

Connections

A Project of the Shluchim Office

PARSHAS MISHPATIM
CHOF HEY SHEVAT 5765

Connecting Tzeirei Hashluchim around the World!

VOLUME 1
ISSUE 18



PARSHAS MISHPATIM

During lunch break, an exciting game of baseball was going on in the field. Heshy's team was up at bat and the score was close.

But Ari didn't join the game. He had gotten up late that morning; he rushed through breakfast so that he wouldn't miss the bus; he forgot his lunch at home, and he didn't have any money to buy food. He was really hungry by now.

Ari wandered around the school yard hesitantly, until he finally decided to approach Heshy, who was cheering the team's player at bat.

"Heshy," Ari asked bashfully. "Would you lend me some money so I could buy a bagel at the canteen? I forgot my lunch."

"Sure, Ari, but my wallet is in my briefcase. As soon as the game is over I'll get the money from the classroom."

Ari was embarrassed to tell Heshy that recess would also be over by the time the game finished, and the canteen would be closed. He needed the money now.

Perhaps Heshy would have acted differently if he had thought about one of the mitzvos in Parshas Mishpatim, "When you shall lend money to My people, to a needy person."

It also might have helped if he had remembered a story about the Tzemach Tzedek. He was on his way to shul when a chassid, Reb Pinchas, asked him for a loan.

"I'll be happy to lend you the money," the Tzemach Tzedek told him. "Please come to my house right after davening."

The Tzemach Tzedek continued walking to shul and prepared for davening, but as he wrapped himself in his tallis, he remembered that it was market day.

"Reb Pinchas probably needs the loan for business today. The sooner he gets it, the more profitable his business will be. I must give him the money right away," thought the Tzemach Tzedek. He put away his tallis and rushed home to get the money. Then he hurried to the market, found Reb Pinchas, gave him the loan, and rushed back to shul. As he washed his hands before davening, his grandfather, the Alter Rebbe, suddenly appeared to him. The Tzemach Tzedek had been waiting for such a vision for a long time. It was because of the mitzvah that he performed that the Alter Rebbe appeared to him.

From Please Tell Me What the Rebbe Said (Adapted from Toras Menachem 5710, p. 211ff)

Chinuch Yaldei Hashluchim

Rabbi M. Shemtov
Rivky Lokshin
Dabrushy Pink
Aydlia Vechter



**My beginning and end are the same, I end in a sea and
there's a judge in me.
What am I?**

Connections Proof Readers:

Rabbi A. Lipsey
Mrs. G. Junik
Rabbi L. Zirkind

Va'ad Hashluchim:

Rabbi Y. Deren
Rabbi O. Goldman
Rabbi Y. Greenberg
Rabbi B. Levertov
Rabbi Y. Shemtov

Please send your answers to connections@shluchim.org
Last week's brain buster: The only difference between my partner and me
is what. What am I?



FROM THE DESK OF... DR. GETZEL

Hi there, boys and girls!

I just arrived back in my office here in Iowa between the cows and cornfields. I was on vacation at the Kinus Hashluchos held in honor of Chof Beis Shevat, Rebbetzin Chaya Mushka's yartzeit (Of course you remember the flight that I missed and the googly-eyed pilot who flew the Shluchos for free because they reach a GOOGOL Jews.) Sorry about the mess in here. While I was gone, mail from kids and doctors from all over the world piled up on my desk. (There were so many letters that they spilled over onto the floor and even began falling out of the windows!) As you know, I'm an eye doctor and I specialize in seeing things. At the Kinus there were so many special things happening all at once that I didn't know where to look first. I saw shluchos and shluchos-in-training (tzirei hashluchos) from all over. I spotted Chani from Canada having extra Ahavas Yisroel and Mushky from France davening with extra kavanah. All of those extras surely made the Rebbe and Rebbetzin very proud.

Brrrr . . . I'm going to turn up the heat in here. Here in Iowa the sun is shining but it was so cold in New York that I'm still trying to warm up. That reminds me of my Uncle Berel. He's always talking about how cold he was in Russia. He told me how he sat in his house once Farbrenging with his friend Yankel. They were both shaking and shivering from the cold. Uncle Berel crawled into bed and pulled the blanket over his head to warm up. Suddenly Yankel had an idea and quickly got to work. Before long a cozy fire was crackling in the fireplace and the whole house was warm and toasty. Uncle Berel came out from under his blanket with very red cheeks to rejoin the Farbrengen.

