

Connections



A Project of the Shluchim Office

PARSHAS YISRO
YUD CHES SHEVAT 5765

Connecting Tzeirei Hashluchim around the World!

VOLUME 1
ISSUE 17



PARSHAS YISRO

Just before Mattan Torah, all of the Jewish people gathered around Har Sinai. The mountain was surrounded by fire, and a heavenly cloud settled on top. The entire world came to a halt as the sound of the shofar was heard; thunder roared and lightning flashed in the background.

In the Talmud and in the Midrash, our Sages tell us more about what happened then. Rabbi Akiva tells us that the Jewish people could actually "see the thunder and hear the lightning."

Why does Rabbi Akiva tell us this?

Many other miracles took place at that time: All the birds stopped chirping precisely at the moment the Torah was given, flowers and fruit-bearing trees sprouted forth from the desert mountain, and most important - the Jewish people actually heard HaShem tell them the Ten Commandments. Is Rabbi Akiva just adding another miracle?

No. Rabbi Akiva is teaching us something very important. He is teaching us how a Jew should look at the Torah and the world around him.

We usually see physical things, but not ideas or thoughts. Yet our ears can listen to ideas - even deep and holy thoughts about HaShem.

The Torah guides a Jew to gaze deeper into the things which appear before his eyes and to look for the things which his ears have heard about. HaShem hides His holiness in the things around us. Even though we cannot see it, it is still there. It is our job to look deeper, to find that holiness, and to reveal it. Every mitzvah which we perform helps us reveal that hidden holiness.

For example, a delicious red apple. The Korean grocer says, "Its color is so red, its shape is perfect and it tastes delicious!" He sees the apple as a nice, tasty fruit. But a Jew who makes a berachah on the apple is looking at more than just a fruit. He sees the blessing of HaShem, and thanks Him for making the fruit grow.

This is what Rabbi Akiva meant when he said that the Jews could see what is heard - that the Torah makes it possible for us to look deeper and see the holiness in the world around us.

In his own life, Rabbi Akiva set an example of how to look deeper than what our eyes can see. He once accompanied a group of Sages who passed the site of the Beis HaMikdash after it was destroyed. Suddenly, a fox darted out from the rubble. Spotting the fox, the sages burst out in tears.

"How terrible! Look what has happened to our holy place!" they cried.

But Rabbi Akiva did not cry; instead the Sages saw him smiling. "How can you possibly be happy while seeing this destruction?" they asked him in wonder.

"I am happy because I am looking beyond what my eyes see," replied Rabbi Akiva. "Just as HaShem carried out His warnings to destroy the city, He will also fulfill His promise to rebuild the Beis HaMikdash. The destroyed Beis HaMikdash helps me see the rebuilt city of Yerushalayim and hear the sounds of geulah approaching."

From Please Tell Me What the Rebbe Said (Adapted from Likkutei Sichos, Vol. VI, Parshas Yisro)

Chinuch Yaldei Hashluchim

- Rabbi M. Shemtov
- Rizky Lokshin
- Dabrushy Pink
- Ayda Vechter



THE ONLY DIFFERENCE BETWEEN MY PARTNER AND ME IS WHAT. WHAT AM I?

Please send your answers to connections@shluchim.org

Last weeks' brain buster:

If you take away 10 of me, you will have something special for Shabbos.

Answer: if you take away the 'י' from ים סוף, you have מוסף!

Congratulations to **Menachem Mendel Altein**, from **Winnipeg, Canada**, for solving the brain buster.

Connections Prof-Readers:

Va'ad Hashluchim:

- Rabbi A. Lipsey
- Mrs. G. Junik
- Rabbi L. Zirkind
- Rabbi Y. Deren
- Rabbi O. Goldman
- Rabbi Y. Greenberg
- Rabbi B. Levertov



POCKET CALENDAR

כ"ב שבט

For the first יארצייט of מושקא ח'ה רביצין, in תשמ"ט, the Rebbe asked that a כינוס should be started for the שלוחות. That year, 400 שלוחות from around the world joined the Kinus. In honor of the Kinus the Rebbe gave over a special Sicha. Only Shluchos and their babies were allowed into the main shul of 770 to hear. The Rebbe spoke about being BeSimcha, about being a Shlucha and making our house into a מעט מקדש מעט.

