

Connections

A Project of the Shluchim Office

PARSHAS VAYISHLACH
YUD GIMMEL KISLEV 5765

Connecting Tzeirei Hashluchim around the World!

VOLUME 1
ISSUE 8



PARSHAS VAYISHLACH

Once a man came to visit the Maggid of Mezeritch. He was shocked to see how empty the Maggid's home was. There was hardly any furniture; the tables, chairs, and beds were all made of simple boards or stumps of wood. The man could not help asking the Maggid why his house was so bare.

The Maggid replied: "And where is your furniture?"

"In my home, of course" the visitor said.

"Why don't you have any with you?" the Maggid continued.

The man looked at the Maggid in surprise. "I'm on a business trip now. Surely a person doesn't need his furniture when he is in the middle of a journey!"

The Maggid smiled. "I too am on a journey. This world and all its possessions are only temporary."

Yaakov Avinu was sending this same message to Esav. He sent messengers to Esav, instructing them to give his brother gifts and tell him in Yaakov's name: "Im Lavan garti... I have lived with Lavan and have been delayed there until now. I have acquired many possessions - oxen, donkeys, sheep and servants."

Rashi tells us that the word "garti" - "I have lived" - has a deeper message. The Hebrew letters of this word are gimmeil, reish, taf and yud. We find the same letters in the word taryag. We all know that taryag stands for the 613 mitzvos of the Torah. Yaakov's message, says Rashi, was - "I have lived with Lavan for many years, but I was not influenced by him. I kept the mitzvos and led my life according to Torah."

The words garti and taryag are not connected only because they share the same letters. There are other words in Hebrew which mean "live." Yaakov could have used a different word. But he chose garti, which comes from the root "ger" - a stranger, a person who knows that he's not really at home.

Yaakov was saying that everything which he earned while working for Lavan - the oxen, donkeys, sheep and servants - are not really important. The entire time he was living there, he was like a stranger, because working for these things is not what his life was all about.

Yaakov's real life centers around his neshamah. All his possessions are things he lives with, not things he lives for. He was telling Esav: "I am concerned with things that are permanent, things which really count."

All the time that we, Yaakov's children, are in galus, we are also strangers. Although we may be successful and prosper, this is not what we are really living for. Like Yaakov, our lives should center around our neshamos. That is what really matters to a Jew.

(Adapted from Likkutei Sichos, Vol. XV, Parshas Vayishlach)



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

Can you find a person and a town in this week's פרשה that have the same name.

Please send your answers to connections@shluchim.org

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

Congratulations to Shmuel Chaikin, Johannesburg, South Africa for solving the brain buster.

We are so happy with all the responses we are getting to the brain busters. Unfortunately, we are not able to print all of your names. Please continue sending your feedback and responses as we will make a gores each week and pick one winner.



FROM THE DESK OF... DR. GETZEL

Hey Kids!

Hope you had a great week. You know I was thinking that carrots must be good for your eyes—you never see rabbits wearing glasses, right? I thought some more and I realized that meat is good for Chabad Houses in the same way—every Shliach eats chicken soup on Shabbos, right? With carrots! You see, with so many new Shluchim running to so many new places (my nose is running too, but that's because I sleep outside with the cows) we need much more meat so that every Chabad House can have a Geshmake cholent.

Here in Iowa things got really busy. There weren't enough Shochtim to keep all the cholent pots full! So they asked me to come and shecht for them. I rolled up my sleeves and got to work. Anything to help the Shluchim! It sounds pretty funny to think of me as a Shochet, doesn't it? The kids here think so too—they stopped singing "Dr Getzel is a Pretzel" and now they sing "Dr Getzel is a Shnitzel"!

