

# AT THE ARTSCROLL SHABBOS TABLE

WEEKLY INSPIRATION AND INSIGHT ADAPTED FROM CLASSIC ARTSCROLL TITLES

DEDICATED BY MENACHEM AND BINAH BRAUNSTEIN AND FAMILY  
L'ILLUI NISHMAS RAV MOSHE BEN RAV YISSOCHOR BERISH AND MARAS YENTA BAS YISROEL CHAIM

## PARASHAH

## ENVIRONMENTAL INFLUENCE

*Twerski On Chumash by Rabbi Abraham J. Twerski*

וַיִּגַשׁ יַעֲקֹב אֶל יִצְחָק אָבִיו וַיִּמְשְׁהוּ וַיֹּאמֶר הַקֵּל קוֹל יַעֲקֹב וְהַיָּדַיִם יְדֵי עֵשָׂו.  
*Yaakov drew close to Yitzchak his father, who felt him and said,  
"The voice is Yaakov's voice, but the hands are Eisav's hands" (27:22).*

The Torah commentaries elucidate the incomparable insights whereby the Torah teaches us proper living.

Rashi comments on the above verse, "The voice is Yaakov's, who speaks gently: 'Please, rise up.' But Eisav speaks with arrogance: 'Get up, father!'"

Rav Henach Leibowitz asks: How can it be that Eisav spoke harshly and disrespectfully to his father? The *Midrash* says that Eisav gave his father more than a hundred-fold the honor that the Talmudic sage, Rabban Shimon ben Gamliel, gave to *his* father. When attending his father, Eisav wore his finest clothing out of respect for his father. How is it, then, that he spoke disrespectfully to him?

Rav Leibowitz's answer is something that we should all take to heart. If a person becomes accustomed to coarse language, it may become so much a part of him that he cannot speak politely even if he tries. Eisav could change his clothes out of respect for his father, but having picked up the coarse language of his peers, he was unable to control the way he talked.



Rav Henach Leibowitz

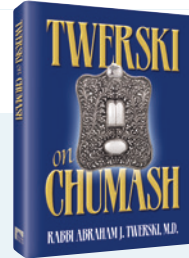
At the workplace or in the office, we often associate with

### IT BECOMES SO MUCH A PART OF HIM.

people whose speech is less than delicate. Vulgar terms may pepper their conversational diet. Under protection of freedom of speech, radio and television spew obscenities. If we are not extremely cautious, we may pick up this language and, what is worse, bring it home to our children.

It has been proven that people can be affected even by subliminal stimuli, and certainly by more overt and forceful actions. Just as coarse language is contagious, so are other aspects of behavior. Our business dealings may bring us into contact with people whose *middos* are not praiseworthy. We may not realize that they are influencing us and that our own behavior is deteriorating. Without being aware of the changes in us, we are helpless to prevent them.

Our only safeguard is to be on the alert, and to make a concerted effort not to pick up the speech and traits of the environment in which we live. 📖



## PERSPECTIVE

## CHAI RATZON

*Touched by His Blessing By Rabbi Yechiel Spero*



Rav Yehoshua Moshe Aronson brings a novel explanation to the *pasuk*, "Pose'ach es yadecha u'masbia le'chol chai ratzon," which struck him

during the days of destruction that he experienced: "You open Your hand and satiate all with a *chai ratzon*, a desire to live." This *ratzon* has en-

abled the Jewish people to withstand the persecution of numerous

*continued on page 3*

ARTSROLLS  
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## ACHIEVEMENT VS. PRODUCTIVITY

More Than Special – Perspectives from the World of Special Needs by Ahava Ehrenpreis



Since the beginning of time, it seems, we have been summing up people's worth by what they can produce instead of by what they can achieve.

While it is true that many or even most people with disabilities will not produce as much as their regularly abled peers, that does not limit their capacity to achieve. People with special needs can achieve greatness as givers, as thinkers, as

listeners, and as caretakers. They can achieve in relation to their own perceived or even diagnosed limitations, and it is up to us as a society to make sure that we do not limit

different from formulating realistic goals for anyone: We assess the current reality and aim just beyond it. Isn't that how all goals are achieved? One step at a time, but with the understanding that none of those steps can be skipped if one is to attain the desired goal. 📖

### ONE STEP AT A TIME.

their goals, even as we remain realistic about them.