This year, תשס"ה, over 1600 שלוחות are expected to come to the כינוס from over 65 countries all over the world.

פרשת יתרו

This week's פרשה includes the עשרת הדברות. Our מצוה is to stand during the קריאה and to face towards the ספר תורה.



A Lesson From יארצייט ח'ה רביצין's Name and מושקא

"חי"ה" means "life." The Rebbetzin's life was filled with מצות and acts of goodness and kindness.

"מושקא" means "perfume" in a different language. Our חכמים explain that the sense of smell brings pleasure to our נשמות.

כ"ב שבט is the day of the יארצייט רביצין's yartzeit. The number 22 hints to the 22 letters of the א-ב-ב. Our חכמים explain that א-ב created the world using these letters. The א-ב is a way that Hashem's חיות gives life to the גשמייתדיקע world.

From the יארצייט רביצין's name and from the date of her יארצייט we can take a lesson for ourselves and our lives. We should fill our days with acts of goodness, kindness, that spread and penetrate even the lowest parts of this world.

With each איד working toward this end, we will soon see that משיחה truly fills this world with the revelation of השלימה and the גאולה השלימה now!

ARE YOU A PARSHA EXPERT?

The Guarantee

While בני were busy with their preparations for מתן תורה, משה himself went up the mountain.

There ה' said to him:

"Gather all the people, but first speak to the women, so that they should hear and appreciate My teachings. And when My words have entered their hearts, they will help their husbands to train their children in the way of My Torah.

"And then, משה, when you have finished speaking to the Women, you will turn to the Men and teach them all I have told you. Not one thing must you leave out from all I have said!"

משה then descended from the mountain and spoke to all of בני, exactly as ה' had commanded him to do.

When משה had finished speaking, they all called out together:

"All that ה' has told us נעשה ונשמע!"

Then ה' asked what they had to offer as a guarantee that they would keep their word? For unless they offered ה' guarantors that He would be satisfied with, He would not give them the תורה.

"Our holy אבות - אברהם & יצחק, will be our guarantors!" replied the people.

But ה' wasn't satisfied with the אבות as guarantors.

בני considered for a while and then said to ה':

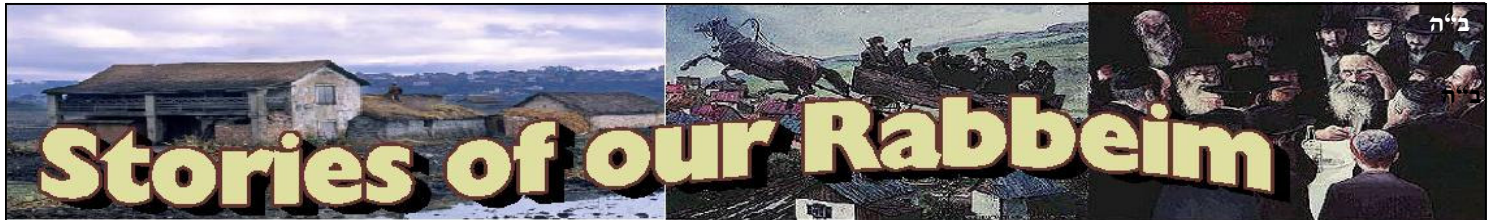
"Will You accept our children who will be born to us as guarantors, to assure You that we intend to keep Your תורה?"

"Your children are indeed the best guarantee that you can offer, and I gladly accept them as your pledge of trust!"

"We faithfully promise to study the תורה and teach the תורה to our children, so that they in turn can teach their children, and so on, forever."

"Your words please Me very much," answered ה'. "And now I can give you the תורה."

(Adapted from chabadonline.com)



STORIES OF REBBETZIN CHAYA MUSHKA

REALLY FEEL FOR THE OTHER PERSON

The Friday night before she passed away was a bitterly cold night. During a conversation with her visitor, the רבנין mentioned, "When I think that you have to go out [to go home], I become cold."

