



Project: Sermon Resource for Shluchim
 Distribution Date: February 6, 2007 / י"ח שבט תשס"ז
 Parsha: Yisro / יתרו

בי"ה

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1. Does Judaism allow hunting for the fun of it?



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2. We find two hunters, both bad men, in the Torah.

- Nimrod and Esau (who killed Nimrod and carried on his legacy);

Surely no one wants their child to follow the legacy of those two men.

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3. Torah forbids inflicting pain on animals.
 (Remember the angel rebuking Balaam.)



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4. Also, a Jew is must feed his animals before eating,

- "I shall give grass in your fields *for your animals* (first and then) *you shall eat.*"



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5. In this week's portion:

"On Shabbat... You shall not do any work, you... and your animals."

And in next week's portion: "On Shabbat you shall cease work in order that *your ox and your donkey* shall rest!"



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6. Clearly Torah demands kind treatment of animals

However, causing pain to animals if it is for the benefit of man is permitted (because the animal was created to serve man who was created to serve his Creator).

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7. Even in such cases we must make sure to cause as little pain as possible.

This is why the *Shechita*, is such a delicate process.

If the knife should cause unnecessary pain, the animal is non-kosher.



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8. This concept goes even deeper. Rabbi Yehudah was punished for acting coldheartedly towards a calf that had escaped from a slaughterhouse.

He suffered sore teeth until he showed mercy to baby mice found in his house.



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9. There is an interesting lesson in this story.

Alter Rebbe (*Shulchan Aruch*): "It is permitted to cause pain when necessary... Although most would still refrain from such action for it may bring to callousness."

(Permissibly taking countless lives will make one callous towards all forms of life.)



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10. This is especially important for Jews who are characterized by "mercy".

To use an animal for a medical experiment is not callous it is the greatest form of mercy- it could save countless lives!

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11. In this week's parsha G-d chooses the Jewish nation.

- The Rebbe explains: Hunting separates the Jew from the world.
- The world honors hunting. The better you kill the more honors you receive.
- The Jew is forbidden by the Torah even to kill an insect for no reason!



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12. G-d created the intelligent man to build up the world.

Therefore the Jew must bring morality and justice to the world. - Destruction is not a Jewish strongpoint.

The reward: "When you show mercy others will show you mercy."



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