As kid-Shluchim, we're not like Uncle Berel hiding under the blanket. We're out there warming up the world with Torah and Mitzvos. Next time you go outside and bundle up in your scarf and gloves, put on your COL (Chassidic Outlook Lens) glasses and look around you. Think about ways that you can make your friends warm, too. Teach your friends about Shabbos, Tzitzis and Kashrus. Remind them to say brachos, give tzedakah and kiss the mezuzah. Then, write to me describing how you helped warm up a friend. I'll be here in my office with the green roof and wooden door waiting for your letter.

Dr. Getzel



ROSH CHODESH CHECKLIST

ראש חודש אדר א'

ל' שבט - Wednesday, February 9
א' אדר א' - Thursday, February 10

- I REMEMBERED TO SAY YA'ALEH V'YAVOH IN SHEMONEH ESREI AND IN BENTCHING
- I REMEMBERED TO SAY HALLEL AFTER SHEMONEH ESREI.
- I REMEMBERED TO DAVEN MUSAF.
- I REMEMBERED TO SAY BORCHI NAFSHI ON PAGE 79 AFTER THE SHIR SHEL YOM
- I DIDN'T SEW OR DO ANY LAUNDRY

KIDS SPEAK

WHERE YOUNG SHLUCHIM TALK ABOUT THEIR SHLICHUS

Chaya MUSHKA JUNIK, age 7
LONDON, ENGLAND

My Mummy went away
To a far-away place,
I miss her very much
As I cannot see her face.
But she is at the Kinus
Seeing all her friends,
And learning new things!

**HEY KIDS, SEND US A SHORT PARAGRAPH ABOUT YOUR SHLICHUS AND WE WILL PUBLISH IT IN OUR FUTURE "CONNECTIONS"!
PLEASE INCLUDE YOUR NAME, AGE, AND LOCATION.
E-MAIL US AT: CONNECTIONS@SHLUCHIM.ORG**



POCKET CALENDAR

This year, תשס"ה, is a leap year, which means that there are two months of אדר, known as אדר ראשון and אדר שני. This Shabbos, פרישת משפטים, we bentsh the new month of אדר ראשון.

In שיחות before and during the two months of אדר of תשנ"ב, the רבי emphasized the importance of שמוחה in turning the darkness of גלות into the light of גאולה.

The רבי also stressed that, being as there are two months of אדר this year, there are 60 days during which we are to increase our שמוחה. More importantly, in Jewish law, the number 60 has the ability to nullify an undesirable presence, as we know with בשר וחלב, that it can be בטול בשישים.

Similarly, explains the Rebbe, 60 days of שמוחה have the ability to nullify the darkness of the present גלות, allowing us to actually turn the darkness into light.

We must listen to the Rebbe's words and utilize שמוחה, especially during this month, to turn darkness into light, sadness into joy, and pain and tears into rejoicing with משיח and גאולה השלימה!

(L'chaim Weekly)



DID YOU KNOW?

Every Jew is a Jewel

One time, a Chasid visited his Rebbe. He saw that the Rebbe spoke with scholars, rabbis, and community leaders, but he gave special attention to simple Jews. When it was his turn to talk to with the Rebbe, the Chasid couldn't restrain himself from asking, "Why did you spend so much time with those simple Jews?"

The Rebbe didn't answer the question. Instead he said to the Chasid, "Tell me about your work."

The Chasid explained that he bought and sold gems.

"Do you have any gems to show me?" the Rebbe asked.

The Chasid took out a small velvet bag and poured the gems into his hand. Then he took the Rebbe to the window so he could see the beautiful stones in the light. "This one is unique," the Chasid said choosing one gem. "Its cut and clarity are truly exceptional!"

"I don't see what is so unique," the Rebbe commented.

"I guess you have to be an expert to appreciate them," the Chasid answered.

"The same is true with the Jewish people!" the Rebbe replied. "You have to be an expert to know how special each person really is!"

ARE YOU A PARSHA EXPERT?

This week's parshah talks about 3 different types of Mitzvos.

Mishpatim, Chukim, and Eidus.

Mishpatim are mitzvos which we can understand, like not stealing or not hurting others. Must people keep these Mitzvos in order that we can live peacefully and happily with each other.