Setting realistic goals for people with disabilities isn't very

## INSPIRATION

## ENVELOPED IN CARE

Powerful Moments by Rabbi Yitzchok Hisiger



Most of us are inundated with envelopes that arrive in the mail, seeking donations for one cause or another. Those who can afford to do so mail back a contribution. Those who cannot might give the envelope a quick glance before disposing of it. Some may even sigh.

And then there's the "custom" of one *marbitz* Torah in New York.

When I first heard about it, I was astounded.

This *maggid shiur* takes every envelope he receives and places it on his desk. After a while, he goes through the pile and sends a contribution to those he is able to support. And the others? They aren't just tossed into the waste-

### HE EXPRESSES HIS SUPPORT IN A DIFFERENT, VERY MEANINGFUL WAY.

bin. Instead, each envelope is taken in hand, and one *kappitel* of *Tehillim* is recited on behalf of that *tzedakah*, *mosad*, individual, or cause. Each envelope receives its own *kappitel*. Following



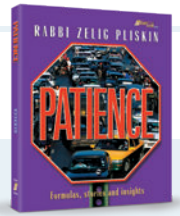
the heartfelt recital of David HaMelech's timeless words, this special *Yid* takes the envelopes and reluctantly disposes of them.

When he can't extend his financial support, he cares too much to just toss the envelopes in the trash, so he expresses his support in a different, very meaningful way. 📖

## Newest Releases



To have your shul receive copies of this newsletter every week for free, please send your shul name and address info to: [yhisiger@artscroll.com](mailto:yhisiger@artscroll.com).



“The fruit of rushing is regret.” This wisdom from *Mivchar Peninim* crystallizes the negative impact of impatience.

The fruit of the apple tree is apples. You can eat the apples as they are or make delicious apple pie and applesauce. The fruit of the orange tree is oranges, which can be eaten as is or which can be made into healthy orange juice. The fruit of the grapevine is grapes, which are tasty themselves and from which you can make wine. All these fruit take time to grow. Rushing, however, speeds up the process. You might appear to save time. The problem is that in the overall large picture of life, you lose more than you gain.

When you rush to speak or act without thinking, you will inevitably say and do things that you will regret. Will you always regret what you say and do when you rush? Not necessarily. But frequently you will, and the

harm can be great. Rushing without having the patience to think things through carefully is like running in the wrong direction. You are going with speed. But the more quickly you go, the further away you are from where you really want to be. The time you appeared to save will be lost in what you will need to do to correct your mistakes.

*I had to make a major financial decision. I was feeling a great amount of anxiety about this and wanted to get it over with as fast as possible. A close relative of mine kept telling me, “Take it easy. Go slow. Gather as much information as you can. Speak it over with a few experts.” “He doesn’t know how anxious I feel,” I said to myself. So I made a quick decision. The loss I incurred took me over five years to recoup. Spending an entire week on contemplating my best options would have saved me much time and suffering. 📖*

## YOU LOSE MORE THAN YOU GAIN.

### CHAI RATZON *continued from page 1*

evil and brutal nations, who acted as if their sole reason for existence was to wipe the Jewish people off the face of the earth, devoting irrational efforts and means to accomplish this goal.

But they failed, every one of them.

So while we thank the Almighty for His provisions, we must also express gratitude for the inexplicable *chai ratzon* we possess. What a gift it is.

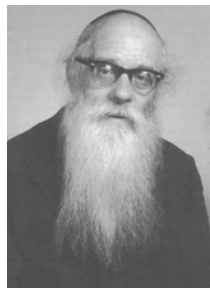
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Though many provided inspiration for the downtrodden during World War II, few were able to instill a *chai ratzon* like Rav Gad'l Eisner, later *mashgiach* of Yeshivas Chiddushei Harim in Tel Aviv. His was a most unexpected method of *chizuk*.

Humor.

