

AT THE ARTSCROLL SHABBOS TABLE

A PROJECT OF THE
Mesorah
Heritage
Foundation

פרשת משפטים
א' אדר א' תשפ"ד
5784
FEBRUARY 10, 2024
ISSUE #176
RABBI YITZCHOK
HISIGER, EDITOR
DESIGN & LAYOUT:
MRS. AVIVA KOHN

WEEKLY INSPIRATION AND INSIGHT ADAPTED FROM CLASSIC ARTSCROLL TITLES

PROJECT DEDICATED BY MENACHEM AND BINAH BRAUNSTEIN AND FAMILY
L'ILLUI NISHMAS RAV MOSHE BEN RAV YISSOCHOR BERISH AND MARAS YENTA BAS YISROEL CHAIM

PARASHAH

THE EAR THAT HEARD

The Torah Treasury by Rabbi Moshe M. Lieber

וְרָצַע אֲדָנָיו אֶת אָזְנוֹ בַּמַּרְצֵעַ.

And his master shall bore through his ear with the awl (21:6).

Chazal explain why boring the earlobe symbolizes the servitude of the bondsman who spurns freedom and insists on remaining indentured. The ear that heard at Sinai the prohibition not to steal, yet did so regardless, deserves to be bored. Likewise, the ear that heard Hashem say that “the Bnei Yisrael are ... My servants” (Vayikra 25:55), yet chose to be the servant of a mortal human being, must be bored.

Since the bondsman discussed in this chapter was sold into slavery by the court to pay for the theft, he became a slave because of the legs that went to steal and the hands that committed the theft. Why should the ear be punished?

Rav Tzvi Pesach Frank submits two approaches:

When one hears the word of Hashem, it must penetrate deeply, leaving its mark on the total person. One who hears in this fashion is driven to follow the will of Hashem. If he is not driven to practical commitment, however, then it is obvious that he heard only superficially, with Hashem's words going in one ear and out the other. Since the lesson left no impact on the rest of the person, it was only the ear that heard Hashem speak. Thus, it is the ear that heard Hashem say not to steal that must be punished for not spreading the message throughout his entire person.

Alternatively, the Torah describes the revelation at Sinai as a great voice, never to be repeated (Devarim 5:19). Targum Onkelos renders it as a great unending voice. The voice of Hashem at Sinai continues throughout Jewish history, constantly speaking to every Jew and

encouraging him to follow the Torah. One who ignores this recurrent message basically claims that Sinai was an isolated event. He heard the words at Sinai yet he did not take them with him. Hence his ear must be bored.

•••••

If the reason his ear is bored is because he rejected the message that we are servants of Hashem and not of man, why do we bore his ear only after he decides to remain with his flesh-and-blood master? Why don't we do so as soon as he sells himself to another human being?

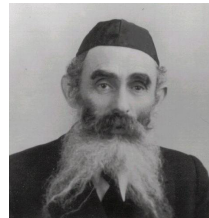
According to Rav Yechezkel Levenstein, the Torah teaches the dynamics of sin and repentance. When a person's spiritual brakes first begin to fail and he starts to lose control, he is in great peril. Downward momentum, driven by spiritual gravity, turns into a powerful, unstoppable force. On the surface, the person seems to be spiritually healthy, but in reality he is in great danger. On the other hand, one who

has fallen very far and begins to take the initial steps toward spiritual rehabilitation is, to a great degree, in a far better position. He has begun the uphill battle and taken the first steps toward overcoming his negative impulses. With time, his upward momentum will increase and intensify to the point that he will eventually succeed.

