

Connections

A Project of the Shluchim Office

PARSHAS VAYECHI
YUD BEIS TEVES 5765

Connecting Tzeirei Hashluchim around the World!

VOLUME 1
ISSUE 12



PARSHAS VAYECHI

You have something which is very special. It's yours for life. It will go with you wherever you go. You don't have to pay for it, carry it, guard it, or make room for it. You didn't even have to work to get it. Do you know what it is? It's your name!

Some people are named after great men or great women. Others are named after relatives who passed away. Sometimes people are given names which tell us about events in their lives. Adam's name comes from the word adamah, earth, because HaShem created Adam from the earth. Moshe Rabbeinu's name comes from the word moshui, "pulled in" because the basket Moshe was lying in was pulled in from the Nile River.

Some names tell us about wishes, thoughts or ideas connected with the person. Rachel Imeinu's first child was born after many years of waiting, so he was named Yosef, which means "add." While she was waiting to have a child, Rachel wished and davened that HaShem would bless her with an additional son.

Later, Yosef called his own children by names which tell us what he wished and hoped for.

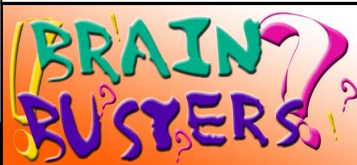
Yosef named his first born son Menasheh, from the word nasho, "forget." Yosef did not want his family to forget where they came from or who they were. The name Menasheh was a reminder, as if someone was constantly saying: Let us not forget that we are the descendants of Avraham, Yitzchak and Yaakov, even though we are now living in Egypt. Even when Jews are in golus, they must always remember who they are.

Yosef knew that HaShem sent the Jews into golus for a purpose. They are not just supposed to struggle through the golus and remember that they are Jews. They are supposed to make the golus fruitful, like a garden which flowers and blooms. By using everything in the golus for the Torah and its mitzvos, we make the world a dwelling place for HaShem. Wishing for this, Yosef named his second son Ephraim, which comes from the Hebrew word for fruitful.

This week's parshah tells us how Yaakov Avinu blessed Menasheh and Ephraim. Even though Menasheh was older, Ephraim received the greater blessing. Ephraim shows us the purpose of golus - that a Jew should prosper and be fruitful in the Torah way. That's why Yaakov gave him the greater blessing.

Still, Menasheh is the older brother and he comes first. This also teaches us an important lesson. Ephraim can succeed and be fruitful in golus because Menasheh constantly reminds him who he is and where he comes from. Like Menasheh and Ephraim, we are living in golus and must remember the lessons both of their names teach. But we have to remember another lesson Yosef taught. Yosef told the people pekod pekadeti - the geulah would come, and HaShem would take them back to Eretz Yisrael.

(Adapted from Likkutei Sichos, Vol. V, Hosafot, Parshas Vayechi)



"Connections" Newsletter
is a weekly publication produced by
Chinuch Yaldei Hashluchim
connections@shluchim.org

What are my beginning and end.
If you turn my middle around, you will have a tooth.
Who am I?

Please send your answers to connections@shluchim.org

The answer to last week's brain buster is Asher.

Congratulations to **The Junik Family** from London, England, for solving the brain buster.



FROM THE DESK OF... DR. GETZEL

Hey Kids!

Being an inventor is hard work. Did you know that in order to invent something, you would need to be strong and sing and dance? I didn't know that either until I tried it myself. I'm Dr. Getzel, eye doctor and inventor. Yesterday I finally had time to sit down and work on perfecting my newest invention. I still needed to find some missing ingredients in order to complete my lightweight, automatic, digital, multi-featured, future-vision COL lens. There I was, sitting on my worn out, polka-dotted swivel chair in my green-roofed office, looking at my invention and thinking about what I could do to improve it. I sat. And I looked. I looked. And I sat. But, unfortunately, none of the sitting or looking helped me come up with any ideas to improve the lens. I decided that I needed a change in tactic so I stood up and closed my eyes. Then I stood on my head and looked at the lens with one eye open and one eye closed. I still had no luck so I decided to leave my office and take a break.

I jogged down the street with my eyes, nose, ears, and mouth wide open (I had to close my mouth after a bird almost flew in!) looking for something to help me with my problem. Suddenly, I spotted an old lady wearing a big pink bowtie and carrying two heavy looking shopping bags. A thought popped into my mind: *"Everything a person hears and sees is Hashgacha Protis and happens for a reason."* I concluded that Hashem made me see this lady because she would help me solve my problem and give me an idea to improve my COL lens.

