

# 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

## IRREFUTABLE PROOF

Living the Parashah by Rabbi Shimon Finkelman

וַיֵּרָא אֶת הָעֲגֻלֹת אֲשֶׁר שָׁלַח יוֹסֵף לְשֵׂאת אֹתוֹ וַתַּחֲי רִוּחַ יַעֲקֹב אֲבִיהֶם.  
*And he [Yaakov] saw the wagons that Yosef had sent to transport him;  
and Yaakov's spirit was revived (45:27).*

The Torah says that it was Paroh, and not Yosef, who had sent the wagons to Yaakov. The Midrash therefore takes our verse out of its literal meaning. The word עֲגֻלֹת, which in the verse's plain meaning is translated as *wagons*, can also be translated as *calves*. As proof that he truly was Yaakov's long-lost son, Yosef sent a message with his brothers to his father: He recalled that the last topic that he and Yaakov had studied together 22 years earlier was *eqlah arufah*, the axed calf.

Why did Yosef choose this message as a way of proving his identity to Yaakov? Was there no other piece of information from his youth that he could have sent?

In *Darchei Mussar*, Rav Yaakov Neiman answers this question by relating an incident involving the Vilna Gaon:

In Vilna, a man abandoned his wife and disappeared, leaving her an *agunah*.<sup>\*</sup> After many years, a man appeared in Vilna who claimed to be the woman's husband. He bore a definite resemblance to the husband and he knew a lot of information that only her husband could have known, but the woman still had her doubts. Some concerned members of the community brought her dilemma to the Gaon.

The Gaon told them that on *Shabbos*, when the man came to *shul*, they should instruct him to sit in his old seat. When they did so, the man

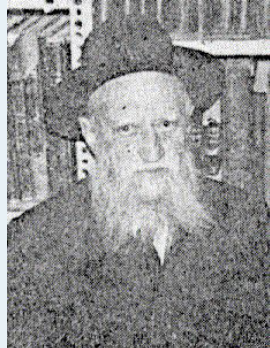
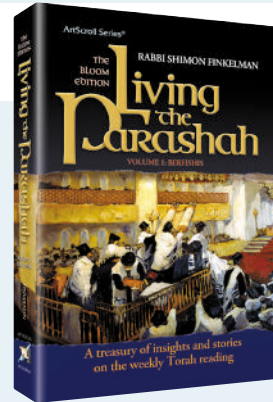
appeared confused and embarrassed. He subsequently confessed to being an impostor.

The Gaon later explained why he had chosen this method of proof: If the man was, in fact, the husband, he would surely recall where his permanent seat in *shul* had been. If he was an impostor, then obviously he had met the husband somewhere and had asked him all

**YOSEF WAS LETTING HIS FATHER KNOW THAT HE WAS STILL FAITHFUL TO HIS PURE AND HOLY UPRISING.**

kinds of questions so that he could gain enough information to be able to impersonate him. If such was the case, then the man was a great *rasha*. A thoroughly evil person would never think to ask the husband where he sat in *shul*, because spiritual matters are very far from such a person's mind. Indeed, the man had no idea of where the husband's seat was.

Similarly, said Rav Neiman, Yosef was concerned lest Yaakov suspect that he was an impostor who had met Yosef somewhere and had learned enough about him to impersonate him. He therefore sent him a proof that a wicked impersonator could not have possibly known. Furthermore, by showing Yaakov that he still recalled what they had last learned together, Yosef was letting his father know that he was still faithful to his pure and holy upbringing. 📖



Rav Yaakov Neiman

<sup>\*</sup>An *agunah* (lit. one who is bound) is a woman who cannot remarry because she does not have a get or proof of her husband's death.

INSPIRATION

HIT A HOME RUN FOR YOUR PEOPLE!

*Be a Blessing - A Guide to Living One's Mission to the Fullest*  
by Rebbetzin Esther Jungreis



Some years ago, President George W. Bush appointed me to the board of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, which brought me quite frequently to Washington. On one of these occasions, following a board meeting, I was walking on the street when a young rabbi with a large group of students spotted me.