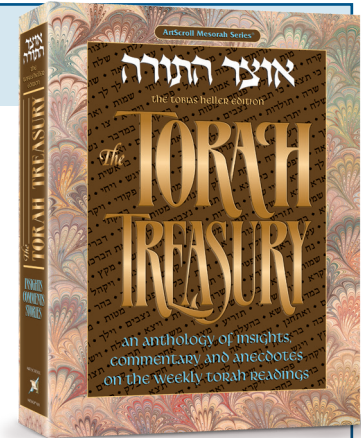
continued on page 3



Rav Tzvi Pesach Frank



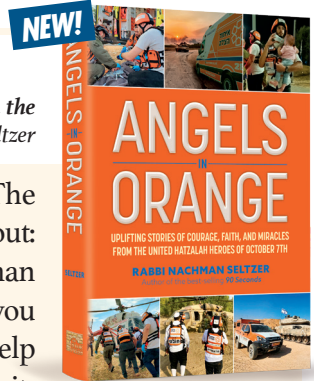
Rav Yechezkel Levenstein



MESORAH HERITAGE FOUNDATION

GENEROSITY

Angels in Orange – Uplifting Stories of Courage, Faith and Miracles from the United Hatzalah Heroes of October 7th by Rabbi Nachman Seltzer



Joe Teplow is a volunteer EMT with the New York branch of Hatzalah. Joe had been visiting Israel for Succos, and as soon as he heard news of the massacre on October 7, he went to the United Hatzalah headquarters to help.

Joe will never forget what he saw in the first few days of the war. One of the things that made an impression on him was everyone's willingness to contribute to the war effort. As soon as they sent out a message saying that the soldiers needed something — toothpaste, for example — a truck would pull up outside the United Hatzalah building, and a hundred boxes of toothpaste would be deposited on the pavement, there for United Hatzalah to transport to the soldiers in need. Two tons of water were delivered by water companies. It was the same with other goods and supplies.

When Joe, who had been making himself indispensable, was ready to return home a few days after the war started, he went to say goodbye to United Hatzalah president Eli Beer. "Listen," he said, "I wish I could stay here longer, but I need to get back to New York."

"Okay, but I'm going to need you to continue helping me from there."

"What do you need me to do?"

"I need you to be my man in America to ensure that we have access to supplies that we need. Although today things have changed and we can buy a lot of supplies and equipment in Israel, there is a

shortage of certain supplies. I can't get enough bandages here because they've all been sold to other countries like America and Ukraine. There's also a shortage of tourniquets and special medical scissors.

"Of course, there are also plenty of things that Israel doesn't manu-



facture. I need to know that I have someone like you in place to help us obtain those supplies. You will serve as our purchasing agent in the States. You'll meet with the companies and negotiate good terms and, most importantly, serve as the liaison with the New York branch of Hatzalah, which also purchases a lot of equipment and will be able to get us good deals. Can you do this for me and for United Hatzalah?"

To his credit, Joe agreed. Little did he know what the job entailed. Though it wouldn't have mattered. Once he agreed, he never wavered or backtracked. He was in — one hundred percent.

•••••

Practically from the moment Joe landed in New York, people started

calling him. The word was out: He was the man to speak to if you wanted to help Israel and United Hatzalah.

Caller: "How can I send diapers to Israel?"

Joe: "We don't need diapers."

Another caller: "I want to send a batch of undershirts."

Joe: "We don't need undershirts."

Joe was on top of the situation, only accepting gear and equipment that was on the list and nothing else. Dovi Maisel, too, arranged to send more bulletproof vests and helmets — the kind of stuff they really needed.

Over the next few weeks, Joe was responsible for sending three El Al cargo planes loaded with an immense supply of medical equipment and other vital things to Israel. The first two planes were free of charge — courtesy of El Al. Upon landing at the airport, they were met by United Hatzalah staff who made sure that customs allowed everything through without taxation, in accordance with a special wartime amendment that was passed in the Knesset. From there, the equipment was loaded onto United Hatzalah trucks and driven to the main warehouse on the outskirts of Beit Shemesh.