I ran over to the lady and offered to carry her bags for her. As soon as I picked them up - Umph! I almost fell flat on my face! The bags felt like they were filled with rocks. They were so heavy that they made me lose my balance. Luckily, I activated my anti-trip, slip and fall device and managed to catch myself from falling, just in time to hear the old lady's squeaky voice begin to speak. "Thank you so much for carrying my rocks, Zeeskeit," she said smiling. "But be careful with them, my rock collection is very special to me."

By the time we got to her house, my arms were sore, my back was stiff and I saw stars twinkling in front of my eyes (even though it was in middle of the day). I was so excited to put down the bags that I let go of them right where I was . . . and dropped them directly onto my big toe (which made my big toe bigger). I started yelling and hopping up and down. "Oy, Sheifalle!" cried the old lady. "That's just what I need after a long day. How did you know that I love watching

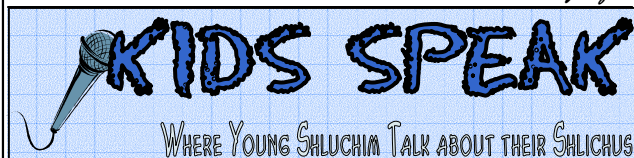
performances?

How could I say no to the little old lady? For the next half hour I danced around her living room (which is not an easy thing to do while holding one foot!) and pretended to be Avraham Fried while the little old lady sat on her couch and smiling and clapping.

When I finally got home that night with a hoarse voice and aching bones I had something to add to my lens. The old lady did help me with an idea in the end! I quickly turned on my machines, mixed some chemicals together and - Poof- I created the 70/80 feature. Most glasses help people see perfectly with 20/20 vision. My lens would help people see differently with 70/80 vision. 70/80 vision reminds you that a person could be alive for 70 or 80 years just to be able to do a favor for someone else. With that in mind, you'll always run to help another Yid anytime with anything. So if you ever meet a lady who wants you to carry her rock collection or put on a show for her use the 70/80 vision and run to help!

Bye 'till next week!

Dr. Getzel



MENACHEM MENDEL JAFFE, age 9

BRISBANE, AUSTRALIA

My name is Mendel Jaffe and I live in Brisbane Australia, down-under (real Diroh Betachtonim)

I was born 6 weeks after my parents moved here 9 1/2 years ago and I go to Sinai College Jewish Day School, which is the only Jewish school in our city. My friends started wearing Tzitzis and one of them actually bought his Tzitzis with his own pocket money. My Tatty is also Rabbi in the City Shul so every Shabbos we pack up and go to the city. My friends often come over for Shabbos and we go to Shul together and we learn Mishnayos together with my Tatty. My friends really enjoy being in a proper Shabbos atmosphere. I sometimes go with my Tatty on Mivtzoim to visit people in hospital or at home, my job is to wrap up the Tefillin. All my friends have become members in Tzivos Hashem and I am very proud to be on Shlichos because I am following Hashem's Torah and Mitzvos. Whenever I go to Melbourne or England I go to school there so I have friends in those places too.

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

"שלושים יום לפני החג"

Thirty days before a טוב יום we begin preparing for the special day that is coming up.

We are now a month (30 days) before the יארצייט of the פריערדיקער רבי which is on שבט 'ג. The 30-days of preparation actually starts on the special day of בטבת עשרה.

It was the רבי פריערדיקער who told us that we are about to greet Moshiach very soon. He said that we have already completed our preparations and all that is left for us to do is to "polish the buttons" of our uniforms, so that we may go out and greet Moshiach with greater beauty and glory.

Now that the רבי פריערדיקער's יארצייט is coming up, we should put extra effort into following his instructions of "polishing our buttons" to greet Moshiach.

The פריערדיקער רבי explained that his משל to "polish the buttons," means to add in learning Torah, doing mitzvos with greater care, giving tzedakah, and to have extra כוונה in our davenning.

ה' for a הכנה for 'ג, we will be having a special contest for the ילדי השלוחים to participate in. You will be getting the הכנה in your parents' e-mail before שבט ר"ח.

(משיחת עשרה בטבת תשמ"ז)



פרשת ויחי Moshiach in

Before יעקב passed away he called the שבטים together and said, "Gather yourselves together, that I may tell you that which will happen in the last days." יעקב wanted to reveal to them the time of the קץ-the coming of משיח. We find that יעקב did not reveal the future. Our חכמים explain that the שכניזה left יעקב, and with it, the knowledge of the קץ. In other words, ה' did not want יעקב to reveal the date of the גאולה האולה. The reason for this is: the גאולה must come about purely on the merit of our efforts. If יעקב would have revealed the קץ, we would know the time of the coming of משיח and we would not work hard for his coming.

