



# PIRCHEI Weekly

Agudas Yisroel of America

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**פרשה: חקת הפטרה: ויפתח הגלעדי היה גבור חיל... (שופטים יא:א-לג)**

**דף יומי: כתובות ג' אבות פרק ה'**

**מצות עשה: 3 שבועות לראש השנה: 11**

## Torah Thoughts

זאת חקת התורה אשר צנה ד'... (במדבר יט:א)

*This is the statute of the תורה, which ד' commanded...*

The word חקת, *decree*, describes a מצוה that cannot be understood by way of human logic. The חקת that follows is the very mystifying מצוה surrounding פרה אדמה, *the red cow*. One of the most intriguing laws of the פרה אדמה is that the טמא, *spiritually unclean*, person becomes טהור, *clean*, using its ashes and the person who carries the מי חטאת becomes טמא.

Many מפרשים ask about the introductory words of זאת חקת התורה, *This is the statute of the תורה*. When the תורה teaches the מצוה of פסח, the תורה introduces the מצוה with the words זאת חקת הפסח, *this is the statute regarding the פסח*. Logically, it follows that the תורה should use חקת הפרה, *the statute regarding the cow* or חקת הטהרה, *the statute regarding becoming pure*. The expression of זאת חקת התורה indicates that this מצוה refers to the whole תורה. What connection does the laws of פרה אדמה have to do with the entire תורה?

R' Gedalya Schorr זצ"ל answers this by explaining the unusual wording of תרנייג מצות התלויים בה, *the 613 מצות that are dependent in this [מצוה]*, that is recited in the חויד לשם חויד before performing a מצוה. Every מצוה has a lesson or purpose that is

applicable is some way to the rest of the 613 מצוה. For instance, מצוה we know must be made quickly, so that the dough does not rise and become חמץ. חז"ל tell us — דרך שאין מחמיצין על המצות כד אין מחמיצין — חמץ, *just like we rush so that the מצות should not become חמץ, so we must move quickly to perform all מצוה*. חז"ל are teaching us that the lesson of זריזות, *diligence and speed*, is the lesson of מצוה, but it has an application that is important for all other מצוה as well.

The מצוה of פרה אדמה is the greatest חזק המלך, *the wisest of all men*, could not understand the meaning of the laws surrounding this מצוה. The lesson of פרה אדמה is that we are performing ד's commandment even though we don't understand it. This message is applicable to the rest of the 613 מצוה. Although there are many מצוה that seem quite logical, there is a level in every מצוה that is above our understanding.

The words חקת התורה mean that the מצוה of פרה אדמה is the מצוה that teaches the lesson of חזק to the rest of the תורה. We must always remember the lesson from the פרה אדמה, there is a level in every מצוה that we don't understand. Nevertheless, we must perform the מצוה simply because it is the Will of ד'.

*Adapted from: ספר אור גדוליו*



## Yahrtzeits of our Gedolim

ט"ז תמוז  
5648 - 5727  
1888 - 1967

The Kopycznitzer Rebbe, זצ"ל Heschel ר' אברהם יהושע, א direct descendant of the אהב ישראל (רב אפ"ת), son of ר' ר' גיטל, was born in Husiatyn, Galica. He learned his תורה and חסידות from his father. He married his 1<sup>st</sup> cousin שרה פרה. He took over as Rebbe upon his father's פטירה in 1936. In 1939, the Rebbe emigrated to America, settling in New York. He established חנוך schools and מקוואות in ישראל. He was a supporter of ישראל and was extraordinarily close to all גדולי ישראל, including all the Litvishe גדולים in America. Despite being a renowned Rebbe, he would collect daily חנוך and numerous other צדקה causes. An incredible חסד, he led an active life dedicated to build and renew the beauty of ישראל.

## Gedolim Glimpses

אדמו"ר ר' אברהם יהושע העשיל זצ"ל of Kopycznitz, was standing with R' Shlomo Zalman Auerbach זצ"ל waiting for a taxi. R' Shlomo Zalman sent someone to bring a chair for the Rebbe. The Rebbe thanked the person but refused to sit. He explained, "I heard from my father: Before any action, imagine that a photographer is ready to take a picture. Think of the picture. If you like it, do it; if not, refrain! Can I look at a picture of myself sitting, with R' Shlomo Zalman standing?"



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

לאחינו כל בית ישראל הנתונים בצרה ובשביה... המקום ירחם עליהם...



