



PIRCHEI Weekly

Agudas Yisroel of America

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פרשה: בלק הכטרה: והיה שארית יעקב... (מיכה ה:ו-ח)

דף יומי: יומא ע"ו אבות פרקו'

שבועות לראש השנה: 10



Torah Thoughts



וַיִּרְא פִּינְחָס ... וַיִּקָּם מִתּוֹךְ הָעֵדָה ... וַיִּקַּח רֶמֶחַ בְּיָדוֹ ... וַיַּדְקֹר אֶת שְׁנֵיהֶם ... וַתִּצְעַר הַמַּגֵּפָה מֵעַל בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל (בַּמִּדְבָּר כ"ד:ז-ח).

And פִּינְחָס saw ... And he stood up from within the assembly ... and he took a spear in his hand ... and he pierced them both ... and the plague was halted from upon בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל.

This week's פִּרְשָׁה ends with the story of פִּינְחָס who witnessed a terrible breach in the קִדְשָׁה of יִשְׂרָאֵל. He took a spear in his hand and, with holy zeal, killed זָמְרִי בֶן־דָּבִי together with קַזְבִּי בֶן־בְּלִיָּהוּ, the daughter of the king of מוֹאָב. This zealous act of killing שָׁם בֶּן־בְּלִיָּהוּ, broke the plague that had caused 24,000 people from יִשְׂרָאֵל to die.

Although פִּינְחָס was the son of אֶלְעָזָר and the grandchild of אֶהֱרֹן, he was not a כֹּהֵן at that time. Only later on (in פִּרְשַׁת פִּינְחָס) was he rewarded by ד' with the extra קִדְשָׁה of becoming a כֹּהֵן. His other cousins, who were born after אֶהֱרֹן was anointed as כֹּהֵן, received their status and honor of being a כֹּהֵן through their lineage to אֶהֱרֹן. Since פִּינְחָס was born before אֶהֱרֹן was anointed as the כֹּהֵן גָּדוֹל by מֹשֶׁה, he was not given the קִדְשָׁה of becoming a כֹּהֵן.

R' Gedalya Schorr זצ"ל notes that על פי הלכה, if a כֹּהֵן kills someone, he is not allowed to perform any עֲבוֹדָה, service in the בֵּית הַמִּקְדָּשׁ. It is only because פִּינְחָס was not yet a כֹּהֵן at the time when he

killed זָמְרִי that he did not invalidate himself from doing the עֲבוֹדָה. When פִּינְחָס killed זָמְרִי, it was on behalf, and for the good, of the Jewish people; nevertheless, it was not a role a כֹּהֵן could fulfill and continue doing the עֲבוֹדָה in the בֵּית הַמִּקְדָּשׁ. פִּינְחָס did this act with the purest of intentions — he saw the tremendous חִלּוּל ד', desecration of ד's name, and was hurt for ד's honor — he demonstrated that he had the attributes of an ideal כֹּהֵן and was rewarded by being given that charge.

Only ד', Who sees the total picture, possesses a breadth of the real perspective, which no person can fathom. ד' put פִּינְחָס, at each stage of his life, in the position that was the best for him at that particular time. פִּינְחָס, instead of focusing on the negative, was able to take advantage of his situation and this was the moment that he needed to be eternally successful.

In our own experiences, there will be times we may have a glimpse of an answer to why ד' does something that we do not understand ... sometimes it will take a couple of days/weeks/months/years ... sometimes — as with פִּינְחָס — half a lifetime ... and many times it will not come at all. Our not knowing why ד' does something, however, does not change the fact that ד' loves us and custom tailors our life's circumstances for our good. Adapted from: ספר אור גדוליו



Yahrtzeits of our Gedolim

כ' תמוז
5687 – 5763
1927 – 2003
ר' זצ"ל Rakow, was born in Frankfurt, Germany to ר' בֶּצְלֵאֵל and ר' חַנּוּךְ (studied in Volozhin) and תַּנְהָה יְהוּדִית. In 1939, after Kristalnacht, his family was granted asylum in England. Before his מִצְוָה, he learned in R' Schneider's אֶמֶת. By age 18 he joined the Gateshead כּוֹלֵל under R' Dessler זצ"ל, where he received סְמִיכָה and was recognized a גָּאוֹן. He married מְרִיַם Shakowitzky (daughter of the Gateshead רב) 3 years later. In 1956, ר' בֶּצְלֵאֵל moved to Montreaux, Switzerland, to serve as ראש גְּשִׁיבָה, where he developed a close relationship with the Brisker רב. In 1964, following his father-in-law's פְּטִירָה, he returned to Gateshead as its new רב. He led a vibrant and loyal קהילה for 40 years, and authored טוב יום ברכת יום טוב.