"...עד כי יבוא שילה"

Rashi explains that the שילה refer to משיח. In addition, the בעל המעוררים points out that the Hebrew words "בא שילה" have the same gematria as the word "Moshiach." The word "בא" contains a profound hint as to how we can bring Moshiach. For יבא has the same gematria as the word אחד-one. When there will be unity among Jews, and in particular, when Jews will unite in speaking about Moshiach, they will succeed in drawing down and realizing the ultimate Redemption through מלך המשיח.

ARE YOU A PARSHA EXPERT?

QUESTION: WHEN THE TZEMACH TZEDEK WAS A YOUNG BOY HE LEARNED THE פסוק IN THIS WEEK'S פרשה - פרשת ויחי: "AND יעקב LIVED IN מצרים FOR SEVENTEEN YEARS." HIS TEACHER EXPLAINED THAT THESE YEARS WERE THE BEST OF YAAKOV'S ENTIRE LIFE.

WHEN THE TZEMACH TZEDEK CAME HOME FROM CHEDER HE ASKED HIS GRANDFATHER, THE ALTER REBBE, HOW THIS WAS POSSIBLE. HOW COULD THOSE YEARS BE THE BEST OF יעקב'S LIFE? HE WANTED TO KNOW. WASN'T מצרים THE MOST CORRUPT AND IMMORAL PLACE ON EARTH?

IN RESPONSE, THE ALTER REBBE QUOTED ANOTHER פסוק: "AND יהודה HE SENT BEFORE HIM TO יוסף, TO DIRECT HIM TO GOSHEN." THE MIDRASH RELATES THAT יעקב SENT יהודה TO ESTABLISH A YESHIVA. THROUGHOUT THE TIME THEY SPENT IN מצרים THE TWELVE SHEVATIM DEVOTED THEMSELVES TO THE STUDY OF TORAH. BY LEARNING TORAH, A JEW DRAWS NEAR TO ה'; THUS IT WAS POSSIBLE FOR יעקב TO "LIVE," EVEN IN SUCH A BAD COUNTRY LIKE מצרים.

* * *

ANSWER: THE FINEST YEARS OF יעקב'S LIFE WERE THE 17 HE SPENT WITH יוסף IN מצרים. WHEN יעקב SAW THAT HIS SON WAS ALIVE, AND THAT DESPITE THE FACT THAT HE WAS A משנה למלך IN מצרים, יוסף HAD CONTINUED TO CONDUCT HIMSELF IN A MANNER BEFITTING THE SON OF ONE OF THE אבות, IT BROUGHT יעקב GREAT JOY.

THIS JOY WAS EVEN MORE PRONOUNCED BECAUSE IT CAME AFTER MANY YEARS DURING WHICH יעקב COULD NOT SEE HIS SON, AND DID NOT KNOW IF HE WAS STILL אציק. THIS JOY IS SIMILAR TO A LIGHT THAT FOLLOWS THE DARKNESS. OBVIOUSLY, LIGHT IS ALWAYS PREFERABLE TO DARKNESS, BUT THE ADVANTAGE IT HAS IS MUCH MORE STRIKING WHEN IT COMES AFTER TOTAL DARKNESS. THE MORE INTENSE THE DARKNESS, THE BRIGHTER THE LIGHT APPEARS WHEN IT FINALLY ARRIVES.

THAT'S WHY THE YEARS יעקב SPENT IN מצרים WERE THE BEST OF HIS LIFE, EVEN BETTER THAN THE ONES HE HAD SPENT IN THE LAND OF CANAAN. BECAUSE A LIGHT THAT FOLLOWS THE DARKEST DARKNESS IS THE VERY BRIGHTEST LIGHT OF ALL.

(FROM L'CHAIM WEEKLY, ADAPTED FROM LIKUTEI SICHOS, VOLUME 10)



Stories of our Rabbeim

The Wonder Cure

This is a story about a Jew who lived in Vitebsk, a town in White Russia of old. He had always enjoyed good health, but one day he suddenly fell ill. He did not know what was wrong with him and despite the various remedies he took, he became worse from day to day. He saw a doctor, who prescribed a certain medicine, but that did not help him either. Finally, he decided to see the greatest doctor in town, who was known as the Professor, reputedly the greatest medical specialist in the whole region.

The Professor gave the patient a very thorough examination, asked him many questions, and then told him he was sorry he could not help him. "Only G-d can help you," he said gravely.

Understandably the poor Jew was very worried.