## Focus on Middos

Dear תלמיד,

There was once a Jew who emigrated from Austria as the dark clouds descended on Europe before WWII. He assumed that his wife would follow him and arrive right after but alas it was not easy to get out. As time progressed and he saw that his wife wasn't coming, he became more and more depressed. He was going out of his mind.

He told his business partner of his distress and the partner [who was a Gerrer תּחֲסִיד] suggested that he go to the Kopycznitzer Rebbe. The Rebbe heard the man's distress and promised him with a strong conviction that within a few weeks his wife would arrive safely. The man, despite the fact that he wasn't a תּחֲסִיד, trusted the Rebbe's promise and was calmed. Within 2 weeks his wife arrived.

The Rebbe insisted that it was not a miracle. He explained that when he saw this man's pain he realized that it was a question of נִפְשׁ נִכְפָּשׁ, a life threatening situation. He had to say something, anything, to save him. After the man left, the

Rebbe turned to די and said, "I only tried to help this man's broken spirit. I saved his life for a few weeks. Please don't make me a liar!" The Rebbe cried with the man's pain and a תְּהִלָּים!

"So you see", explained the Rebbe, "I am no miracle worker".

Some time later a Gerrer תּחֲסִיד named R' Chaim Mandel, told the בֵּית יִשְׂרָאֵל [one of the previous Gerrer Rebbe] this story. The Rebbe was blown away and asked him to repeat the story again and yet again. When the Rebbe went to daven מִנְחָה he asked R' Mandel to repeat the story to all the תּחֲסִידִים present. When he finished, the Rebbe said "דָּאס הֵיסט אַ רְבִישֶׁעַ מַעֲשֶׂה!" - That is a true Rebbe story".

My תלמיד, is it any wonder that R' Avraham Yehoshua Heschel זצ"ל, who was a direct descendant of the אוֹהֵב (the Apta רַב) for whom he was named, was so endeared and revered by all the famous גְּדוּלֵי הַיָּמִין of the past generation?

יְהִי זְכָרוֹ בְּרוּךְ!

בְּיַדְיֹדוֹת, Your רַבֵּי

A letter from a Rebbi, based on interviews

## Sage Sayings

R' Aharon Kotler זצ"ל, the גָּאוֹן and renowned 'Litvishe' גְּדוּל considered the Kopycznitzer his "Rebbe". At a meeting of תּוֹרָה, R' Aharon insisted on hearing the opinion of the גְּדוּלֵי תּוֹרָה of Kopycznitz. When asked why specifically the Kopycznitzer, R' Aharon explained, "תּוֹרָה מְאַכֵּט אַ מַעֲנֵטֶשׁ רֵיין", [learning and adhering to] the תּוֹרָה makes a person pure, און דער קאָפּיטניצער איז רֵיין! and the Kopycznitzer [Rebbe] is pure. [דַּעַת תּוֹרָה איז דַּעַת תּוֹרָה]!"

Source: Heard around the שַׁבָּת table

## Understanding ערב שבת פרשת חקת

... בַּיּוֹם הַשְּׁשִׁי פְּרַשְׁת חֻקֹת נִהְגוּ יְחִידִים לְהִתְעַנּוֹת...

... On the Friday [before] פְּרַשְׁת חֻקֹת there is a custom of [scrupulous] individuals to fast ... (מִגֵּן אֲבָרָהֶם תְּק"פ)

The אֲבָרָהֶם מִגֵּן אֲבָרָהֶם, calamity, happened on this day [in 5004]. 24 cartloads of סְפָרִים were publicly burned in France. The תְּקִמָּה of the time chose this day and this week's פְּרַשָּׁה rather than the usual calendar date based on a שְׂאֵלַת הַלּוּם, a divine revelation. The calamity was tied to this פְּרַשָּׁה. The תַּרְגוּם translates תּוֹרָה as דָּא גְּזַרְת אֲוִרְתָא, which could mean, "This is the decree about the תּוֹרָה!" In a letter to his רַבֵּי, the רַמְח"ל writes that the burning of the פְּרָה אֲדִמָּה was a כַּפְרָה to save כָּל יִשְׂרָאֵל. Similarly, the calamity of the burning of the כָּל כַּפְרָה served as a כַּפְרָה to save כָּל יִשְׂרָאֵל. So too, learning תּוֹרָה saves יִשְׂרָאֵל from calamities.

