



# PIRCHEI Weekly

Agudas Yisroel of America

July 3, 2021 - כ"ג תמוז, תשפ"א - Vol: 8 Issue: 35



**פרשה: כנחס הפטרה: דברי ירמיהו... בטרם אצרך בבטן ידעתיך... (ירמיהו א-ב:ג)**

**מברכים ראש חודש מנחם אב (מולד ליל שבת קודש בשעה: חלקים 9 + 21:59)**

**דף יומי: יומא פ"ג אבות פרק א' מצות עשה: 6 שבועות לראש השנה: 9**



## Torah Thoughts



... וישעיר עזים אחד לחטאת לד' ... (במדבר כח: טו)

And one male goat for a *חטאת* (lit. sin) offering to ד'

We start ראש חודש on תפלת מוסף by describing this special day as *אָפּוּרָה לְכָל תּוֹלְדוֹתֵם* [lit. a time of atonement [for our sins] for all their [יִשְׂרָאֵל] generations [lit. offspring].

The אורחות חיים (אוי"ח סי' תכג) quotes the name of יהודה הלוי (author of ספר הכוזרי) that *חטאת* does not refer to the children of יִשְׂרָאֵל; rather, it means *the previous month's sins* [lit. *תּוֹלְדָה* of the previous month]. The offering of the ושעיר on ראש חודש not only creates an atonement for the previous month's sins, but, as we continue in our *שַׁל רֹאשׁ חֹדֶשׁ*, it also is *אִשׁוּרָה מִיַּד שׂוֹנְאֵם*, a *salvation of their soul from the hands of [lit. their enemy] their הרע*. Offering the ושעיר on ראש חודש not only cleanses *כָּלל יִשְׂרָאֵל* from their previous month's sins, but it also starts off the new month with an added protection against the הרע.

The strong gravitational pull of the moon at the beginning of the month tugs at everything liquid on the earth, including the ocean, the sap in plants and trees, and even our body (which is between 50-75% water). Just like it brings changes to the physical world, ראש חודש also brings strong changes to the spiritual world.

**מצוה ת"ג - מצות קרבן מוסף בכל חודש**

ראש on קרבן מוסף to כָּלל יִשְׂרָאֵל for *מצות עשה* as *קרבן תמיד* on ראש חודש, the first day of every month, in addition to the daily

... וישעיר עזים אחד לחטאת לד' על, it says, *עֲלֵה* On your ראש חודש days, you shall bring an offering to ד'... and one [male] goat as a *חטאת* offering...in addition to the daily *עֲלֵה* (lit. continuous - *עֲלֵה תָמִיד*) shall it be made...

**משרשי המצוה**

In his introduction to this מצוה, the חנוך explains that any intelligent person is aware of the forces that were given to the sun and moon by the Master of all Powers, ד'. At the beginning of the month, they have a strong effect on people, animals, vegetation [from the largest tree to the smallest blade of grass], and in general over all of the four elements of creation: fire, water, earth and air.

One of the examples that the חנוך offers is that woodchoppers are all aware that the first 5 days of the month is the wrong time to cut trees that will be used in buildings. [Ed. Note: Have you ever heard of *moon wood*? For centuries it was noted that wood from trees cut after the middle of the lunar month (the waning of the moon), is drier and less likely to decay or be infested with worms.]

There are no external powers in all of creation; all the forces of nature come directly from ד'. Therefore, the חנוך explains, on ראש חודש we offer a special קרבן לד' to remind ourselves that everything that we have comes directly from Him. By realizing this clear truth, our נשמות are elevated [cleansed from sin] every ראש חודש, and we receive additional בְּרָכָה [protection] from ד'. Adapted from: **ספר החנוך על פרשת השבוע - פינחס**

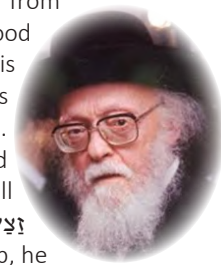


## Yahrtzeits of our Gedolim

**כ"ח תמוז 5670 - 5772** ר' יוסף שלום אֶלְיָשִׁיב זצ"ל, was the only child (born in Siauliai, Lithuania) of אברהם ר' Erener, Chief Rabbi of Gomel, Lithuania, and תהא מוֹשָׁא (daughter of the famous לשי"ם, the תפץ חיים). Upon the advice of the חכמי חיים, the family surname was changed to אֶלְיָשִׁיב to match the papers needed for emigrating to ארץ יִשְׂרָאֵל in 1922. A quiet boy, he was recognized as a מתמיד עצום with an unusual analytical mind while he was yet a young בחור. In 1929, he married שיינא תהא, R' Aryeh Levin זצ"ל's daughter. His myriads of פסקים were published in the multi-volume תשובות. He held no official position for the last 40 years, but was the פוסק הדור and דעת תורה of כָּלל יִשְׂרָאֵל.