I just decided to become a vegetarian because watching the chicken and meat get shechted was not such an awesome sight! That's when my diet began. You see, everyone of us is on a diet. We are on a Kosher diet, only eating our food with a good hechsher. But then there are people like me who all of a sudden when they wake up in the morning, can't see their toes because of something blocking them.. no it's not their nose, but a rolley polley stomach the sized of a tire, almost like a flat tire! Since Yom Tov, all I've been doing is eating Rebbetzin Getzel's delicious suppers so that I can learn Torah and perform my mitzvos with more zest.... I realized that I can't give in to my ta'avos and only eat when I am hungry. But you know what I realized? Everyone's outside doesn't count! It's the inside. We are all different, we have different size noses, some of us are taller and some of us have freckles on our noses, but we are all the same because we are all part of Hashem - just like it says in the Tanya that the Alter Rebbe wrote!

Dr. Getzel

Announcements



SAVE THE DATE!!!

ATTENTION ALL CHILDREN!

In honor of "ט כסלו" there will be a conference call/rally.

Date: Wednesday night - "ח כסלו"

Time: 8 pm - EST

7 pm - Midwest

5 pm - West Coast

You will be getting an e-mail with all the information including the phone numbers.

For more information, e-mail: cyh@shluchim.org



"ויהי חת"ת אלוקים על הערים..."

The word "Chitas" - "fear" - is also a *roshei teivos* for Chumash, Tehillim and Tanya. The Friediker Rebbe, urged that every day of the week, every Jew should study the portion of Chumash for the day of the week, a portion of Tehillim according to the day of the month (the Tehillim is divided for the 30 days of the Hebrew month) and a portion of Tanya as it is divided for each day of the year. This is a great *segulah* for everyone **בגשמיות** and **ברוחניות**.

In 1843 the Tzemach Tzedek sent his son, the Rebbe Maharash to Petersburg to discuss some concerns. Before he left, he told him that his mother, Rebbetzin Devorah Leah, appeared to him and told him that she had the *zechus* to visit the holy palace of the **בעל שם טוב** in **שמים**. She asked for a **ברכה** to lessen the difficulties that people had against the spreading of Chassidus. The **בעל שם טוב** told her that through learning the holy seforim of Chumash, Tehillim and Tanya, all difficulties and "barriers" would be nullified.

This pasuk hints to this: "ויהי חת"ת" - when one learns Chumash, Tehillim and Tanya, then - no one will chase after the children of Yaakov to do them any harm **בגשמיות** and **ברוחניות**.

(Taken from the weekly L'Chaim magazine)



POCKET CALENDAR

TES KISLEV

On this day the **מיטעלער רבי** was born and passed away.

He was born on ט' כסלו תקל"ד

He passed on ט' כסלו תקפ"ח

YUD KISLEV

On י' כסלו תקפ"ז, the **מיטעלער רבי** was freed from imprisonment in Vitebsk.

YUD GIMMEL KISLEV

On this day, the United States Federal Court ruled that the Rebbe does not have to testify in response to the false accusations regarding the sefarim.

YUD DALED KISLEV

On this day, the Rebbe married Rebbetzin Chaya Mushka.

KIDS SPEAK

WHERE YOUNG SHLUCHIM TALK ABOUT THEIR SHLICHUS

Mendy Vorovitch age 9

Toronto, Canada

My name is Mendy Vorovitch. I am 9 years old and I go to Grade 4 in Cheder Chabad of Toronto. My parents are on Shlichus in Toronto for 10 years. I try to help them as much as I could. The story that I want to tell happened about 2 years ago. At that time a young woman came to our house saying that her husband is very sick, he has a very high fever. The doctors don't know whats causing it and there are a lot of questions not answered. She was crying and looked very very sad. It happened right before when my Tatty was planning to go to New York. So Tatty told her that she should give Tzedakah and write a letter to the Rebbe, because my Tatty was going to go to the Ohel there. So the next day, when my Tatty was already in New York, he went to the Ohel and put this letter there and then in the evening he went to a wedding and asked the Chosen & Kallah to daven under the Chuppa for this woman's husband. That same evening Tatty called the woman to find out whats happening. And she told him that her husband was much better, and the fever went down. And this was after a whole month when he was so sick with high fever. She told my Tatty that it was a miracle, that all of a sudden he became better. She was so thankful.