Gedolim Glimpses

R' Betzalel Rakow זצ"ל led his unique and loyal Gateshead community for 40 years and made it into an וְאֵם בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל, עִיר, a most glorious and outstanding Jewish city. He oversaw every דְקִדְשָׁה from חַנּוּךְ, to חֶסֶד, to הַשְׁקָפָה and everything in between. It is said that, after arriving in יִשְׂרָאֵל, the Brisker רב זצ"ל once said that if he could not live in יִשְׂרָאֵל, the one place he would be happy to live is Gateshead. R' Shach זצ"ל once told someone that R' Rakow is among the last remnants of the real רִבְגֵי לִיטָא!



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

לע"נ ר' ראובן בן ר' שמואל יום טוב שיינער זצ"ל (בפטר י"ט תמוז ה' תשע"ט)



Disciples of Avraham

ויקם בלעם בבקר ויאמר ... כי מאן ה' לתתי להלך עמכם
בלעם arose in the morning and said, "... for 'h refuses
to allow me to go with you. (גי) (במדבר כב: יג)

בלעם — to go with you — but rather, with
officers greater than you. We learn from here that בלעם was
arrogant (רש"י)

The משנה states (אבות ה' כ"ב): כל מי שיש בידו שלשה
דברים הללו, הוא מתלמידיו של אברהם אבינו; ושלשה דברים אחרים,
הוא מתלמידיו של בלעם הרשע. עין טובה, ורוח נמוכה, ונפש שפלה,
מתלמידיו של אברהם אבינו. עין רעה, ורוח גבוהה, ונפש רחבה,
מתלמידיו של בלעם הרשע. — Whoever has the following three character
traits, he is among the disciples of אברהם אבינו; and [whoever
has] three different traits, he is among the disciples of the
wicked בלעם. Those who have a good eye, a humble spirit, and
an understanding soul are the disciples of אברהם אבינו; those
who have an evil eye, an arrogant spirit and a greedy soul are
the disciples of the wicked בלעם.

תועבת ה' כל גבה לב, (משלי טו: ה) —
Despicable to 'h are of all arrogant heart," and (משלי טו: ה),
עקב עגנה יראת ה' — On the heels of humility comes the fear of
'h."

In his famous אנגרת רמב"ן, רמב"ן writes: "עגנה is the finest of
all admirable traits." A בעל גאונה is selfish and self-centered. He
is unconcerned and out of touch with the feelings and needs
of other people. By contrast, an עגן is always aware of other
people's sensitivities and needs. The עגן seeks to honor others
at every opportunity and is pleasant to everyone in every
situation.



Rabbi Yaakov Bender related the following story:

My parents used to spend their summers in a
bungalow colony which had many outstanding תלמידי חכמים
among its residents. Among these תלמידי חכמים was a
wheelchair bound invalid who had suffered a stroke at a
relatively young age.

Every summer, Rav Moshe Feinstein, זצ"ל, would
come to visit this תלמיד חכם. We always had advance notice of
Rav Moshe's visit and I can assure you that the day of his visit
was a sort of "יום טוב" for us. All the boys wore white shirts,
and everyone waited with anticipation for the גדול הדור to
arrive.

A semi-circle of lawn chairs would be arranged for
these occasions, as many of the renowned "scholars in
residence" would join Rav Moshe and the invalid whom he had
come to visit. They would sit and discuss תורה topics, as
everyone else looked on in respectful awe and silence.

One year, not long after the men were seated, a
number of boys approached and began to snap pictures.
Flashbulbs popped repeatedly, until, finally, one of the older
men called out, "Enough, enough already! Stop talking
pictures!"