## Gedolim Glimpses

זצ"ל Elyashiv ר' יוסף שלום, suffered from many illnesses throughout his childhood and adult life. He overcame all of his physical obstacles and kept a rigorous schedule of תורה and עבודה all his life. He began his day at 3:00 AM and learned with minimal interruptions till the late evening. Until ר' Shach זצ"ל asked him to join the public leadership, he kept away from the public eye, except for his popular daily שיעור, for close to 80 years!



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

**לע"נ הבחור הנחמד ישעיהו דוב ע"ה בן יבלחטי"א ר' יצחק צבי שליט"א (נפטר כ"ז תמוז ה' תשס"ט)**  
**לע"נ אריה לייב בן ר' גבריאל הכהן ז"ל Fonfa**



# Living with the Timeless Torah

... הנני נתן לו את בְּרִיתִי שְׁלוֹם (במדבר כה: יב).

... Behold! I give him My covenant of peace.

The סְפוּרָנוּ explains that one of the personal rewards פִּינְחָס received was a life of inner peace. A person blessed with inner peace will naturally have longevity, because conflict is synonymous with loss and will shorten a person's life. פִּינְחָס was given the personal בְּרָכָה of ultimate inner peace from ד' and therefore we can easily understand the opinion that he lived for hundreds of years.

The סְפוּרָנוּ continues by giving us a glimpse into the meaning of the blessing of inner peace from ד'. The blessing of inner peace from ד' is eternal and therefore it is easy to appreciate how, according to another opinion, אֶלְיָהוּ is פִּינְחָס, who never died and lives until eternity.



R' Avigdor Miller would often emphasize, "פִּינְחָס, pain and hardship, are a cheap substitute for שְׂמֵחָה, joy and happiness!" One who can serve ד' with שְׂמֵחָה does not need much suffering.

On the last day of his life, R' Miller was having a conversation with his eldest son, Eliezer, when a doctor entered. The doctor asked how he felt.

"I am so busy being happy for all the kindness that ד' has done for me that I have no time to consider how I am feeling." He then continued to reiterate some of the kindnesses ד' had done for him, now with the doctor in attendance.

A woman from the Sephardic Bikur Cholim came by and asked if he needed anything. R' Miller praised her, saying, "You are doing wonderful work. You should keep it up." He then heartily wished her, "בְּרָכָה וְהַצְלָחָה!" ...

He then chanted לְשִׁילֵת קִשְׁיִים to the tune that was used in Slabodka, and sang [his final schmooze that was the סִיּוּם of his life], "הָאָדָם לֹא נִבְרָא אֶלָּא לְהֵעָנֵג, A person was only created to experience pleasure," which refers to this world. Only after understanding that, does one go on to finish the sentence with the words, "עַל ד' — of ד'."

הָעוֹלָם, this world, is the place where one should learn to experience enjoyment. ד' is a benefactor Who wants only to give pleasure, and the whole of creation is for that purpose. Of course, the ultimate pleasure that ד' could possibly devise — being with ד' — is awaiting us in הַבָּיָה, but one must first develop the ability to enjoy ד' and to derive pleasure from all His creations, starting in this world. **This world was created so that we could develop our ability to derive pleasure from ד'!**

His grandson R' Uri Meir Kanarek then helped R' Miller fill out a form to arrange his meals for the next day and for שְׂבִיבָה. A while later Rebitzen Miller came with an egg and a tomato. R' Miller joyfully said, "Look what I have! I am so full of joy, and בִּיָּה I am able to eat." He then made a particularly heartfelt בְּרָכָה, pronouncing each word slowly.

After taking a bite he immediately stopped and said to Uri Meir, "How can I sit here eating while you are not?" His daughter-in-law, who had also arrived, told him that Uri Meir had already eaten. Nevertheless, she told Uri Meir to eat a fruit to help R' Miller relax ...

His family brought him a banana and he made a בְּרָכָה on it with great כְּוִנָּה, concentration. When he finished, he made the בְּרָכָה, "בּוֹרֵא נִפְשׁוֹת רְבוּת" — Who creates numerous living things ... Those were his last words.