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: CYH@SHLUCHIM.ORG

ARE YOU A PARSHA EXPERT?

QUESTION: Why is דינה referred to as "בת לאה" - "daughter of Leah"?

ANSWER: After 6 of the שבטים were born: יששכר & זבולן, יהודה, שמעון, לוי, ראובן, and לאה was having her 7th child, she was worried that this could cause embarrassment to her sister רחל. She knew that יעקב was going to have twelve שבטים. Since she already had six sons, and the two maidservants, בלהה and זלפה, had two sons each, if she were to have a seventh son, רחל would seem less worthy than the maids. Therefore, she davened that her sister be spared the embarrassment of having only 1 son and the maidservants each 2. At the time of her תפילות, רחל, too, was expecting a child and was carrying a girl. In response to לאה's תפילות, ה' miraculously transferred the girl in רחל's womb to לאה, and the boy carried by לאה to רחל (Niddah 31a, Maharsha). Now, רחל gave birth to יוסף, and לאה to דינה. That is why the תורה emphasizes that דינה was the daughter of לאה, because without her תפילות, לאה would never have given birth to her.

QUESTION: Why didn't יעקב bury רחל in the מערת המכפלה where חוה & אדם, שרה & אברהם, יצחק & רבקה were buried? Instead he buried her at the crossroads of בית לחם like ה' told him to.

ANSWER: When רחל's children would, in the future, be taken into גלות by נבוכדנצר, they would pass קבר רחל. She would beg ה' to have pity on her children, and ה' would listen to her תפילות. (P'sikta Ravi)

(Excerpted from V'Dibarta Bam)



Stories of our Rabbeim

The Wedding of the Rebbe and Rebbetzin

This coming Shabbos, י"ד כסלו is the day that the Rebbe and Rebbetzin Chaya Mushka were married.

The Rebbe and Rebbetzin got married on י"ד כסלו תרפ"ח 76 years ago, in the city of Warsaw, Poland.

The following is an excerpt from the journal of one of the Yeshiva students of Yeshivas Tomchei Temimim in Warsaw:

The happy news that the wedding of the Frieddiker Rebbe's daughter, Rebbetzin Chaya Mushka, with the Rebbe was to be celebrated in Warsaw aroused indescribable feelings of joy among the Jews of Poland in general and the Chabad Chasidim in particular. At that time, the Frieddiker Rebbe was living in Riga, Latvia and it was his heartfelt wish to have the wedding celebrated in Yeshivas Tomchei Temimim.

On י"ג כסלו, thousands of Jews flocked to the railway station to welcome the Frieddiker Rebbe and his family. During the course of the day, many Chabad Chasidim, coming from all the towns and cities of Poland and Lithuania, arrived in the capital - Warsaw. Some of the guests came from even farther places. In particular, the Frieddiker Rebbe's father in law, Rabbi Avraham Shneerson, had traveled all the way from Kishinev to be at the wedding.

On י"ד כסלו, at five in the evening, was the קבלת פנים. Only guests with official invitations were allowed to enter. Literally thousands of people surrounded the building, all waiting to enter, but there simply was no room for all of them.

The banquet hall was dominated by a great table, at the head of which sat the חתן – the Rebbe; his father in law, the Frieddiker Rebbe; and Rabbi Avraham Shneerson, Rebbetzin Nechama Dina (the Frieddiker Rebbe's wife)'s father. On both sides, running along the length of the table, sat great Chassidim, Torah leaders and important Rabbis, as well as leaders from every corner of Poland.

The Frieddiker Rebbe then stood up to speak and everyone was silent.

