

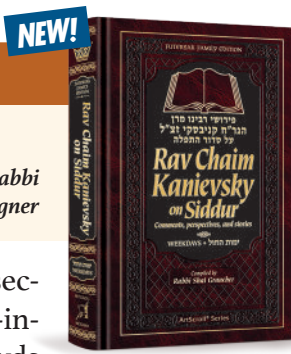


## SELFLESSNESS

### THE MERIT OF CHESSED

Rav Chaim Kanievsky on Siddur compiled by Rabbi Shai Graucher, translated by Rabbi Avrohom Wagner

Rav Chaim Kanievsky zt”l, whose every second was precious and accounted for, counter-intuitively spent hours each day receiving crowds of dozens — often hundreds — of people who came to seek his counsel and blessings. In recent years, he even extended the hours during which he received people. He explained to his son, “I feel that Hashem has given me two purposes in my life right now: to



**“NO ONE KNOWS IN WHAT MERIT HASHEM CONTINUES TO GRANT THEM LIFE.”**



Rav Chaim Kanievsky

calm people’s fears and worries, and to help them resolve their uncertainties.”

With his characteristic humility, Rav Chaim added, “It is not that I resolve the question. How am I any better qualified to do so than they are? It is simply that by carefully listening to what they say, I am often able to present the issue to them in clear, objective terms, which helps them figure out the resolution on their own.”

One evening, as Rav Chaim was going downstairs to receive the public, he mentioned to his attendant, “I really have no strength now. However, I remember that my father was once burning with a high fever, and his grandson did not want to allow the public in. My father personally got up and opened the door. He explained, ‘No one knows in what merit Hashem continues to grant them life. Perhaps it is the merit of receiving people and helping them as best as I can that I will merit to live!’

“I, too,” Rav Chaim continued, “do not know in what merit Hashem keeps me alive. Perhaps it is only in the merit of the *chesed* I do with people. Therefore, regardless of how difficult I find it, I must exert myself on their behalf!”

## CHINUCH

### A KISS

Yedidi - Rabbi Shmuel Berkovicz, whose warmth and caring inspired people to strive for greatness by Rabbi Yechiel Spero



When Shimon was in fourth grade, his *rebbe* informed his parents, “Your son seems less excited about his learning than about other things. Perhaps he should learn right before he goes to sleep, so Torah is on his mind before he drifts off.”



Rabbi Shmuel Berkovicz

Concerned, his parents went straight to the *menahel*, Rabbi Shmuel Berkovicz. With a big smile yet with a firmness in his voice, he stated unequivocally, “There is nothing to worry about. Your son is doing exactly what he’s supposed to be doing. All he needs right before he goes to sleep is a hug and a kiss from you.”

Just like that, the parents’ worries disappeared.

#### THIS WEEK'S DAF YOMI SCHEDULE:

#### MAY / אייר

SHABBOS	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
21 כ	22 כא	23 כב	24 כג	25 כד	26 כה	27 לו
Yevamos 75	Yevamos 76	Yevamos 77	Yevamos 78	Yevamos 79	Yevamos 80	Yevamos 81

#### THIS WEEK'S MISHNAH YOMI SCHEDULE:

#### MAY / אייר

SHABBOS	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
21 כ	22 כא	23 כב	24 כג	25 כד	26 כה	27 לו
Sheviis 5:1-2	Sheviis 5:3-4	Sheviis 5:5-6	Sheviis 5:7-8	Sheviis 5:9-6:1	Sheviis 6:2-3	Sheviis 6:4-5

# THE TWELFTH IKKAR

continued from page 1

and spend their days at the office drinking coffee, chatting, and playing with their phones. Worse, although all these employees, down to the cleaning crews working the nightshift, receive generous salaries and numerous perks, many of them busy themselves organizing vocal protests to voice their imaginary grievances against the investor backing this entire enterprise.

The few truly dedicated employees, who understand the value of their jobs and their responsibility to their employers, labor on with difficulty, struggling to remain productive in a workplace where they are ridiculed for their views and ethics. The investor? He sees the

madness, and yet, for some mysterious reason, continues pouring in money to keep the enterprise afloat.

This is an apt analogy to the world we live in.

*Hakadosh Baruch Hu* created this world of ours with a purpose. He wants something out of this enterprise. Yet what results is He getting? By the numbers, it would seem like a colossal failure. The overwhelming majority of the world's population does not even subscribe to the basic monotheistic belief that He is the sole source of existence. To put this into perspective, estimates

place the world population of declared atheists and agnostics at seventy times greater than the number of Jews in the world. Picture this: For every *minyán* of Jews who could potentially declare "*Shema Yisrael*," a crowd of seven hundred of Hashem's creations screams back, "No Creator exists!"

But wait – that number includes only those who categorically deny *Hakadosh Baruch Hu's* existence.

Billions more believe in various other misguided ideologies. Are we, the minuscule fraction of the world populace that actually seek to do the

as they sit around lambasting your father. You may not be able to do much, but you can cry.

There will, however, come a day.