R' Miller lived a long and full life without suffering from illness. He would constantly thank ד' for all His Goodness. During the last week, and even the last day of his life, he repeated many times, "רְבִינוּ יִנְוֶה" counts it a מִצְוַת עֲשֵׂה that a person should constantly mention all the acts of kindness that ד' has done for him!"

As he grew older and heard about the many diseases suffered by his colleagues and other older people, he would jot them down. He kept the list to read, and would joyfully thank ד' for all His Kindness. He not only merited to be a healthy זָקֵן, older person, but also was a שִׁבְעַת יָמִים, he enjoyed fulfilled days.

Adapted from: Rabbi Avigdor Miller: His Life and His Revolution (Judaica Press)

## An Ahavas Chesed Moment

ספר אהבת חסד חלק א' פרק ו': י"ג-א

\*The חֲפֵץ הַיָּמִים clarifies the application of the הִלְכוּת of an עֲנִי taking precedence over others. If a loan will save the borrower from a financial collapse that would make him an עֲנִי, then even if the borrower has funds at the present time, he also has the הִלְכָה of an עֲנִי. The מִצְוָה of מִצְוַת בּוֹ, and you shall strengthen him, creates the additional preference to lend him money. The חֲפֵץ הַיָּמִים continues that if the עֲשִׂיר has a relative that will approach him in the near future to borrow money, then this עֲנִי does not take precedence over the related עֲנִי.

\*This is intended only as a guide. Please review any real-life situations with a competent Rov. The חֲפֵץ הַיָּמִים explains that the הִלְכָה of 'not lending' to an עֲנִי when the עֲנִי has another close relative, is only applicable if we can be sure that the relative will lend him the money. However, if there is any doubt about the relative lending the money to the עֲנִי then we must lend to the עֲנִי [אין צורך להחליט על מציאותו של עני אחר].

## "Questions of the Week

1. For what reason was שְׂרָח בַּת אֲשֵׁר singled out in the counting of שְׂבַע אֲשֵׁר?
2. Which קָרְבָּן was brought to serve as atonement for the fact that the moon was reduced in size?



1. The פסוק mentions שְׂרָח בַּת אֲשֵׁר in order to teach us that she was still alive at this time (א' ל"ג — 26:46).
2. One of the reasons given for the שְׂבַע אֲשֵׁר that was brought on שְׂרָח was that she was brought on שְׂבַע אֲשֵׁר as an atonement for me because I reduced the size of the moon. (א' ל"ג — 28:15).

- The שְׂלִיחַ צְבוּר uses the name מְנַחֵם אָב when announcing the month on the שְׂבִיבָה before תְּדַשׁ. ראש חודש till בָּאָב וְט' and then, for the rest of the month, they write מְנַחֵם אָב.
- Some people have the מְנַחֵם that when they date a letter during this period, they refer to the month as אָב from ראש חודש till בָּאָב וְט' and then, for the rest of the month, they write מְנַחֵם אָב.

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,

It is impossible to fathom the enormous loss to the Jewish nation when any Jew is נִפְטָר. Who, except for ד', knows all the מעשים and טובים, *good deeds*, that a person does without people knowing? In fact, it is the opposite that is true. It is the myriads of beautiful and thoughtful acts that are done without any fanfare that create the biggest זכותים and are a protection for ישראל. In this light, we can better understand the פְּטִירָה of the גדול הדור, R' Yosef Sholom Elyashiv זצ"ל, who learned תורה בְּהַתְמַדָּה for hours on end every single day for over 90 years!

There is a story told about a couple in ארץ ישראל that had been married for 15 years without children. They decided that it was best to divorce, despite their harmonious marriage. Shortly afterwards, the woman discovered she was pregnant. The joy had a very sad side — as a כֹּהֵן, the husband was forbidden to remarry his former wife.

The husband went to R' Chaim Kanievesky שליט"א who suggested that he should consult

with R' Elyashiv. R' Elyashiv told him that it is forbidden for a כֹּהֵן to remarry his former wife. "The only thing I can tell you is that you should go to the כּוֹתֵל, and daven to ד'!"

The כֹּהֵן went straight to the כּוֹתֵל and poured out his heart. An אבִיר, who watched his unrestrained *davening*, asked him what had happened. He poured out his heart again. The אבִיר suggested that he should discuss the issue with his father. The כֹּהֵן's father was very old and living in a nursing home in America, and barely spoke.

He saw this as a ד' and traveled to America. He explained his situation to his elderly father and the man started crying. With tears rolling down his cheeks the father broke the news. The father and his former wife had adopted this boy after the holocaust. They brought him up with all the love and care, just like a son, but he was not a כֹּהֵן.

