

Connections



A Project of the Shluchim Office

PARSHAS PEKUDEI
LAMED ADAR 1 5765

Connecting Tzeirei Hashluchim around the World!

VOLUME 1
ISSUE 23



PARSHAS PEKUDEI

"Let's get an earlier start on Pesach cleaning this year," Naomi's mother told her. "I'd like you to sort out your desk drawer this afternoon. It's cluttered with so many items and gadgets that it looks like you're planning to open a store!" she added with a chuckle.

Naomi smiled sheepishly. Her mother was right, she was a real collector. She saved all kinds of things. Everyone in the family had gotten used to it - sometimes they even appreciated it. Whenever there was anything in the house that nobody needed, but no one wanted to throw away, someone would always say: "Let's give it to Naomi!"

As Naomi was busily going through her drawer, her sister Simi walked into the bedroom. She took one glance at the room and exclaimed: "Really, Naomi, why do you keep all that stuff? I never see you use that fold-up ruler or those colored wall tacks. And you never wear any of those ponytail holders!"

Naomi shrugged. "So what if I don't use these things? I still like having them."

Is Naomi right about unused rulers and wall tacks? Maybe yes and maybe no. Some people like having things, even when they don't use them. That's okay, when those things are ordinary, day-to-day things, but when it comes to the abilities, talents, and skills that *HaShem* has given us, it's different. This week's *parshah* teaches us about having, and about using what we have.

Pekudei means accounting. In *Parshas Pekudei*, Moshe Rabbeinu makes a reckoning of all the gold, silver and copper that was donated to the *Mishkan*. Then he checks to see how these materials were used, making an account of all the *keilim* (utensils) that were made from these precious metals.

We should also make a reckoning from time to time, and think about the way we are serving *HaShem*. Just like Moshe first made a reckoning of the materials that were collected, we should start by making an account of the different strengths we have. Then we should check to see how we have been using those strengths to serve *HaShem* - just as Moshe accounted for all the different ways those materials were used.

HaShem has blessed each one of us with many abilities, talents, powers and skills. We must account for everything we have been given, knowing what we can do and making sure that we are indeed using all our abilities to serve *HaShem*.

(Please Tell Me What The Rebbe Said, Adapted from Sichos Shabbos Parshas Pekudei 5749)*

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I HAVE 4 LETTERS AND MY END IS A NEIGHBOR.
WHAT AM I?

Please send your answers to connections@shluchim.org
 Last week's brain buster: My head and tail is Adam's son. My middle is the number of Luchos that Hashem gave B'nei Yisroel. What am I?

Answer: שבת

Congratulations to Mendel Vorst, 9 from Rotterdam, the Netherlands for solving the brain buster.



FROM THE DESK OF... **DR. GETZEL**

Hey Kids,

Have you ever been locked out of your house? If you have, you'll understand how I felt when I locked myself out of my office.

It was close to Purim. With so many things still left to prepare, I couldn't waste time. Suddenly, I realized that I was outside the office. That was a problem because the keys were inside the office. And the office door was locked. I needed to figure out how to get in and it needed to be fast.

As I was checking the windows to see if any were left open, I caught a glimpse of my Purim costume peeping out from under the mail piled on my desk. It was green and blue with some spots of brown. How was I going to finish it in time for Purim? All the windows were locked. So I climbed up to the roof to slide down the chimney. Oops, I forgot. I don't have a chimney. I sat down on the roof of my office and thought what a Chossid would do in this situation. That's when a picture of my Zaidy Zelig flashed in my mind. I could see him stroking his long, white beard with one hand while untangling his tzitzis and gartel strings with the other hand. "Getze'le," he said. "A Chassid is someone who does everything with a smile. When he davens, he does it b'simcha. When he trips on his shoelace, he laughs and hums a lively Chassidische nigun. And when he has a problem, he dances a little dance and puts on his biggest smile because 'Simcha poretz geder' – joy breaks through every boundary."

Being a highly educated and vastly knowledgeable professional seeing expert, I decided that Zaidy Zelig was right. I resolved not to worry and to look at the situation through my chassidische "happy eyes" instead. I jumped off the roof, hopped over to my wooden office door, and began talking.

"Knock, knock." I said.

"Whose there?" asked the green wooden door.

Me: "Orange."

The door: "Orange who?"

Me again: "Orange you glad I stopped by for a visit!?"

