

# AT THE ARTSCROLL SHABBOS TABLE

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Mesorah  
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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

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PARASHAH

## GIVING IT OUR ALL

The Torah Treasury by Rabbi Moshe M. Lieber

וַיִּקֶץ יַעֲקֹב מִשְׁנָתוֹ וַיֹּאמֶר אֲכֵן יֵשׁ ה' בְּמָקוֹם הַזֶּה וְאֲנֹכִי לֹא יָדַעְתִּי.  
*Yaakov awoke from his sleep and said, "Surely Hashem is present in this place and I did not know!" (28:16).*

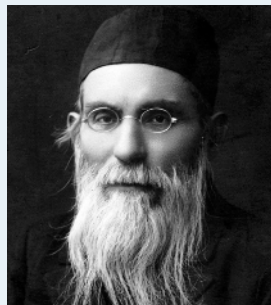
This implies that had Yaakov Avinu been aware of the sanctity of the place, he would not have slept there. This statement seems astounding. At this holy place, Yaakov experienced a pristine level of prophecy and the pinnacle of spiritual engagement, yet he would have given it up in order not to sleep on such holy ground.

According to the Alter of Slabodka, this shows the importance of respectful behavior. Yaakov was ready to forgo a prophecy and closeness to Hashem if achieving it entailed disrespectfully sleeping in the site of the Abode of Hashem and the gate of the heavens.

The Brisker Rav, Rav Yitzchak Zev Soloveitchik, explains that since he realized that the Beis HaMikdash would be built there, he realized that reverence for the Beis HaMikdash, or, more accurately, toward the One whose Presence resides within, demanded that he not sleep there.

*Nachlas Eliezer* sees a practical lesson. Generally, we are not content to expend only minimal efforts in order to achieve our physical needs. We want to give our all so that we

will receive more and more. On the other hand, with



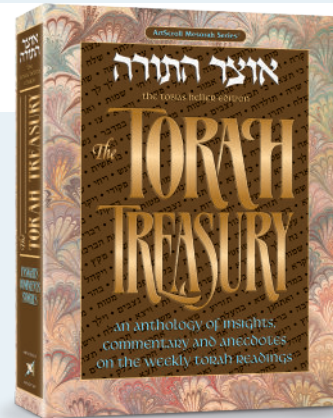
The Alter of Slabodka



The Brisker Rav

## ALL OF HIS SPIRITUAL ACHIEVEMENTS HAD TO BE EARNED BY HIS OWN EFFORTS.

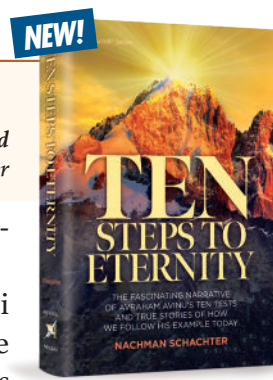
regard to Torah and *mitzvos*, we tend to look for shortcuts, so that we can easily achieve what we perceive to be our spiritual needs. As the folk saying has it, "There are people who want to become the Vilna Gaon overnight, but they also want to sleep that night." Yaakov's perspective was the diametric opposite. With regard to his physical concerns, he prayed that Hashem would provide him with nothing more than bread to eat and clothes to wear (*ibid.* 20). However, in matters of the spirit, he was unwilling to receive anything as a gift; all of his spiritual achievements had to be earned by his own efforts. Hence, when he woke up, he was upset. "Had I known the spiritual potential of this place, I would not have slept and let prophecy come to me unearned. I would have prepared for it so that when it happened, it would have been truly mine, a result of my preparation." 📖



ARTSCROLL PUBLICATIONS

## TATTELE ZEESA

Ten Steps to Eternity – The fascinating narrative of Avraham Avinu’s ten tests and true stories of how we follow his example today by Nachman Schachter



In 1990, Rabbi Moshe Rappaport, a *mohel* in Baltimore, received a call from Gina Winters.\* She said that she and her husband Joe had just had a baby boy and were looking for a *mohel* to perform the circumcision. “However,” she cautioned, “we are not of Jewish background.”

Rabbi Rappaport responded, “Congratulations! That is nice that you want your son to have a circumcision, but let me give you the name of someone who can accommodate you. I only perform ritual circumcisions.”

Gina wrote down the name and number, thanked him, and then added, “By the way, even though we are not of Jewish background, my sister is.”

Rabbi Rappaport’s antennae immediately shot up and he replied, “How is that possible?

How can your sister be Jewish and you are not?”

“Well, it’s a little complicated,” Gina explained. “My mother was born Jewish and she is from Poland. During the war, she was put into a Catholic home and raised as a Catholic. She later moved to England and married a non-Jew. They had several children, and my siblings and I were all raised as Catholics. When my sister found out that my mother was Jewish, she decided to return to her roots and became a practicing Jew. But I did not follow in her footsteps and I have remained a practicing Catholic.”

Rabbi Rappaport quickly told her, “That name and number I just gave you of someone to perform the circumcision — you can throw that away; I will be happy to do it. And I just want to let you know that if your mother is Jewish, whether or not you are practicing, you are Jewish. I hope you are okay with that information.”