Not only did Joe work non-stop as the liaison between United Hatzalah and what seemed at times to be a million people, he also arranged a really good deal for the organization, reaching out

THIS WEEK'S DAF YOMI SCHEDULE:

SHABBOS	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
10 א 11 ב 12 ג 13 ד 14 ה 15 ו 16 ז						
Bava Kamma 100	Bava Kamma 101	Bava Kamma 102	Bava Kamma 103	Bava Kamma 104	Bava Kamma 105	Bava Kamma 106

THIS WEEK'S MISHNAH YOMI SCHEDULE:

SHABBOS	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
10 א 11 ב 12 ג 13 ד 14 ה 15 ו 16 ז						
Kesubos 11:1-2	Kesubos 11:3-4	Kesubos 11:5-6	Kesubos 12:1-2	Kesubos 12:3-4	Kesubos 13:1-2	Kesubos 13:3-4

GENEROSITY *continued from page 2*

to businessman Josh Kushner and asking for his support. Josh was familiar with United Hatzalah and wanted to help in a big way.

“Joe,” Josh said, “I’ll make you a deal. You work for one of the most successful Jews in the world, Marc Benioff. Tell Marc that if he donates a million dollars to United Hatzalah, I will match it.”

Joe relayed the message, and Marc Benioff agreed without hesitation.

Joe now had two million dollars to spend on purchasing equipment and was able to tell Eli and Michael Brown, the hardworking VP of United Hatzalah, to use the money they were raising for other things.

• • • • •

No matter how much money was coming in, endless amounts were flowing out to the extent that it was hard for Eli and his team to keep up with their very real needs.

The cost of operating the ambulances on a daily basis was one hundred and fifteen thousand shekels.

One hundred fifteen thousand shekels a day.

That kind of money adds up very quickly. That is not to mention the cost of operating the command center at Sdei Yoav, the supplies and equipment, and the million other things involved in running an opera-

tion like United Hatzalah in wartime.

If phase 1 was making sure that everyone had what they needed in the first few days of the war and phase 2 was replenishing the warehouses after all the equipment and supplies had been exhausted, now they were at phase 3 — which meant doing their best to assess their needs for the long haul, or, at least, however long the war would last.

• • • • •

There was another factor that Eli and his team had to take into consideration: training all the new volunteers who wanted to join the organization. When *90 Seconds: The Epic Story of Eli Beer and United Hatzalah* was published in the beginning of 2023, there were about 6,300 volunteers in United Hatzalah. The goal was to reach 12,000, which would allow them to respond to every emergency in the country in less than ninety seconds.

Since that time, the organization has grown. There are now more than 7,000 volunteers — with another 2,500 waiting to join. People around the country have been lining up to join the organization, especially after seeing the volunteers’ heroic behavior on Simchas Torah and the number of lives they had saved. They, too, want to join in the effort and do their part.

Though United Hatzalah normally trains 700 volunteers a year,

the plan right now was to train another 2,100 volunteers in the coming year. But for that to happen, United Hatzalah needed to be able to pay for it: the cost of training one volunteer is ten thousand dollars. This means that the budget just for training volunteers was projected to reach twenty-one million dollars in 2024.

Aside from all this, United Hatzalah is constructing a new three-story building in Sderot. And then there are all the new vehicles that need to be purchased for the coming year and the upkeep, as well as the new medical machines, the epipens, and the defibrillators. The expenses never stop.

But unlike in the past when this would have made Eli extremely nervous, now he is confident that the money will arrive — because, as he says, “our people know what’s going on, and I know that they’re going to be there for us.”

Sometimes Eli will look at a group of donors meeting with him and say, “Right now we need to raise money for more bulletproof vests. I know that you are people who care about Israel and want United Hatzalah to be able to deal with emergencies under fire. But for that to happen, we need more vests. This is the situation. Are you in?”

And time after time they are. Because they really care. 📖

THE EAR THAT HEARD *continued from page 1*

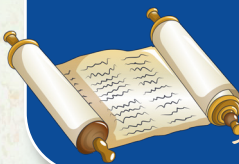
While one is on a spiritual slide, it is almost impossible to reason with him or convince him to change his ways. He is so caught up in his passion that he is deaf to any positive message. Only when he hits rock bottom and is wallowing in evil can he be awakened. His passion spent, he is able to realize how far he has fallen. Now he is ready to pick himself up and attempt to climb the mountain to repentance.