My door started to giggle. I told it a few more good jokes and soon it was turning from green to purple because it was laughing so hard. Then, I did one last knock-knock joke: 'Knock, knock' 'Who's there?' 'Lettuce' 'Lettuce who?' 'Lettuce in, it's cold outside!' Before I could say hamentash backwards, the door swung wide open and bellowed cheerfully, "Welcome! Mishenichnas OUR DOOR marbim b'simchah!" It worked, just like my Zaidy Zelig had promised. As soon as I decided to be happy, all of my problems disappeared and I got into my office right away!

As Chassidim we try our best to use our "happy eyes" and be cheerful all the time. We want people to look at us and say, "I can tell that he or she is a Chassid. No matter what happens they are always smiling." Because we're also Shluchim we need to make sure that everyone around us is happy, too. Next time you see someone frowning, think of my jolly green office door that really loves knock-knock jokes. Then tell your friend a riddle or two until they start to laugh. If that doesn't work you can always try tickling them under the chin!

Keep Smiling!

Dr. Getzel



ROSH CHODESH CHECKLIST

ראש חודש אדר ב'

א' אדר ב' – Shabbos, March 12

I REMEMBERED TO SAY **יבוא יעלה** **IN** **שמונה** **עשרה** **AND IN BENTCHING**

I REMEMBERED TO SAY **הלל**

I REMEMBERED TO DAVEN THE SPECIAL PARTS **IN** **שבת ראש חודש** **FOR** **שבת מוסף**

I REMEMBERED TO SAY **ברכי נפשי** **AFTER THE** **שיר של יום**



KIDS SPEAK

WHERE YOUNG SHLUCHIM TALK ABOUT THEIR SHLICHUS

Motti Diskin, age 8

Munich, Germany

Hello! My name is Motti Diskin. I am 8 ½ years old and I live in Munich, Germany, where we speak German. It sounds similar to Yiddish but is actually very different.

As some of you may know, many years ago (about 65) a big Rasha by the name of Hitler (י"ח ש"ח) killed many Jews in this country and many other countries in Europe. His plan was to wipe out all the Jews similar to Haman's plan. Although he killed 6 million Jews he did not succeed in killing the whole Jewish nation. In fact even in Germany there are about 130,000 Jews living here today. Our Chabad House is exactly across the street from Hitler's (י"ח) house in Munich. When we are sitting by our Shabbos table with all of our guests, singing Shabbos songs and watching the Shabbos licht, I look across the street to the window of that apartment and think "Boruch Hashem he didn't win. WE DID!!!! We are here and keeping Yiddishkeit in a proud way!!!"

I am the only boy in the city that walks in the street with a Yarmulka and Tzitzis. Sometimes people stare at me but it doesn't bother me.

I attend the local Jewish day school, but I am the only frum child there. I will have to leave the school after 4th grade and to go learn in a Yeshiva in New York like my older brothers and sisters. I am already looking forward to that day.

Thank you again for the Connections newsletter. I wait all week for it to come!!!

HEY KIDS!

SEND US A REPORT ABOUT YOUR SHLICHUS AND WE WILL IY"ח PUBLISH IT IN OUR FUTURE CONNECTIONS!

E-MAIL US AT CONNECTIONS@SHLUCHIM.ORG

PLEASE INCLUDE YOUR NAME, AGE AND LOCATION OF SHLICHUS.



POCKET CALENDAR

פרשת שקלים

This **שבת** is the first of four weeks when we read a special **פרשה** following the **קריאת התורה**. The special **פרשה** for this week, "**שקלים**", deals with the command to every **איד** to contribute a **מחצית השקל** - half a shekel - toward the building of the **מזבן** in the **מזבן**.

This **מחצית השקל** was not only a tax but served the additional purpose of being a **כפרה** for the **חטא העגל**. After hearing the command from **משה רבינו ה'**, was confused as to how it was possible for a half-shekel to forgive for such a terrible **עבירה**.

Each **איד** is a half. Only when one **איד** joins together with another **איד**, another half, does either **איד** become whole. Whether through the **מצוה** of **העגל**. After hearing the command from **משה רבינו ה'**, was confused as to how it was possible for a half-shekel to forgive for such a terrible **עבירה**.

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"ויעשו את הציין.....ויכתבו עליו"

Why does it say **ויכתבו** - "they wrote" on the **ציין**, in plural?

The **גמרא** tells about a man named Ben Kamtzar who could hold 4 pens in his hand and write the 4 letters of **ה'**'s name at the same time. The **חכמים** were upset with him because he refused to teach this special skill to anyone else. They wanted him to teach it to others because the first 2 letters of **ה'**'s name (**ה**, **י**) make up one of His names. When the next letter (**ו**) is written, the word becomes an ordinary word, so there is a halachic problem of erasing **ה'**'s name. When Ben Kamtzar wrote **ה'**'s name, there was no problem, because he wrote all 4 letters at once. When the **ציין** was made, in order not to have this problem, 4 people wrote together, each writing one letter of **ה'**'s name on the **ציין** at the same time.