Then he remembered hearing that in the nearby small town, Liozna, there was a holy Rebbe who had helped many people. So he set off for Liozna to visit this great man, the Alter Rebbe, Rabbi Schneur Zalman.

Arriving at the Rebbe's house he found many other Jews waiting to see him. Luckily (perhaps because he looked so worried,) he was admitted to see the Rebbe among the first ones on the list.

When he came into the presence of the Rebbe, he could not hold back his tears, and poured out his heart describing his desperate condition, begging the Rebbe to help him for the sake of his wife and children.

The Rebbe replied: "A doctor's job is to heal, and not to make his patient feel worse. Actually your condition is not at all serious; it is just a kind of fever and will pass."

Astonished, the Jew asked, "But Rebbe, if it is a fever, shouldn't I be shivering?"

"So you will shiver," answered the Rebbe, reassuringly.

The Jew could hardly believe what he had heard and was, of course, overjoyed.

No sooner had he left the Rebbe than he felt cold, and began to shiver slightly. And, as he continued on his way home, the shivering increased. As soon as he got home, he went straight to bed, feeling hot and cold all over, and shivering without a stop.

He stayed in bed for a few days, then suddenly the shivering stopped. He felt so much better that he was soon able to get out of bed, feeling like a new man!

Some time later, as the Jew was walking down the street, he came face to face with the professor, who recognized him at once. "Aren't you the patient who came to see me some time ago, critically ill?" the professor asked him.

"Yes, sir," answered the man.

"I am certainly delighted to see you looking so well," the professor continued. "Tell me, my friend, what happened to bring about such an unexpected recovery, and what medicine did you take?"

The Jew told him that after the professor had given him up, he went to see the famed Rebbe in Liozna, who told him that his illness was nothing but a kind of fever.

"That I also knew," said the doctor. "But a fever can be extremely dangerous unless it develops into hot and cold shivering. For that is the way the body can rid itself of the sickness. The trouble with you was that you showed no signs of shivering. I knew of no medicine that could bring about such shivering. That is why I told you I could not help you."

"As a matter of fact, when the Rebbe told me I had a fever, I asked him, 'if I have a fever, would I not be shivering?', to which he replied, 'So you will shiver.' And sure enough, no sooner did I leave the Rebbe's presence than I began to shiver, and the shivering steadily increased and became violent. I got into bed and shivered hot and cold for several days. Then, with Hashem's help, I recovered completely from my illness."

"With Hashem's help" - you said. "Wasn't that what I also told you, 'I cannot help you, only Hashem can help you!'" the professor exclaimed happily.

All smiles, the professor and his patient shook hands, wishing each other good health.

Added the professor: "Some day I hope to see your Rebbe, but not in a professional capacity. No doubt he can do more for me than I for him."

(Taken from The Storyteller)



WE KNOW THAT WE START PREPARING FOR A YOM TOV 30 DAYS BEFORE. WE ARE NOW A MONTH BEFORE YUD SHEVAT. WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO PREPARE FOR THIS SPECIAL DAY?

ברכת יעקב

בס"ד

Kids! Fill out the names of the שבטים below, and fax it to the Shluchim Office at (718) 221- 0985 no later than Wednesday, December 29th, י"ז טבת. We will make a raffle from the correct answers and mailing prizes to the winners!

Which שבט am I?

My children and I live by the sea,
Merchants and sailors are we.
My עולם הזה I share with my brother,
And in עולם הבא we will walk together.

I am: _____

Brothers to attack wherever we go,
_____ and _____, of us you surely know,
With swords in our hands, there seemed no other way,
To save our sister דינה from שבט that day.

We are: _____ and _____

At running I can outrace anyone.
That's why I was chosen by יעקב to run.
To run back to מצרים and bring with me,
The papers for עשו, my uncle to see,
That the last place in the special cave,
Was supposed to be my father's grave.

I am: _____

I am not the בכור but from me kings come;
דוד המלך and שלמה his son.
I'm as strong as a lion and respected as well.
What is my name? Do I need to tell?

I am: _____

I am the youngest of 12, that's me,
I complete this wonderful family.
But sad to say, when I was born,
For רחל, our mother, we had to mourn.

I am: _____

I am the first born of בלהה - that's me.
In the מדבר my שבט had a big job, you see.
At the back of the camp it was us you would find,
To make sure nothing got left behind.

I am: _____

Name: _____ Age: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ e-mail: _____

Congratulations to Shmuel Dovid Raichik age 6 1/2 from Gaithersburg, Maryland and Chaya Mushka Gurary, age 8 from Buffalo NY for winning last week.

Good Luck!