He came running. "Rebbetzin!" he exclaimed, "I'm so happy I'm meeting you! I have here my *talmidim*," he went on, pointing to the young boys. "Could you offer them some words of *chizuk* and inspiration?"

**"BUILD UP YOUR TEAM AND MAKE IT BETTER THAN EVER."**

In the street, amid the noise of passing traffic, with my young audience distracted by the sights — that was not exactly the venue in which I

would choose to speak. But I do believe everything is *bashert*. So if I encountered these young boys, and their rabbi asked me to address them, how could I say no?

"Are you all into sports?" I asked.

My question was greeted with an enthusiastic yes.

"Then let me tell you a sports story," I said, "and put it away into your hearts and your minds. And one day, please G-d, you will tell it to your own children and grandchildren.

"Once there was a highly successful sports team. Tickets to their games were very much coveted, and when they played, the stadium was sold out. And then, there was some internal fighting among the team. The players were angry at each other. Some quit and joined other teams, other players failed to train, and still others became indifferent. The only ones who were left were the fans.

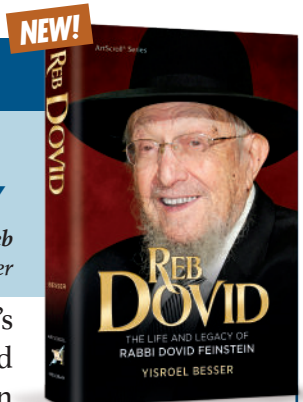
"Now, let me ask you," I challenged the boys, "do you think a team can survive with only its fans?"

"You must be kidding!" they responded. *continued on page 3*

GREATNESS

BRILLIANCE WITH SIMPLICITY

*Reb Dovid - The Life and Legacy of Reb Dovid Feinstein by Yisroel Besser*



After Rav Moshe Feinstein's *petirah*, when his son Reb Dovid got up from *shivah*, he spoke in the *yeshivah* following *Shacharis*, sharing a very short *dvar halachah*. It was only at the *sheloshim* that Reb Dovid delivered a real address, speaking about the special merit his father had in being married to a *bas kohein*, as Rebbetzin Shima was the daughter of a *kohein*.

It seemed a strange way to pay tribute to the *niftar*, and on the subway back to Brooklyn, the throngs of *bnei Torah* who had come to be inspired by Rav Moshe's legacy, who had been searching for stories and *chizuk*, spoke of their disappointment.

But those who knew Reb Dovid well understood.

The new *rosh yeshivah*, whose every word was measured, saw an opportunity — his mother was present, and it was a chance to gladden her broken heart, to mention her lineage and what she had given her husband.

One snowy *Erev Shabbos*, Rabbi Shimshon Sherer saw the *rosh yeshivah* coming into his *shul*, as Reb Dovid and the Rebbetzin were in Brooklyn for the *bar mitzvah* of a great-great-nephew.



Rav Dovid Feinstein and his brother, Rav Reuven.

The weather was treacherous, and neither the *rosh yeshivah* nor the *rebbetzin* were young. Rabbi Sherer wondered why they felt they had to make the effort.

"What doesn't one do for family?" Reb Dovid mused.

Then he repeated the question, but added one more word. "Reb Shimshon, what doesn't one do for family, gladly?"

Rabbi Sherer saw an opening. He knew that Reb Dovid preferred not to speak publicly. "Maybe the *rosh yeshivah* will honor us by speaking," he suggested. "After all, what doesn't one do for family?"

Reb Dovid smiled, appreciating the cleverness of the question. "You are right," he said, "and my brother Rav Reuven will also be here for *Shabbos*, and he speaks very well..."