When the Jewish bondsman initially sells himself, his downward momentum is so great that the message inherent in boring his earlobe will be lost on him. Only after six years of servitude to another human being, and only when he has fallen so low that he loves the non-Jewish maidservant he was coupled with more than his Jewish wife and prefers his mortal master to freedom, is he ready to begin the trek to rehabilitation. Only then can he begin to save his soul. 📖

*This week's
Yerushalmi Yomi
schedule:*

**FEBRUARY /
פברואר**

SHABBOS	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
10 Terumos 39	11 Terumos 40	12 Terumos 41	13 Terumos 42	14 Terumos 43	15 Terumos 44	16 Terumos 45



Parashah for Children

פרשת משפטים

A TREASURE CHEST OF MITZVOS

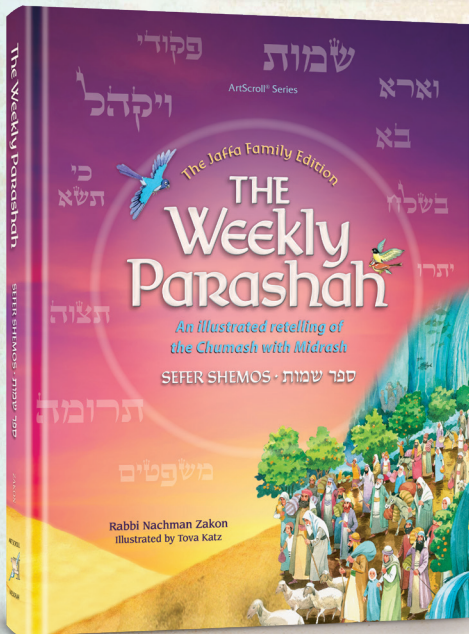
Opening Parashas Mishpatim is like discovering a treasure chest. But this chest isn't filled with gold coins. It's filled with something better — mitzvos! According to the Sefer HaChinuch, which explains all the mitzvos, there are 53 mitzvos in Parashas Mishpatim.

The following are some of the mitzvos:

- ▶ We are not allowed to curse or hit a parent.
- ▶ We are used to calling food like crabs, pigs, and snails “treife” (that is, not kosher). But in the Torah, the word “treifah” means a kosher animal or bird that is missing a part of its body or has a sickness that will cause it to die within a year. For example, if a kosher animal has a hole in its heart or is missing a leg. The insides of every kosher animal are checked in the factory by mashgichim, kashrus supervisors, who make sure the animal is not a treifah.

- ▶ If we find a lost item that has a siman (an identifying sign) on it, like a name or an unusual mark, we must try to find the owner and return it.
- ▶ It's not permitted to cook meat and milk together. The Torah repeats this command in two other places as well, to teach us that not only is cooking milk and meat forbidden, but we are not allowed to eat it or have benefit from it — like selling it to a non-Jew or feeding it to our non-Jewish servants or to our animals.

- ▶ On Pesach, Shavuot, and Succos the Jews were supposed to come to the Beis HaMikdash. Imagine how awesome it looked on Succos, with hundreds of thousands of Jews coming to the Beis HaMikdash holding their lulavim and esrogim. Or on Pesach, when Yerushalayim was full of people leading their lambs for the Korban Pesach. On Shavuot they came with their baskets of Bikkurim, the first fruits to ripen in their fields. When the Jews came they were required to bring animal offerings to the Beis HaMikdash.



THE WEEKLY QUESTION

Question for Mishpatim:

What was unusual about the city of Kushta described in the Gemara?

Kids, please ask your parents to email the answer to shabbosquestion@artscroll.com by this Wednesday to be entered into a weekly raffle to win a \$36 ARTSCROLL GIFT CARD! Be sure to include your full name, city, and contact info. Names of winners will appear in a future edition. HINT: The answer can be found in *The Jaffa Family Edition Weekly Parashah*.

The winner of the Parashas Beshalach question is: AKIVA KROHN, Baltimore, MD

The question was: During makkas arbeh, what did Hashem send along with the locusts?

The answer is: Along with the locusts, Hashem sent poisonous snakes to bite and kill the Egyptians.