Heard from R' Lipa Goldwirth שליט"א



## ערב שבת Learning Contest

The latest Pirchei Newsletter contest is designed to make your עֶרֶב שַׁבָּת fulfilling and memorable. During the weeks leading up to קַבְּלַת הַתּוֹרָה and beyond, learn at least 45 minutes before מִנְחָה every שַׁבָּת, in your home, עֶרֶב שַׁבָּת or local מִדְרָשׁ בֵּית. Learn for an hour or more and get an additional raffle entry. There is no לָמוּד to learn — you can even review תַּרְגוּם. If you arrange for a group to learn [on the phone], and have a שְׁעוֹר to learn about קְדוּשַׁת שַׁבָּת or הִלְכוֹת שַׁבָּת, 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, יִשִּׁיבָה, city, state, and contact # and your name will be entered into a drawing for a beautiful set of מְקַרְאוֹת גְּדוּלוֹת חוֹמְשִׁים!



# LEARNING FROM OUR LEADERS

בס"ד  
PIRCHEI AGUDAS YISROEL OF AMERICA

R' MICHEL YECHIEL ARYEH MUNK'S SON ONCE VISITED R' GUSTMAN.

YOUR FATHER IS MY YEDID NEFESH (LIT. SOUL MATE)... BUT HE CANNOT BE TRUSTED!

WHAT?! MY FATHER CAN'T BE TRUSTED??

AFTER R' GUSTMAN SAW THE LOOK OF ASTONISHMENT ON THE YOUNG MAN'S FACE, HE SMILED AND EXPLAINED...

I WAS SITTING AND TALKING WITH YOUR FATHER WHEN I RECEIVED A CALL FROM A DISTRAUGHT WIDOW;

PLEASE HELP ME, RABBI! I CANNOT GO ON - I HAVE NO MONEY WITH WHICH TO PAY MY BILLS. PLEASE, RABBI, HELP ME!

I AM EXTREMELY SORRY, I AM NOT IN A POSITION TO HELP AT THIS TIME.

I THOUGHT THAT WAS THE END OF THE STORY. UNTIL A FEW DAYS LATER...

RABBI, YOUR KINDNESS SAVED ME AND MY FAMILY IN MANY WAYS. I CAME TO SAY THANK YOU!

UH, REBBETZIN, I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT YOU ARE TALKING ABOUT... I WASN'T ABLE TO HELP...

REBBI, LOOK: I RECEIVED THIS ENVELOPE DELIVERED BY A MESSENGER!

From:  
R' Gustman

PLEASE DELIVER THIS TO 13 RECHOV...

I REALIZED WHAT HAPPENED. YOUR FATHER TOOK THE MONEY OUT OF HIS OWN POCKET AND, IN HIS DESIRE TO REMAIN ANONYMOUS, HE ATTRIBUTED THE DONATION TO ME!

AND NOW YOU KNOW WHY YOUR FATHER CAN'T BE TRUSTED!

R' MICHAEL YECHIEL ARYEH מ'צ"ל WAS BORN IN BERLIN, GERMANY, TO ר' AND SELMA MUNK. HE WENT TO LEARN IN ישיבת נייטרך AT AGE 17. HE WENT ON TO LEARN IN SLABODKA, WHERE HE STUDIED FOR FIVE YEARS, EARNING סמיכה FROM מנשה מרדכי ר' EPSTEIN מ'צ"ל (ראש ישיבה). HE THEN RETURNED TO BERLIN, WHERE HE ALSO STUDIED AT THE HILDESHEIMER RABBINICAL SEMINARY. WHEN ישראלי ר' (HIS FATHER) EMIGRATED TO ישראלי, R' MICHAEL YECHIEL ARYEH BECAME רב OF ישראלי CONGREGATION. LATER, HE SERVED AS רב IN LONDON AND ROXBURY. HE MARRIED LEITNER IN 1939 AND FOUNDED THE HENDON ישראלי IN LONDON. HE CAME TO AMERICA IN 1941 AND SETTLED IN BOSTON. IN 1943, HE WAS THE FOUNDED PRINCIPAL OF בית יעקב OF BORO PARK (BROOKLYN, NY). HE TOOK UP HIS FATHER FIGHT FOR THE PRESERVATION OF שחיטה IN THE UNITED STATES. HE DEDICATED MOST OF HIS LIFE TO SERVING THE NEEDS OF THE צבור, AND MANY SOUGHT HIS ADVICE AND GUIDANCE. HE PUBLISHED עדות נאמנה / עולם האותיות (שחיטה ושו"ת) ON שו"ת. IN HIS FINAL YEARS, HE RETIRED IN ישראלי AND TAUGHT IN ירושלים.



For any inquiries or comments please feel free to call 347-838-0869 • Illustrated by: Yeshaya Suval

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