Eidus are mitzvos which we would probably not have on our own. Hashem tells us to keep them as reminders of events that happened to the Jewish people, like Pesach or Sukkos.

The third type of Mitzvos are **Chukim**. Chukim are mitzvos that we are not taught the reason for them, and the only reason why we keep them is because Hashem told us to do so.

Chukim are Mitzvos, not necessarily those that don't have a reason, but they are above reasoning. Chukim show a very deep connections between a Jew and Hashem. This special connection is above our understanding.

Parshas Mishpatim comes right after Mattan Torah. At Mattan Torah, everything was overwhelming and above nature. The mountain was afire, the people **heard** the lighting and **saw** the thunder. The entire world stood still and the voice of Hashem filled the air. Those wonders are above our understanding; they are very different from our day-to-day lives.

Because Mattan Torah was above our understanding, we would expect everyone to keep the Chukim. Bnei Yisroel felt at Mattan Torah that it was above reason, far from understanding, doing what Hashem wants just because He is so great.

Yet, the mitzvos that follow Mattan Torah are Mishpatim, mitzvos that we can understand. This shows us that we must take the overwhelming holiness of Mattan Torah and bring it down into our understanding. Hashem doesn't want the Torah to stay above reason. He wants us to make the Torah part of ourselves."

(Adapted from Please tell me what the Rebbe said, Parshas Mishpatim)

Stories Of Elders

The Bagel Vendor

Yosel, the Bagel Vendor" was the name by which he was known in the shtetl where he lived, for this was how he made his living - if you could call it a "living."

To be sure, Yosel went out every day, trying hard to find customers for his bagels. But bagel-customers were not easy to come by in that poor shtetl. To supplement his income, Yosel was ready to whitewash or paint people's homes. But this was strictly a seasonal business, a few weeks before Pesach, when people got busy with their Yom Tov preparations. His wife, too, did her share to help out by taking in laundry from her more fortunate neighbors.

But even with all this, poor Yosel hardly managed to feed his family, and he was blessed with a houseful of constantly hungry children. It was thus a perpetual struggle for Yosel and his wife to keep body and soul together.

One day, when Yosel came to the market-place feeling very low and discouraged, he noticed an unusual commotion. Inquiring what the excitement was about, he learned that the well-known tzaddik, Reb Zusha of Anipoli had been passing through town and stopped in the middle of the market place to greet and be greeted by any Jew who wished to shake hands with him.

Many Jews hurried forward to take advantage of this opportunity to give "Shalom" to the saintly Rebbe and ask him for a bracha.

So many of them were in need of a bracha from Heaven, and who was closer to Heaven than this tzaddik, Reb Zusha, to obtain it for them? So everyone crowded around the tzaddik, eager to receive his bracha.

Poor Yosel looked on at the people jostling and pushing to get near to the holy Rebbe. But he himself remained where he was, and looked enviously from the distance. He, too, perhaps more than anyone else, was in need of help, but he had no money in his pocket to give to the tzaddik as a "pidyon" for tzedakah, as was the custom: for he knew that in order to be received, one has to be a giver.

As Yosel was thinking it over in his mind, he suddenly heard Reb Zusha call out: "Reb Yosef, Reb Yosef, please come here!"

Yosel thought - isn't my name is Yosef, but no one ever calls me "Reb Yosef." Besides, there must be several other men in the market place called Yosef. Surely, the saintly Rebbe didn't mean me! Indeed, several men pushed their way forward and approached the tzaddik. But in each case the tzaddik looked at the man and said, "No, you're not the Yosef I'm looking for."

Reb Zusha then called out, "Isn't there another Yosef here?"

Now Yosel plucked up courage and timidly pushed his way through the crowd to get to the Rebbe.

"My name is Yosel...Yosef," he stammered sheepishly.

"Ah, yes, yes; you're the one I meant," the tzaddik said, as he took Yosel's hand and held it in his quite a while, speaking to him with particular warmth.

"Tell me, Reb Yosef, how are things with you regarding parnassah?"

"Rebbe," replied Yosel honestly, "the sad truth is that at this moment I have no parnassah, but I'm sure the Al-mighty will not forsake me..."

"Of course not, of course," the Rebbe reassured him, "when a Jew has complete trust in HaShem, He will surely take care of him."

Thereupon the Rebbe told his shamash to bring out a bottle of wine and pour some in a glass for "Reb Yosef."

Yosel made the bracha over wine, took a sip and said, "Lechayim, Rebbe!"