We should care so much about other people that we feel for them and even anticipate their discomfort. We can accomplish this by putting our own considerations aside, as the רבנין did on this night when she was already very sick, and focusing entirely on the other person.

THE IMPORTANCE OF HUMILITY

One year, in honor of her birthday, the נשי תב"ד Organization sent the רבנין a beautiful bouquet of flowers. Together with the bouquet was an envelope that contained a list of names of people who were in need of a גרנה. The intention was that the list be given to the Rebbe.

The person who accepted the bouquet gave it to the רבנין and submitted the envelope to the רבי. The רבי looked at the envelope, upon which the רבנין's name had been written, and asked why it was not given to the רבנין. The person explained that it contained a list of names of people who were in need of a גרנה. The רבי responded, "Nu, she can also געניש them!"

But when the רבנין communicated an answer from the Rebbe, she would always convey it word for word, saying, "This was the exact answer." She refused to ever add an explanation but only repeated the רבי's words exactly.

No matter our own greatness or importance, our own abilities or position of power, being humble is an important character trait.

In the יגות of the רבנין, may we immediately be privileged to see the conclusion of the coming of the משיח now!

CABINE FOR EVERY JEW

This story was told by Chessed Halberstam who worked for Rebbetzin Chaya Mushka for 18 years and was also her driver.

The Rebbe asked Chessed to make sure that the Rebbetzin got some fresh air every day. Chessed and the Rebbetzin would usually drive out to a park in Long Island. One day, as they were driving, they saw that one of the streets they usually drove along was closed and they had to take a detour along a different street. As they were driving along that street, they suddenly heard the sounds of a woman screaming in Russian. At the next traffic light, the Rebbetzin asked Chessed "I heard a woman screaming; can you go back and see what that was about?"

They drove back to the beginning of the street. There they saw a woman standing on the curb and crying, while near her movers were carrying furniture and household items from a house and loading them on to a truck. Near the truck stood an official looking man holding a clipboard. Chessed parked the car and went to ask the official what was going on. The official explained that the woman hadn't paid her rent for many months so she was now being evicted from her home.

When Chessed told the Rebbetzin all this, she asked him to go back and inquire from the official how much the woman owed and she also asked him not to say anything to the family being evicted. Chessed didn't understand why the Rebbetzin wanted him to do this, but he did exactly what she asked. The sum that the family owed was approximately \$6,700. The official said that if he received the payment, his men would carry everything back into the house. When Chessed informed the Rebbetzin of the details, she took out her checkbook and, to his amazement, wrote out a check for the full amount, and asked him to give it to the official.

With an amazed look on his face the official instructed his workers to take everything back into the house. The Rebbetzin immediately urged Chessed to quickly drive away, before the woman realized what had happened.

Chessed was completely amazed at what he had seen and later, when they were in the park, he could not hold back his curiosity anymore and asked the Rebbetzin what had prompted her to give such a large sum of money to a total stranger?

"Do you really want to know?" asked the Rebbetzin.

"Yes, I do," he replied.

"Then I'll tell you," she said. "Once, when I was a young girl, my father (the Friediker Rebbe) took me for a walk in the park. He sat me down on a bench and started to tell me about the idea of *hashgachah peratis*. Every time -- said my father -- when something causes us to change from our normal routine, there is a reason for this; every time we see something unusual, there is a purpose in why we've been shown this sight.

"Today," continued the Rebbetzin, "when I saw the 'Detour' sign instructing us to change from our regular route, I remembered my father's words and immediately thought to myself: Every day we drive by this street; suddenly, the street's closed off and we're sent to a different street. What is the purpose of this? How is this connected to me? Then I heard the sound of a woman crying and screaming. I realized that we have been sent along this route for a purpose."