"It is well known that when a wedding takes place the נשמות of the previous three generations of ancestors descend from גן עדן to participate in the event. Such is the case with every Jewish family. However, sometimes it is possible to encompass more than just three generations.... I will deliver a maamar which has a source from the Alter Rebbe, the Mitteler Rebbe, the Tzemach Tzedek, the Rebbe Maharash and the Rebbe Rashab".

The Frieddiker Rebbe then began saying the מאמר of "לכה דודי".

After the מאמר, the Frieddiker Rebbe took the Rebbe into a private room for a few moments and then was the באדעקן and the חופה. At the chupah, they sang the ד' בבות ניגון which was composed by the Alter Rebbe.

During the wedding meal, the Frieddiker Rebbe himself passed among the tables and filled the cups of all the guests. He then danced with the Yeshivas Tomchei Temimim administration and teachers. The Frieddiker Rebbe then said a מאמר: "אשר ברא ששון ושמחה". After the מאמר, the guests washed for the meal.

Many hundreds of miles away, in Dnepropetrovsk, they were also celebrating the wedding of the Rebbe and Rebbetzin. His parents, Rabbi Levi Yitzchok and Rebbetzin Chana, who were unable to be there in person, organized a splendid meal in their own house, to which they invited many of the Jews of the city. In the house of Rabbi Levi Yitzchok the joy and festivity lasted the whole night long.

(from Days in Chabad)



Learn between 2-5 lines of תנ"ך by heart in honor of י"ט כסלו. E-mail us (connections@shluchim.org) your names and we'll fax it into the אורה.

י"ט כסלו

Level 1: Ages 5-7

Kids! Fill out the answers to the questions about י"ט כסלו below and fax it to the Shluchim Office at (718) 221-0985 no later than Wednesday, December 1st, י"ח כסלו. We will אי"ה be making a raffle from the correct answers and mailing prizes to the winners!

1. What was the אלטער רבי 's name? _____
2. What 2 main Sefarim did the אלטער רבי write?
A: _____ B: _____
3. How long was the אלטער רבי in prison? _____
4. What was the אלטער רבי in middle of saying when he was told that he could go free and what קפיטל is it in? _____
5. What 2 Shiurim do we start again on י"ט כסלו?
A: _____ B: _____
6. How many פרקים are there in the תניא? _____
7. What do חסידים call י"ט כסלו? _____
8. Who passed away on י"ט כסלו? _____

(Look in the front pages of a *Yiddish Hayom Yom* for some answers!)

Name: _____ Age: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ e-mail: _____

***Congratulations to Shneur Zalman Bergstein (6) Buffalo Grove, IL
and Esther Zirkind (7) Fresno, CA for winning last week!***

Good Luck!

י"ט כסלו

Level 2: Ages 8-12

Kids! Fill out the answers to the questions about י"ט כסלו below, and fax it to the Shluchim Office at (718) 221-0985 no later than Wednesday, December 1st, י"ז כסלו. We will be making a raffle from the correct answers and mailing prizes to the winners!

1. What year did the אלטער רבי go to visit the מגיד of מעזריטש for the first time? _____
2. When (date and year) was the אלטער רבי arrested? _____
3. What was the קיטרוג in שמים against the אלטער רבי? _____
4. How long did it take the אלטער רבי to write the תניא? _____
5. Which city was the אלטער רבי imprisoned in? _____
6. What did the אלטער רבי answer the minister who asked him what 'ה meant when He asked Adam איכה? _____
7. What day of the week and פרשה was the אלטער רבי freed? _____
8. Which of the 12 תורה פסוקים is the תניא based on? _____
9. What are the 2 נשמות that every אייד has? A: _____ B: _____
10. When did the מעזריטשער מגיד pass away and where is he buried? _____

(Look in the front pages of a *Yiddish Hayom Yom* for some answers!)

Name: _____ Age: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ e-mail: _____

Congratulations to Rochel Ciment (8) Little Rock, AR and Menachem Mendel Jaffe (9) Brisbane, Australia for winning last week!

Good Luck!