"Lechayim velivrachah!" the tzaddik answered heartily.

When Yosel emptied the glass, the Rebbe asked him, "Do you know what gefen (vine) stands for? The gimmel is for gesunt (health), the pey is for parnassah (sustenance), and the nun is for nachas (joy). May G-d bless you with these three good things in full measure. Tell me, have you a tzedakah pushka in your house?"

"Yes, Rebbe, I have a pushka, but I'm sorry to say, it's empty right now."

The tzaddik took out three silver coins and gave them to Yosel, saying: "Put these three silver coins in your tzedakah pushka. Tomorrow morning you will take out two of them: one for tzedakah and the other for your own good use. The third one be sure to leave in your pushke. This you will do every day, except, of course, on Shabbos and Yom Tov. See that you do not leave the box entirely empty; take out as much as you need, but never clear out the box as long as you are in need."

Yosel hurried home feeling happy and encouraged. He immediately placed the three silver coins in his tzedakah box. The following morning he took out two coins, giving one to the town's tzedakah collector, and with the other he bought food for his hungry family.

The following morning when Yosel opened the tzedakah box, he was amazed to find quite a number of silver coins in it!

He counted out half the number of coins, which he divided equally between the tzedakah collector and himself. He was now able to buy, not only food, but also some clothing for his children.

Every day Yosel checked his pushke and found that, miracle of miracles!, not only did the silver coins not decrease, but increased!

In time "poor" Yosel was poor no longer. He began to do business and became quite rich. The tzaddik's three-fold blessing, for gesunt, parnassah, and nachas was fully realized.

Gratefully, Yosel gave a generous portion of his parnassah to tzedakah.

A favorite tzedakah of his was to provide free fresh bagels to all the school children every day, as well as provide the needs of the poor children and orphans of the village.

When Yosel's undertakings prospered, he decided that the time had come to forego the miraculous help of his tzedakah box. So he emptied it and gave its contents to charity. From then on instead of taking from the tzedakah pushka, Yosel began to fill it up with his own contributions, putting some coins into it every day before davvening in the morning, and again before minchah.

Yosel never forgot the words of the tzaddik, and when he recited Kiddush and Havdalah over wine, he always remembered to thank the Al-mighty for blessing him with gesunt, parnassah and nachas from his children and grandchildren.

(The Storyteller)



שבת מברכים חודש אדר א'

□ Shabbos morning I made sure to say Tehillim. (Remember to do your quota for the World-Wide Tehillim club.)




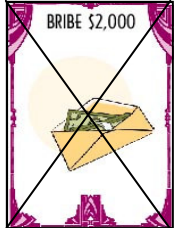



□ I went to shul and made the special brocho for the new month of Adar Alef. (The brocho can be found in the siddur after Shaichris for Shabbos)



פרשת משפטים

Kids! Fill out the answers to the puzzle below, and fax it to the Shluchim Office at (718) 221-0985 or e-mail it to connections@shluchim.org no later than Wednesday, February 9th, ל' שבט.

Match the picture to a quote on the bottom that is mentioned in **פרשת משפטים**:

<p>”</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>This teaches that we must not mix _____ and _____.</p>		<p>”</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>“</p> <p>_____</p>	
<p>”</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>“</p> <p>_____</p>	<p>All slaves go free in</p> <p>לדבול</p>	<p>”</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>“</p> <p>_____</p>	 <p>תפילה</p>
<p>”</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>“</p> <p>_____</p>		<p>”</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>“</p> <p>Shmita is every _____th year.</p>	
<p>”</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>“</p> <p>_____</p>	 <p>עירי מקלט</p>	<p>”</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>“</p> <p>Never tell a _____.</p>	

1. אנה לידו ושמתי לך 2. מדבר שקר תרחק 3. לא תבשל גדי בחלב אמו 4. ועבדתם את ה' אלקיכם 5. והגישו אל הדלת או אל המזוזה 6. ...ועבדו לעולם 7. ובשיעית תשמטנה 8. ושחד לא תקח

Name: _____ Age: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ e-mail: _____

Last Week's Winners

Level 1: Rivka Lifshitz, age 6, Blue Ash, OH & Uziel Weinstein, age 5, Newtown, PA
 Level 2: Moshe Sasonkin, age 11, Akron, OH & Chaya Mushka Jaffe, age 10, Brisbane, Australia