(Adapted from Vedibarta Bam)

ARE YOU A PARSHA EXPERT?



פרשת שקלים

Just before Purim we give a half coin to **צדקה**. (If you live in America, this will be 50¢, in England it will be 50p and in Europe it will be 1/2 a Euro). This is called the **מצוה** of "**מחצית השקל**".

When **ה'** first commanded **משה** about the **מחצית השקל**, it was in order to count up how many Jews had been at **הר סיני**. Every Jew was instructed to give exactly the same half-shekel coin. A rich person did not give more. A poor man did not give less.

By counting the coins Moshe knew that 600,000 Jews had been at **הר סיני**.

When **ה'** taught **משה** this **מצוה**, He showed him a half-shekel of fire and said, "A coin like this is what they should give!"

This was very puzzling. How could a coin be made of fire? Fire does not have a shape. Everything else in this world has a definite shape and weight. Even liquids and gases take the shape of the vessel which they fill. But not fire. Fire is always changing. As it burns, it flickers, striving to rise up and leave the wick, and re-unite with its source above.

A coin is just the opposite. It has a size. It has a shape, and in this case, it weighs exactly half a shekel.

By showing **משה** a coin of fire, **ה'** wanted to teach him that when we give **צדקה** it must be done like an act of fire. An act filled with warmth and enthusiasm.

This applies to all **מצוה**. They should not be done like something that is weighed and measured, just so much and not more.

When we do a **מצוה**, especially when we give **צדקה**, our giving must be like fire, that flickers and burns with its own life, because it is an act of our **נפש אלוקית**, which constantly rises up like the flame, searching for perfection.

And then we remember, that as much as we accomplish, our giving is still only half a shekel, only half complete. To make a whole shekel, we need to be united with another person who also gives a half. Together our act is whole.

This is the best way of giving. Everyone can do it. Rich and poor, women, and children. Even the small boy or girl who goes out on **פורים** looking for two poor people, in order to fulfill the **מצוה** of **לאבינונים**.

And **ה'** receives their **צדקה** with joy, for **צדקה** hastens the **גאולה**, and He then rewards us with His half-shekel, the true and complete **גאולה**, with the revelation of Moshiach speedily NOW!

(Tzivos Hashem Newsletter)

Stories Of Mide

ז' אדר – יארצייט של משה רבינו

For forty years משה רבינו had led בני through the מדבר. Now they were ready to enter the land ה' had promised them. Their hearts were filled with eager anticipation.

משה רבינו also davened to enter the land, so that he could do the special מצות that can only be done there, but ה' said no. "Come with Me up to הר אברים," said the Al-mighty. "Look out over the land." At that moment, ה' showed משה רבינו all of ארץ ישראל, and all that would happen to the בני in the years to come. "If I cannot enter the land," said משה, "I beg You to bless the people with wise and patient leaders, who will understand them and help them. Leaders who will be merciful and patient, modest and kind, men who would lead the Jews through thick and thin."

Then ה' showed משה רבינו all the wise leaders, שופטים and נביאים, who would guide the Jewish people till Moshiach comes.

"Of all these great leaders," ה' said, "only one will be as patient and understanding as you have asked, able to help each person on his or her level. He will be equal to all the נביאים of all time. He will be the last redeemer, the מלך המשיח."

Then ה' showed משה רבינו the המקדש בית השמים, which ה' had made with His own hands. The walls were made of precious gems, and the whole building shone with the light of ה'. In the courtyard משה רבינו could see the King, משיח, holding a תורה. Beside him stood אהרן dressed in his גדול כהן.

משה asked ה' when this magnificent structure would be brought down to earth. But ה' would not tell him.

"Only after בני will have suffered many years, having been scattered throughout the nations, will they finally be gathered to their homeland at last. Then I will lower the heavenly ירושלים with the המקדש בית at its center. And this will never be destroyed."

ה' sent the מלאך המוות to bring משה רבינו's נשמה. But משה רבינו's face was shining like the sun, and the מלאך was afraid. Putting on a fierce expression, the מלאך drew his sword. But משה רבינו waved his stick, touching the מלאך, and it drew back in fear.

Finally, the day for Moshe's התלקות arrived, ז' אדר, the day on which he had been born. On that day משה רבינו wrote ספרי thirteen, one for each שבט, and one which would rest in the ארון in the משכן.