Rav Moshe, however, smiled in his very sweet, kind
way, and said, (in Yiddish), "They are children, and they want
to take pictures — let them!"

Then, this גאון and צדיק did something that no one
present will ever forget. Rav Moshe smoothed out his frock,
sat up straight, and smiled wide as he posed for the many
pictures that the young photographers proceeded to snap.

Adapted from: Living the Parashah (with kind permission from ArtScroll)

An Ahavas Chesed Moment

ספר אהבת חסד חלק א' פרק ו' ח' ט'

*The closer a relative, the higher the level of precedence when it comes
to performing any חסד. Therefore, if a father and a brother come for a
loan together, the father has precedence. If a רבי and a father both ask
for a loan, then, depending on the circumstances, the רבי takes
precedence, for a רבי brings a person to תני עולם הבא, life in the World-
To-Come. However, if the father and רבי are equal in תורה knowledge
or the father had paid for the רבי, then the father takes precedence,
for the father is also credited for his son's תני עולם הבא.

*This is intended only as a guide. Please review any real-life situations with a competent Rov.
The חסד explains that all the הלכות of precedence are to be applied only if the חסד
has no monetary loss associated with it. If by being kind to an עני, the person has a loss of
profit on a business opportunity with the עשיר, then it depends on whether the significant
loss would make a real difference in his life.

"רש" Questions of the week

- 1. Why did the clouds split so that the sun could shine on those
people that had sinned with מואב?
- 2. What is the famous Aramaic saying that means "If you are the
one who brought out an idea, then you should carry it out"?



1. The sinners that sinned with serving together with serving זרם גזרות זרם
spotlighted by the sun for all to see (אש"ת ט"ו ל"א — 25:4).
2. The one who reads the letter [i.e.: the person
who proclaims the message in public], let him be the messenger [to carry out its
contents] (אש"ת ט"ו ל"א — 25:7).

- According to some opinions, all the הלכות of אכלות
pertaining to תענית start from the night of the תענית;
however, the הלכות of תענית do not begin until
אכלות of תמוז. If one sleeps a קבע without
stipulating that he does not want his fast to start until
אכלות, he may not eat from when he wakes up.

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.

Focus on Middos

Dear תלמיד,

Summer has arrived, and with it come the opportunities for developing new friendships. Let me share with you the essence of an article from a column entitled "Here & There" by Ben Yitzchok (London Jewish Tribune):

"When I attend communal functions, I am in the habit of observing the little things which most people just brush aside.

"Last week I attended the 22nd annual יארצייט סעודה in memory of their father, the late and unforgettable R' Yomtov Lipman Rakow ז"ל. Sitting at the center of the head table, surrounded by many תלמידים and friends, were his two sons, R' Bezalel, רב of Gateshead, and R' Ben Zion, the ראש ושיבה of ישיבת רמ"ד, Golders Green.

"Some בְּחורים were serving as waiters. When one of them approached the head table, R' Ben Zion [the elder of the two brothers], gave the waiter a wink to serve his brother first. As soon as the plate was placed before him, the

Gateshead רב, [R' Bezalel Rakow], unobtrusively, passed the plate to his brother. And so, the plate passed back and forth several times, until the waiter came again and was able to place a second plate in its rightful position.

"I am convinced they think nothing of it; they probably don't even remember it. But for us, it is just one more lesson of דָּרֵךְ אֶרֶץ"

My תלמיד, if we analyze this story for a moment, we can appreciate the important relationship between respect and brotherly love. A critical ingredient in any lasting relationship is true respect. We usually understand that part of כבוד, honor, requires that we must respect our parents, רבנים and counselors. However, as we can learn from the דָּרֵךְ אֶרֶץ these brothers demonstrated for each other, both גדולי ישראל in their own right, respect is not limited solely to a superior. The greater the respect you show towards your friends, the deeper your friendship will become.

הי זכרו ברוך!

