **Cleveland, OH**.

Grade 7 – Binyomin Kroll; Torah Institute; **Baltimore, MD**; Mordechai Adler; Yeshiva Toras Aron; Chaim Ber Eckstein; Cheder Toras Zev; **Lakewood, NJ**; Nesanel Yehuda Keller; Yeshiva Chaim Berlin; **Brooklyn, NY**; Yossi Scherer; Hebrew Day School; **Cincinnati, OH**.

Grade 8 – Ahrela Maccabee; Rambam Day School; **Savannah, GA**; Yaakov Slansky; Yeshivas Chofetz Chaim; **Baltimore, MD**; Alter Weitman; Yeshiva Toras Aron; **Lakewood, NJ**; Aryeh Leib Hunger, Moshe Laskin, Eli Jacobovitch, Moshe Hirschmann, Chaim Yisroel Feldheim, Shmuel Lichtenstein, Yaakov Moshe Margulies, Aaron Paperman, Moshe Chaim Rechanik, Yosef Sommer, Menachem Wainbrand, Chananel Yeganeh, Shraga Strauss; Yeshiva Derech Hatorah; **Cleveland, OH**.



LEARNING FROM OUR LEADERS

בס"ד
PIRCHEI AGUDAS YISROEL OF AMERICA

RAV YAAKOV YOSEF HERMAN'S SMALL HOME WAS A LARGE 'FORTRESS' FOR YIDDISHKEIT. IT WAS AN OPEN HOUSE FOR ANYONE NEEDING A MEAL. EVEN THE GEDOLIM VISITING FROM ABROAD WOULD STAY IN HIS HOME OR COME FOR MEALS SINCE IT WAS DIFFICULT TO FIND A RELIABLE KOSHER MEAL IN NEW YORK.

IS THIS THE HOME OF RAV HERMAN, THE MACHNIS ORACH?

IT WAS SHABBOS MORNING AND MANY GUESTS SURROUNDED THE TABLE SINGING AND SHARING DIVREI TORAH. RAV YAAKOV YOSEF WAS PERSONALLY SERVING CHOLENT TO EACH GUEST WHEN SUDDENLY ONE OF THE GUESTS, WHO WAS MENTALLY UNSTABLE, STOOD UP...

I DON'T LIKE THIS CHOLENT!

AND WITH THAT, THE GUEST TOSSED HIS BOWL OF CHOLENT ALL OVER RAV YAAKOV YOSEF'S BRAND-NEW KAPOTA!

SUDDENLY REALIZING WHAT HE HAD DONE, HE RAN OUT OF THE HOUSE.

OY...OY...WHAT DID I DO?

RAV YAAKOV YOSEF SPRANG UP AND CHASED AFTER HIM.

DON'T WORRY. IT'S OKAY; NOTHING HAPPENED. PLEASE COME BACK WITH ME...

NOW I'M GOING TO GIVE YOU A NEW PORTION OF CHOLENT, AND THIS ONE YOU WILL LIKE.

HOW DO YOU DO IT? HOW DO YOU HAVE SUCH SAVLANUS?

IF YOU HAVE RACHMANUS (COMPASSION) YOU DON'T NEED SAVLANUS!

ר' יעקב יוסף הרמן WAS BORN IN SLUTSK, RUSSIA. HE WAS THE ELDEST CHILD OF ר' יצחק אייזק הרמן AND HIS WIFE, מינה רבקה. IN 1888, THE FAMILY IMMIGRATED TO AMERICA. HIS FATHER WAS HIS PRIMARY רבי UNTIL HIS נצוה ב. AT AGE 21 HE MARRIED AIDEL, DAUGHTER OF ר' SHMUEL YITZCHOK ANDRON. HE ASKED HIS WIFE IF THEY COULD HAVE AN OPEN HOME AND SHE AGREED. SOME OF HIS GUESTS INCLUDED R' BORUCH BER, R' REUVEN (WHO STAYED IN HIS HOME FOR TWO YEARS), R' ELIEZER YEHUDA FINKEL, R' AVRAHAM KALMANOWITZ AND R' ELIYAHU ELIEZER DESSLER. HE AND HIS WIFE MOVED TO ERETZ YISROEL IN 1939 WHERE HE CONTINUED TO INVITE DOZENS OF GUESTS TO HIS שבת TABLE. HE UPHELD HIS YIDDISHKEIT EVEN IN THE FACE OF RIDICULE AND IS IMMORTALIZED BY HIS WORDS "I AM A SOLDIER OF THE BOSS, AND I OBEY HIS COMMANDS" IN THE CLASSIC BOOK ALL FOR THE BOSS (FELDHEIM) THAT HAS SINCE BEEN REPRINTED IN MANY LANGUAGES.



ל"ז תמוז 1880-1967 5640-5727