**“I JUST WANT TO LET YOU KNOW THAT EVER SINCE THE BRIS, WE HAVE FELT VERY INSPIRED.”**

“Yes, it’s okay, rabbi,” she assured him.

On the day of the *bris*, Rabbi Rappaport arrived early at the Winters’ home, where the *bris* was to take place. After making all of the preparations, Rabbi Rappaport said the *berachah* and started performing the circumcision. The baby began to cry. The grandmother, who was Jewish, but had been brought up in a Catholic home, was standing right in front of the baby with a cross dangling from her neck. She began to croon to the baby, “*Sha, sha, tattele zeesa.*”



Rabbi Moshe Rappaport

She remembered from her youth that these are the words to say when a little baby is crying.

Rabbi Rappaport was so emotionally overwhelmed by the situation unfolding in front of him that he nearly dropped the knife. Here was this little Jewish baby who was entering the covenant of G-d surrounded by his non-practicing Jewish mother, his non-Jewish father, and his grandmother, who was a practicing Catholic with a cross hanging from her neck, speaking the Yiddish of her childhood memories.

Rabbi Rappaport moved things along as quickly as he could, finishing up the circumcision. He showed Gina what she needed to do to help the wound heal properly over the next few days and quickly left the house. He got into his car, and barely drove a block before he pulled over to the side to break down in tears.

About six months later, Rabbi Rappaport received a call from Joe Winters. “Rabbi,” he began, “I don’t know if you remember me. I am Joe Winters, and my wife is Gina.”

Rabbi Rappaport answered, “Sure, I remember you. How is everything?”

Joe said, “I just want to let you know

*continued on page 3*

### THIS WEEK’S DAF YOMI SCHEDULE:

#### DECEMBER / כסלו

SHABBOS	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Nedarim 39	Nedarim 40	Nedarim 41	Nedarim 42	Nedarim 43	Nedarim 44	Nedarim 45

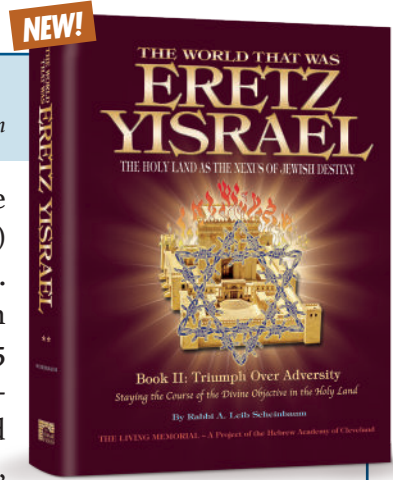
### THIS WEEK’S MISHNAH YOMI SCHEDULE:

#### DECEMBER / כסלו

SHABBOS	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Shabbos 6:2-3	Shabbos 6:4-5	Shabbos 6:6-7	Shabbos 6:8-9	Shabbos 6:10-7:1	Shabbos 7:2-3	Shabbos 7:4-8:1

# CHEVRON HISTORY

The World That Was – Eretz Yisrael, Book II by Rabbi A. Leib Scheinbaum



Chevron is one of oldest continually occupied cities in the world, and the site of the world's oldest Jewish community. Our Patriarch, Avraham, purchased the Me'aras HaMachpeilah there, and it was the first parcel of land in Eretz Yisrael owned by the Jewish People. David Ha'melech was anointed King of Yisrael in Chevron and he reigned in the city for seven years. Jews have lived in Chevron during Roman, Byzantine, Arab, Mameluke and Ottoman reigns until 1929, when due to a horrific massacre of Jews, the city became vacant of Jewish inhabitants temporarily. In 1967, following the Six Day War, the Jewish community of Chevron was reestablished. In 1870, a wealthy Turkish Jew, Haim Yisrael Romano, purchased a plot of land upon which he built a large home and guest house. It was eventually called Beit Romano. The building later became home to a synagogue and served as a yeshivah before the Turkish army seized it. In later years, the building served a number of communal purposes.



World War I took its toll on Chevron, as the Turkish government forcibly drafted Jewish men into their army. Hunger and disease decimated the weak and infirm. With the end of World War I, the incoming British administration helped the few re-

maining members of the community (430 people) to reestablish themselves. The Chevron Yeshivah opened its doors in 1925 and by 1929 the population once again reached 700 people. The appalling, unconscionable massacre initiated by the Arab community (1929) and sanctioned by its leadership was one of the most barbaric pogroms against the Jews. The cruelty and brutality; the debasing and dismembering of the 67 Jewish victims was unparalleled in horror and atrocity. The inhumanity of the savages who committed this horrific crime bespoke their consummate and irrational hatred of their victims.