On that day, right will be right and wrong will be wrong. On that day, every human being will recognize with astonishing simplicity that there is One Creator Who controls everything. On that day, everyone will realize that all that matters is His will, and the entire world will focus on doing exactly that. The drive for depravity will evaporate, dissipating like smoke in the wind, and the temptations that currently pull us so strongly will be but a relic of history. The idea of a person be-



Over 100,000 cards have been distributed around the world as part of the Ani Maamin Initiative, started by R' Shlomo Steinmetz l'ilui nishmas his son, Dovi z"l, in whose memory the new Ani Maamin book is dedicated.

## WE WILL LIVE OUR YIDDISHKEIT WITH THE PROUDEST SENSE OF FULFILLMENT, FINDING MEANING AND CONNECTION IN OUR EVERY ACTION.

job we were hired for, satisfied that our performance is up to par?

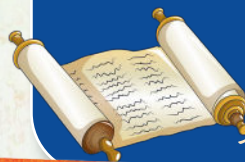
The world around us is not merely out of sync with *Hakadosh Baruch Hu's* will; it is increasingly belligerent and hostile toward any expression of the true values that should

underpin this world's functioning. And *Hakadosh Baruch Hu*? He keeps feeding us, providing for our needs, and sustaining the entire world, despite its being so overwhelmingly against Him.

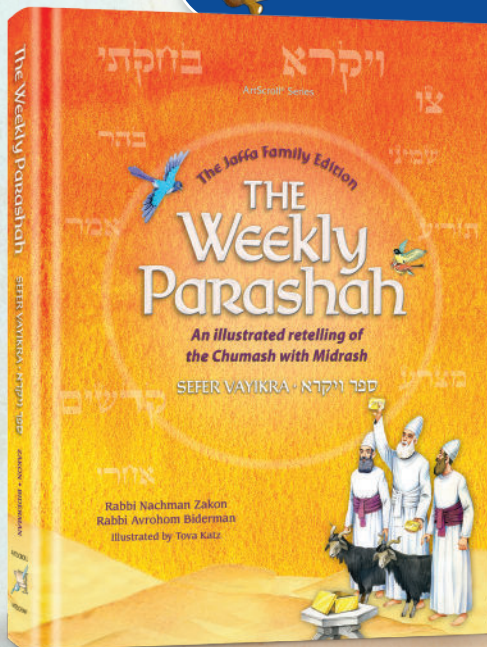
For the Jew who knows better, who discerns right from wrong, this has to hurt. If someone slaps your father and you stand by silently, there's something seriously wrong. You're the child of the investor who is pouring all that money into the corporation. You know he is keeping all those employees on the payroll, supporting them and their families, and you watch

ing drawn to inappropriate material online, sharing a tantalizing bit of gossip about a neighbor, or even carrying on a conversation during *Chazaras Hashatz* will seem as utterly ludicrous as bowing down to a cow. Much as we look back with bafflement at the ancients who worshiped idols, wondering how on earth they could have held such beliefs, we will look back at today's world with utter bewilderment, wondering how we ever could have ever been attracted even slightly to behavior reflecting lack of financial integrity or moral debauchery. *Klal Yisrael* will be revered, and their rightful status as the chosen nation, the princes of *Hakadosh Baruch Hu*, will be universally recognized. We will live our *Yiddishkeit* with the proudest sense of fulfillment, finding meaning and connection in our every action.

This is what the era of *Mashiach* will be, as *Hakadosh Baruch Hu's* enterprise functions in its full beauty. 📧



# Parashah for Children



## פרשת בהר

### Parashah Pointers

This parashah is full of mitzvos:

- ▶ **Shemittah:** Every seventh year is a Shemittah year. During this year, no one is allowed to work the land of Eretz Yisrael (plowing, planting, harvesting, etc.). Anything that grows is “hefker.” That means anyone can take it.
- ▶ **Yovel:** The year after seven Shemittah cycles — the fiftieth year — is called “Yovel.” Just like during Shemittah, we are not allowed to work the land. Also, in a Yovel year, the shofar is blown to announce that Jewish servants go free, and certain types of properties that were sold over the past 49 years go back to their original owners.
- ▶ **Ona'ah:** We may not take advantage of another Jew in money matters. We may not say things that will hurt someone's feelings.
- ▶ **Buying back fields and houses:** If a poor person has to sell his field or house, the Torah tells how he can buy it back.
- ▶ **Tzedakah and chessed:** It is a mitzvah to give charity and do good deeds to help others.
- ▶ **Ribbis:** We may not lend money with interest to another Jew.
- ▶ **Servants:** There are many laws of how to treat Jewish and non-Jewish servants. And there are laws about a Jew who sells himself as a servant to a non-Jew.
- ▶ **Even maskis (stone floor):** We are not allowed to get on our knees on a stone floor, except in the Beis HaMikdash.

WIN A \$36 ARTSCROLL GIFT CARD!

## THE WEEKLY QUESTION

Question for Parashas Behar:

*How does Shemittah halachically impact making Havdalah on Motzaei Shabbos?*

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 Parashas Acharei Mos question is: YISRAEL MEIR SHAJNFELD, Brooklyn, NY**



The question was: How many times does the Kohen Gadol enter the Kodesh Hakodoshim over Yom Kippur? The answer is: Four. The first time he enters to burn the Ketores on a shovel full of coals. The second is to sprinkle the blood of the bull. The third is to sprinkle the blood of the chatas goat, and the fourth and final time is to remove the shovel in which the incense had been burning.