**Did you come to New York for the Kinus?
Please e-mail me at connections@shluchim.org
and tell me all about it.**

כ"ב שבט

ב"ה



רביצין חיה מושקא

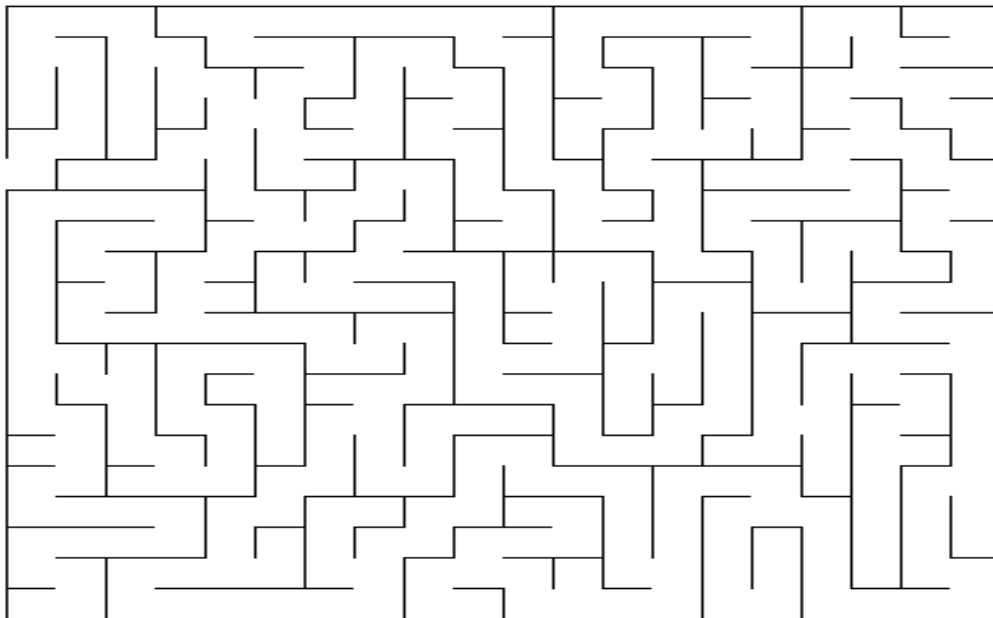


Level 1: Ages 5-8

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 2nd, כ"ג שבט.

1. When is Rebbetzin Chaya Mushka's birthday? _____
2. What is her father's name? _____
3. What is her mother's name? _____
4. What are Rebbetzin Chaya Mushka's sister's names? 1. _____ 2. _____
5. Where did the Rebbe and Rebbetzin get married? _____
6. What posuk from Tehillim applies to the Rebbetzin? _____
7. Who are the Rebbetzin's 'children'? _____
8. What year was the first Kinus Hashluchos in? _____
9. What day and year did Rebbetzin Chaya Mushka pass away? _____

Help Chanie go to Crown Heights for the **בינוס השלוחות**:



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

Last week's winners: Devorah Leah Goldman, 6, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma & Mendel Levertov, 8, Sante Fe, NM

Good Luck!

כ"ב שבט

ב"ה



רביצין חי'ה מושקא



Level 2: Ages 9-12

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 2nd, כ"ג שבט.

- Where was Rebbetzin Chaya Mushka born? _____
- Who decided what her name should be? _____
- How did Rebbetzin Chaya Mushka tell the Rebbe (her Choson) that her father was being arrested?

- What date and year did the Rebbetzin marry the Rebbe? _____
- What was the last mitzvah that the Rebbetzin did? _____
- What's the name of the tzedakah fund that was established in the Rebbetzin's memory? _____
- What Posuk did the Rebbe use to refer to the Rebbetzin after she passed away? _____

מ	ל	ך	כ	י	ט	ח	ז	ו	ה	ד	ג	ב	א
140	130	120	110	100	90	80	70	60	50	40	30	20	10

ת	ש	ר	ק	ץ	צ	ף	פ	ע	ס	ן	נ	ם
270	260	250	240	230	220	210	200	190	180	170	160	150

50 140 100 160 200 120 130 140 270 20 50 40 60 20 110 130 110

How is this connected to the Rebbetzin? _____

1.
2.
3.
4.

80 140 260 270 90 20 260 20 110

How is this connected to the Rebbetzin? _____

60 20 130 130 10 170 270 100 100 80 50 60

How is this connected to the Rebbetzin? _____

270 60 80 60 130 260 50 180 60 160 100 110

How is this connected to the Rebbetzin? _____

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

Last week's winners: Brochie Matusof, 10, Calgary, Alberta
 & Chanale Landa, 10, Thornhill, Canada