Although 31 families made an attempt to return to Chevron and rebuild, it was short-lived. Fearing another pogrom, the British authorities expelled the Jewish community. It was not reestablished until 1967, when after the Six Day War, Chevron was taken back from the Jordanian government. Over the years, with resolute courage and an abiding love for this holy city, it has been rebuilt. 🇮🇱

That *bris* sparked a special relationship between Rabbi Rappaport and the Winters. In time, Joe converted to Judaism, Gina and Joe were married again, this time according to Jewish law, and they moved to an Orthodox Jewish neighborhood. They have since had other children and have a beautiful Torah home and family. 🇮🇱

**TATTELE ZEESA** *continued from page 2*

that ever since the *bris*, we have felt very inspired. Once you told my wife she is Jewish, we started to look at different religions, and then investigated the Jewish religion. We have come to the realization that the only true religion is Orthodox Judaism. We would love to get together with you and learn more about it.”

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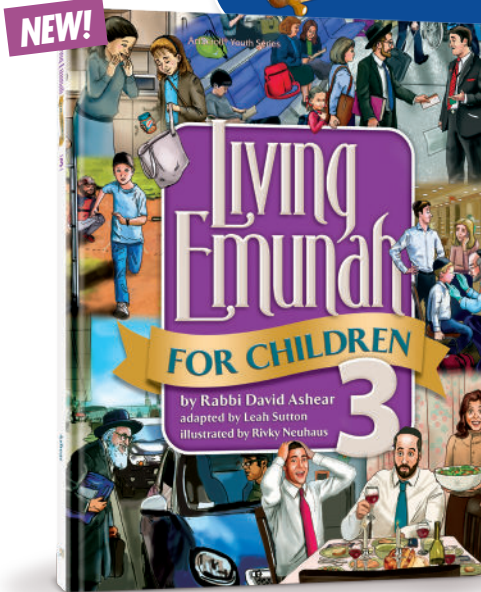
## This week's Yerushalmi Yomi schedule:

DECEMBER / כסלו	SHABBOS	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
	3 Berachos 20	4 Berachos 21	5 Berachos 22	6 Berachos 23	7 Berachos 24	8 Berachos 25	9 Berachos 26

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# Lesson for Children



## On His Wings

Six-year-old Yitzchak coughed loudly as his mother pressed a wet cloth to his forehead.

“Oy, Yitzchak,” she sighed. “May Hashem have rachmanus and send you a refuah sheleimah.”

“Amen,” Yitzchak’s father, Dov, replied. “Perel, you go take a rest. I’ll stay with Yitzchak.”

Perel Scheiner tiredly made her way to her bed

as her husband stroked their son’s back.

“Yitzchak,” he said softly, “so many people are davening for you to get better. Many people have even taken on kabbalos to improve in a certain mitzvah, but you haven’t accepted anything on yourself.”

Yitzchak opened his eyes. “Me?” he asked weakly. “What do you think I should do? There isn’t much I can do while lying in bed.”

“A kabbalah doesn’t have to be something that you can do right now. It can be for the future.”

“You’re young, and you don’t yet have to daven with a minyan. Why don’t you accept upon yourself that when you are better you’ll always daven Shacharis with a minyan? B’ezras Hashem, you will have a refuah sheleimah, and you will be able to keep that kabbalah for your whole life.”

Yitzchak agreed, and soon had a refuah sheleimah.

Years passed, and Yitzchak kept his kabbalah for almost seventy years. Eventually, he became known as the Rosh Yeshivah of Kaminetz in Yerushalayim, the great Rav Yitzchak Scheiner!

The yeshivah needed money, and Rav Yitzchak decided to travel to America to raise the funds needed. When it was time to return home, he called his travel agent.

“I am going to need a minyan for Shacharis on the plane,” he explained.

“I cannot guarantee that there will be a minyan on the plane,” the trav-

el agent replied. “But I can book a flight that will stop off in Amsterdam, where you can try to find a minyan for Shacharis. Then, you can travel from Amsterdam to Eretz Yisrael. The trip will be longer, and more expensive.”

Rav Yitzchak told the travel agent to book those flights.

His first flight to Amsterdam landed at 8 a.m., as planned.

“Hashem,” he davened, “I don’t know the people here, I don’t know the language here, I don’t know the streets here. All I know is that in the last 70 years I didn’t miss davening Shacharis with a minyan even once. Please, lead me to the right place.”

He left the terminal and walked to the curb. Less than two minutes later, a car pulled up alongside him. There was a Jewish man in the driver’s seat.

“Would you like to help me make a minyan for Shacharis?” he called through the window.

Rav Yitzchak happily accepted, and they made their way to a small shul to daven.

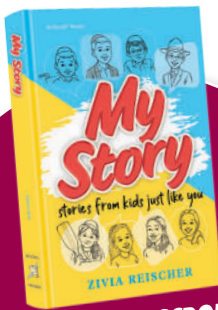
After davening, the man turned to Rav Yitzchak. “Where are you headed?”

“I feel bad to ask,” Rav Yitzchak replied, “but I need to make it back to the airport.”

“No problem,” the man replied. “I’m a taxi driver, and I was heading back there, too!”

Rav Yitzchak made it to the airport with just enough time for his flight!

*When he returned to the yeshivah, he told this story to his students. “When you accept a mitzvah upon yourself, don’t worry! If it gets too hard, Hashem will carry you.”*



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## THE WEEKLY QUESTION

Question for Vayeitzei:

What were the names of Leah’s seven children?

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*.



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