One night, after a particularly

brutal day of forced labor, the grotesque sounds of moaning, depression, and despair filled the barracks of the concentration camp. No one seemed to find the right words to lighten the mood and lend hope to the lifeless and spiritless souls. But Rav Gad'l would. Stuffed as they were in unreasonable sleeping accommodations, Rav Gad'l poked the fellow next to



Rav Gad'l Eisner

## “PASS IT FORWARD.”

him in a childish manner, causing the recipient to jump. “Pass it forward,” Rav Gad'l whispered.

Though at first startled, the man did as he was told and nudged the next fellow, who had a similar reaction. He, in turn, prodded the individual next to him. So it continued, with each person passing on a jab

to the adjacent sleeping partner, along with Rav Gad'l's message. Finally, the last inmate in the row looked up and turned to Rav Gad'l, wondering what in the world he had started.

Rav Gad'l deadpanned, “Listen, soon the war is going to be over. We will all be back with our *chaveirim*, standing together in a room with our *rebbe*. You know how people can get with the pushing and the shoving. So I figured that it's important for us to remember how it feels, just so we don't forget and we will be prepared.”

*Just like that, the anguish, misery, and despondence dissipated, replaced with a smirk and a chuckle, even if only for a brief moment.*

*The chai ratzon.*

*Beating ever so softly.*

*But it was undeniably and unmistakably there. For that and so much more, we say thank You. 📖*

# Story for Children

## Clean Up

FROM THE NEW

*Just Love Them for Children - Stories About Rabbi Dovid Trenk*

by Shmuel Blitz, illustrated by Lea Kron

NEW!



One morning, Rabbi Trenk walked into his classroom and saw a big mess. Papers were piled up all over the floor, the garbage pail was lying upside down, and two desks were turned on their side.

Feeling a bit frustrated, he stared at the boys and said, "This is no way to learn Torah. This classroom

is a mess. It is not proper *kavod* for the Torah to have a classroom look like this."

He walked around the room, looking at each boy. "I will tell you what," he smiled. "I am going to walk out of the room for five full minutes. When I return I want you to have this room spotless and clean."

He walked out into the hall. The students got up and slowly began going through the motions of cleaning up. A tissue here, a few papers there. One person even picked up one of the desks and turned it right side up.

After five minutes, Rabbi Trenk returned and looked around the classroom. The classroom was still a mess.

Instead of yelling at them, he walked around the room, bent over, and started picking up the garbage from the floor.

With their faces red from embarrassment, a few of the boys jumped up, wanting to help him.

"We are sorry, Rebbi," each one said. "We should have done more to clean up this room. You are right. We needed to make it a place where one can learn Torah properly. We will take care of it."

Rabbi Trenk picked up his hand and said, "I am sorry, boys. You lost your chance. Now, stay in your seats."

"But, we want to help," one cried.

"Sorry, but the answer is no," he replied. "Now it is my mitzvah to clean the room. Maybe next time you will have the chance for it to become your mitzvah, but not this time."

He continued bent over, picking up all the pieces of trash and putting them in the garbage bag.

*Rabbi Trenk knew the best way for students to truly learn was by example. Watching their rebbi bent down toward the floor, doing what they should have done, was a lesson they would never forget.*



*Watching their rebbi bent down toward the floor, doing what they should have done, was a lesson they would never forget.*

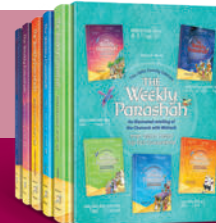
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## THE WEEKLY QUESTION

Question for Parashas Toldos:

**Why didn't Hashem want Yitzchak Avinu to leave Eretz Yisrael?**

Kids, please ask your parents to email the answer to [shabbosquestion@artscroll.com](mailto:shabbosquestion@artscroll.com) by this Wednesday to be entered into a weekly raffle to win a \$36 ARTSCROLL GIFT CARD! Be sure to include your full name, city, and contact info. Names of winners will appear in a future edition. HINT: The answer can be found in *The Jaffa Family Edition Weekly Parashah*.



**The winner of the Lech Lecha question is: ELIYAHU ZACHAI, Phoenix, AZ**

The question was: Who, in later years, killed Og Melech Habashan? The answer is: Moshe Rabbeinu. Og was killed in a war with the Jews right before they entered Eretz Yisrael. Moshe jumped very high and reached up to Og's ankle. He struck it with an axe and Og fell over, dead.