My תלמיד, this is the time, when we feel orphaned, that we must *daven* for the final reunion of ד' with ישראל!  
הי זכרו בְּרוּךְ!

בְּיַדְדֵיכֶם, Your רבי

*Story adapted from: Borchi Nafshi (Zilberstein)*

## Understanding בין המצרים

### בין המצרים — The Three Weeks

Starting from the five tragedies that began on י"ז תמוז through the destruction of the המקדש on ט' באב, the 3 weeks between י"ז תמוז and ט' באב are referred to as בין המצרים. This is based on the words of (א:ג): קָל... רָדְפִיהָ הַשִּׁיגוּהָ בֵּין הַמְצָרִים — *all her (קָל) pursuers reached her in between narrow straits (cornering them)*. Although this is the low point of the Jewish calendar, it is also the most opportune time to become closer to ד'. The ספרים find an illusion to this by dividing רדפייה into 2 words: כל רדף קה — *all those who pursue ד' can reach Him during "בין המצרים"*. Just like ד' was closest to קָל during their time of national tragedy, so too, ד' is closest to us during our own (personal) most difficult times.



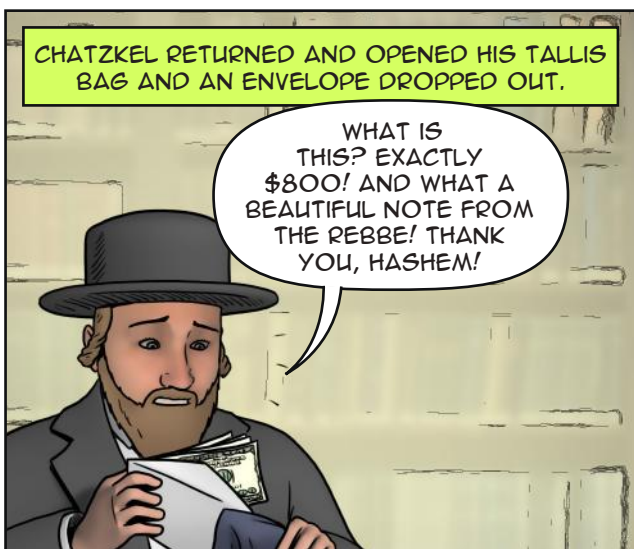
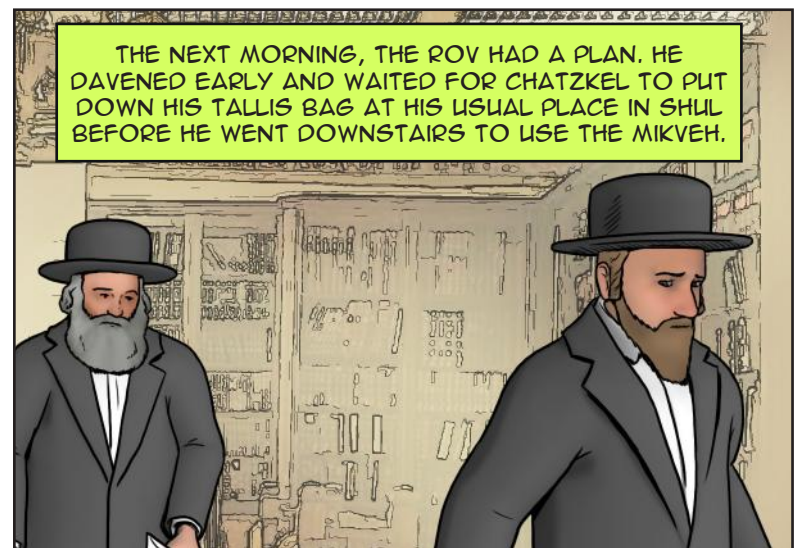
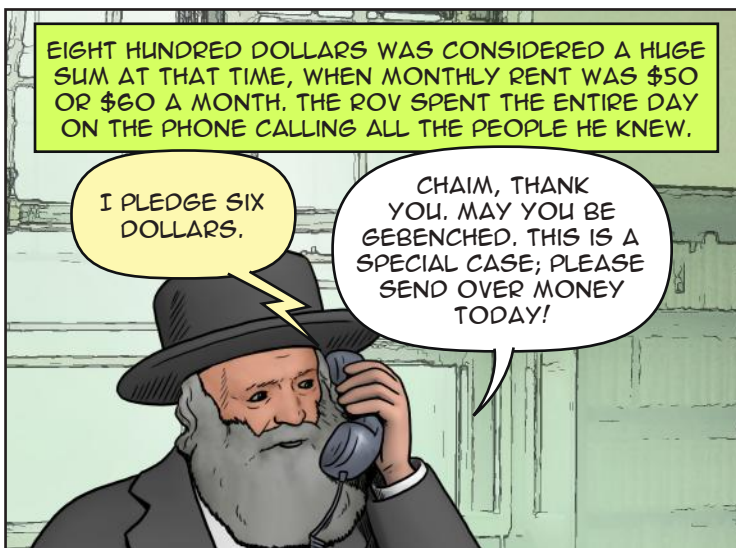
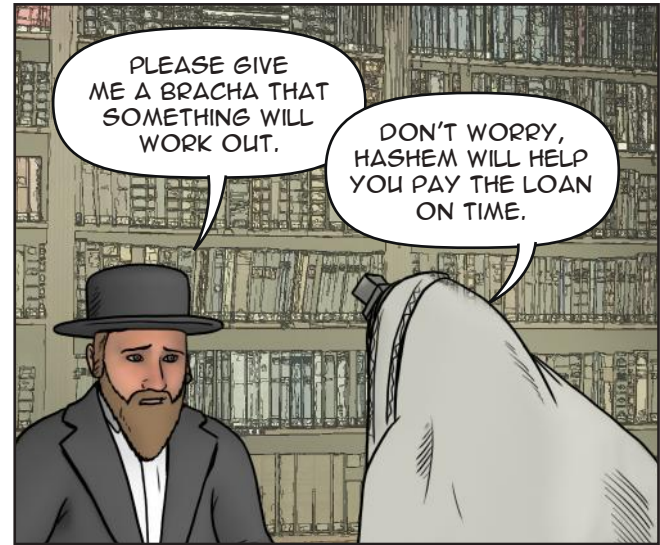
## Erev Shabbos Learning Contest