Then משה רבינו made one last request. He asked that ה' open the heavens and earth, so that all the people would see that ה' alone was the only Creator. This ה' did. בני gazed into the depths of the heavens, and saw the light of ה' shining into the darkness. Then they all exclaimed as one person, "שמע ישראל ה' אלוהינו ה' אחד!"

Finally, a Voice announced that משה רבינו had only one minute more. He ran to the tent of יהושע. The people saw him and begged him to teach them. But משה רבינו said, "From now on, יהושע will teach you and lead you. This is ה' command."

Then a pillar of cloud descended, separating יהושע from everyone else, so that ה' could speak to him. When the cloud rose, משה asked, "What did ה' say to you?"

"I am not allowed to tell you," יהושע replied. This was the first time ה' had spoken to יהושע and not to משה.

Since the מלאך המוות had no power over משה, ה' sent the מלאכים to bring him, but the מלאכים wept and refused to go. Finally, ה' Himself went down to bring back משה's נשמה.

He told משה to go up on הר נבא. משה ascended the mountain in twelve steps. There he found a cave, in which a bed had been prepared. ה' told משה to lie down, and he lay down. He told him to shut his eyes, and he shut his eyes. He told him to place his hand on his heart, and gather his feet together.

Then ה' summoned משה's נשמה to leave his body, and with a kiss, took it and brought it to שמים, placing it under His Holy Throne.

Seeing that משה was gone, יהושע tore his clothes. The people wept. The מלאכים in heaven also wept saying, "No נביא has ever arisen like משה, whom ה' spoke with face to face." To his last day, משה's face shone with a holy brilliance. His eyes were clear, and his voice could be heard throughout the camp.

The Kings of ארם and מואב came to see משה's קבר. Approaching הר נבא, they saw the cave high on the mountain. They climbed up, but then it appeared lower down. They went down, but then they saw it was high above. Puzzled, they split up in two groups. One climbed up and one remained below. Those high up saw the קבר below, while those below shouted that it was on top. Finally they realized that משה's קבר could never be reached.

May the נבואה soon be fulfilled, that "those who dwell in the earth will arise and sing," with משה and אהרן at their head, together with all the great צדיקים who devoted their lives to the service of ה', (and the Jewish people are all צדיקים) and we will all go to greet our righteous משיח, and he will redeem us!

(Adapted from the Tzivos Hashem Newsletter)



ספרי הרבי



ב"ה

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, March 16th, 'ה' אדר ב'.

Level 1 & 2:

Match the picture of the Rebbe's Sefarim to the correct description

<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>	
<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>	
1	A collection of שיחות from the Rebbe's שבת farbrengens. Usually, the Rebbe wouldn't check them over straight away, but he would edit them in time for the same פרשה the next year.	2	The Rebbe put this together before his נשיאות. It is a collection of פירושים on the הגדה and חב"ד מנהגים.	3	The פריערדיקער רבי asked the Rebbe to put together a ספר that has something for each day of the year.
4	A collection of letters that the Rebbe sent to all different kinds of people all over the world on all different kinds of topics.	5	When the Rebbe's father was in גלות he wrote in the margins of his ספרים. This ספר is a collection of the Rebbe's שיחות where he explained those notes.	6	A collection of שיחות that the Rebbe said every year at the כינוס השלוחים, explaining the job of the שלוחים and the specialty of שליחות.

Name: _____ Age: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ e-mail: _____

Last Week's Winners:

Level I: Berele Sasonkin, age 8, Akron OH & Mendel Kalmanson, age 6, Mason, OH

Good Luck!

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

ספרי הרבי

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

ב"ה



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Level 2: Ages 9 — 12

What ספר Is It?

1. This ספר has a collection of what was said at the שבת farbrengens?
2. This ספר has a thought for each day of the year.
3. This is a ספר for a special part of a special Yom Tov.
4. This ספר has answers to peoples' questions.
5. This ספר has explanations on notes that were written with ink made by a special lady.
6. This ספר has שיחות explaining your (the Shluchim's) job and how special it is.

BONUS - Can you find out some information about these 2 ספרים

 <p>הלכות בית המדרש להרמב"ם</p>	 <p>ספר המפתחות לספרי כ"ק אדמו"ר יוסף יצחק</p>
<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>

Name: _____ Age: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Phone: _____ e-mail: _____

Good Luck!

Last Week's Winners:

Level 2: Yoel Serebryanski, age 9, Surfside Paradise, Australia & Rochie Krinsky, age 10, Manchester, NH