רבני Your

Story adapted from: *My Father, My Rebbe* (Feldheim)

Understanding שבעה עשר בתמוז

י"ז תמוז

י"ז תמוז is second only to ט' באב as a day of national tragedy. Although the נביאים ordained it as a fast day to commemorate its role in the destruction of the המקדש, בית המקדש, it simultaneously recalls four other sad events, all of which are mentioned in the סליחות that we recite on this day. The five tragedies of this day are: (1) משה רבינו broke the first set of לוחות when he came down from הר סיני and found ישראל worshipping the הזקב. (2) During בֵּית שְׁלֵמֹה, the wall of הַמִּזְבֵּחַ ran out of sheep for the קרבן תמיד and בקל was able to breach the wall surrounding הַמִּזְבֵּחַ. (3) During שְׁנֵי שָׁנִים, the wall of הַמִּזְבֵּחַ was breached on this day. (4) During בֵּית שְׁנֵי שָׁנִים, a ספר תורה was burned in public by the Roman officer Apostomos. (5) An idol was placed in the בית המקדש.



Erev Shabbos Learning Contest

The latest Pirchei Newsletter contest is designed to make your ערב שבת fulfilling and memorable. During the weeks leading up to קבלת התורה and beyond, learn at least 45 minutes before מנחה every שבת, in your home, בית מדרש or local ישיבה. Learn for an hour or more and get an additional raffle entry. There is no particular למוד to learn — you can even review וְאָחַד תְּרַגְּוּם. If you arrange for a group to learn on the phone, and have a שְׁעוֹר to learn about קדושת שבת or הלכות שבת, you will receive an extra raffle entry. The contest is open for all ages up to 12th grade. To join the program, please send your weekly email to: shnayimmikrahcontest@gmail.com by Monday 2:00 pm. Please include your name, grade, ישיבה, city, state, and contact # and your name will be entered into a drawing for a beautiful set of מקראות גדולות חומשים!

Sage Sayings

The young Bezalel Rakow זצ"ל was once playing around in class. He was sent out just after the רבי asked a קושנה from the מהר"ם שני. When his father, ר' יום טוב ליפמאן, met the רבי, he told him that Bezalel came home crying bitterly because he missed out on the תרוץ מהר"ם שני's. The רבי remarked, "פון — From him, something will become! (Editor's note: This is the Yiddish [and most צניע] way of saying, "From this child, you will see greatness and great נחת!")"

Source: *My Father, My Rebbe* (Feldheim)



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 "EILU 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...



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!

R' CHAIM KREISWIRTH זצ"ל, WAS BORN IN WOJNICZ, POLAND, TO אברהם יוסף AND פערלע. UPON APPLICATION, HE WAS TESTED BY THE ישיבה ראש ישיבת חכמי לובלין (R' CHAIM'S PROFICIENCY IN ALL ASPECTS OF תורה). AT THE AGE OF 15 HE WAS KNOWN AS "THE CRACOW חכמי ישיבת חכמי יעלוי" IN "עלוי CRACOW". HE GAVE שיעורים IN THE ישיבה IN PIASECZNO ON THE חובות התלמידים AT AGE 18. HIS ספר ON זבחים (THE דברים WERE LOST DURING WWII) RECEIVED תקצמות FROM זצ"ל גרוזינסקי זצ"ל AND THE מרששת ר' חנוך, מרששת ר' חיים עוזר גרוזינסקי זצ"ל. IN 1939, HE FLED TO LITHUANIA, WHERE HE MARRIED שרה, THE DAUGHTER OF R' AVROHOM GRODZINSKI זצ"ל (משגיח OF SLABODKA), ESCAPING WITH HER TO ישראלי IN 1941. AT THE END OF WWII, ר' חיים RETURNED TO POLAND TO RESCUE JEWISH CHILDREN SHELTERED BY ג'נטילים DURING THE WAR. IN 1947, ר' חיים MOVED TO THE UNITED STATES WHERE HE SERVED AS ראש ישיבה IN SKOKIE, ILL. HE WAS FAMOUS FOR HIS WORD-FOR-WORD KNOWLEDGE OF בבלי, ירושלמי, רש"י, ומוספות, AND MUCH MORE. IN 1953, HE MOVED TO ANTWERP, SERVING AS אב בית דין / אב מנהל UNTIL HIS DEATH.