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, or local מדרש בית. Learn for an hour or more and get an additional raffle entry. There is no particular למועד to learn — you can even review שנים מקרא ואחד תרגום. If you arrange for a group to learn on the phone, and have a שיעור to learn about קדושת שבת or הלכות שבת, you will receive an extra raffle entry. The contest is open for all ages up to 12<sup>th</sup> 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

R' Yosef Sholom Elyashiv זצ"ל noticed his son-in-law reading the introduction to the ש"ס. He writes that the work was written only after tremendous פְּלִפּוּל חֲבָרִים. R' Elyashiv related that he has a קְבֵלָה that in the years 5408—5409 (ת"יח וְת"יט), three גדולי ישראל were meant to be נִפְטָר. One of these three גדולים was meant to be the ש"ס, but he was spared. "מִיר הָאֵט אִים גַּעְדָּרפֵט" — *תורה!* "We needed to have him for his תורה!" The תורה that the ש"ס learned with his חֲבָרִים is what saved him!

*Source: סוכה יבוע (Feldheim)*



R' LEVI YITZCHOK GRUNWALD זצ"ל WAS BORN IN CHUST, CZECHOSLOVAKIA (TODAY RUSSIA), TO R' MOSHE (ערוגת הנושם), A TALMID OF THE KSAV SOFER AND THE REBBI OF R' SHRAGA FEIVEL MENDLOWITZ. THE FAMILY TRACED THEIR LINEAGE BACK TO R' MEIR OF EISENSTADT (פנינים מאירות), A DESCENDANT OF THE MAHARAL MIPRAGUE, WHO CAME FROM דוד המלך. HE MARRIED HIS NIECE, SILKA, DAUGHTER OF HIS OLDEST BROTHER R' AVROHOM YOSEF. HE RECEIVED SMICHAH FROM R' SHMUEL ENGEL, R' MORDECHAI LEIB WINKLER (לבושי מרדכי) AND R' SHMUEL ROSENBERG (באר שמואל). AT AGE 28, HE SERVED AS רב FIRST IN OPALYA (PAYE), HUNGARY, THEN IN WISHK, AND LATER IN ORSHIVA, BEFORE BEING APPOINTED AS רב IN TZEHEM, AUSTRIA, IN 1931. IN 1939, THE REBBE ESCAPED FROM AUSTRIA AND CAME TO THE US, WHERE HE REBUILT THE TZEHLEMER YESHIVA. HE WAS RENOWNED FOR HIS HUMILITY, חסד, AND אהבת שלום. HE AUTHORED MIGOLOS MERKOCHIM.