THIS WEEK'S DAF YOMI SCHEDULE:

DEC-JAN / טבת

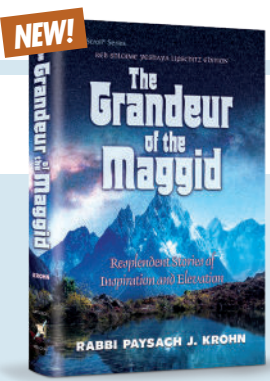
SHABBOS	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
Nedarim 67	Nedarim 68	Nedarim 69	Nedarim 70	Nedarim 71	Nedarim 72	Nedarim 73

THIS WEEK'S MISHNAH YOMI SCHEDULE:

DEC-JAN / טבת

SHABBOS	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
Shabbos 15:1-2	Shabbos 15:3-16:1	Shabbos 16:2-3	Shabbos 16:4-5	Shabbos 16:6-7	Shabbos 16:8-17:1	Shabbos 17:2-3

*The Grandeur of the Maggid* by Rabbi Paysach J. Krohn



Aaron Feuerstein owned Malden Mills, a textile plant comprising nine buildings, in Lawrence, Massachusetts, that employed more than three thousand people. On the evening of December 11, 1995, the worst fire of the twentieth century in Massachusetts destroyed most of the plant. Three buildings were burned to the ground, while the other six were severely damaged. Though he was fully covered for the loss by insurance, he did not even consider shutting the plant. He said afterward, “My first thought was the teaching my father often quoted, “*In a place where there are no leaders, strive to be a leader*” (Avos 2:6).

He announced publicly, “I am not throwing three thousand people out of work two weeks before their holiday.”

Not only did he begin rebuilding Malden Mills as soon as it was feasible, but he paid the salaries of his workers for the next three months and covered their health insurance for the next 180 days.

Asked to explain his determination and resilience, he gave credit to his grandfather Henry, who had founded Malden Mills in 1906, and his father Samuel, who inherited the mill and often told his son, “*But the crown of a good name surpasses them all*” (Avos 4:17).



Mr. Aaron Feuerstein

The teachings of *Chazal* were always on Aaron’s mind. He espoused them to his workers and plant managers, be they Jewish or not, and he applied their lessons in a practical and considerate manner. At one of the first meetings after the fire, when one thousand workers gathered to hear him in a huge auditorium, he said, “The Jewish Sages teach: *Let your fellow’s money be as dear to your as your own* (Avos 2:17).” The room erupted in wild applause.

Talking to his fifteen key plant managers, he said they would rebuild quickly. When they asked how it could be possible, he said, “Remember, everybody, we’re playing to a higher Judge.

Don’t tell me the job can’t be done.”

When the mill issued a holiday bonus, it included a note from Mr. Feuerstein: “Do not despair. G-d bless each of you.”

Though by nature publicity shy, Mr. Feuerstein became a national hero. He was even invited to attend President Bill Clinton’s State of the Union address to Congress the following month. Indeed, by the end of 1996, the plant was rebuilt. 📖

**HIT A HOME RUN FOR YOUR PEOPLE!** *continued from page 2*

“Of course not! It’s a no-brainer!”

“You’re right,” I said, “it is a no-brainer. But unfortunately, that is what happened to us, the Jewish People. We have many ‘fans.’ *Bar mitzvah* parties galore. But does having a party mean that the *bar mitzvah* boy fulfills the challenge of being a *bar mitzvah* — which means ‘son of *mitzvos*, commandments’? Does he put on *tefillin* every morning? Does he go to *minyan*? Does he study Torah? Is that guy a player or a fan?”

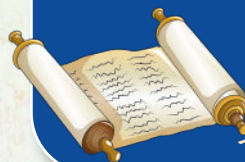
“I’m a Holocaust survivor,” I went on. “When I was your age, I was in the ghettos, the concentration camps, the displaced persons camps. My *zeides*, my *bubbes*, my aunts, uncles, and cousins — all holy people, great players for Hashem’s team — can no longer play.

“So listen, boys,” I said. “You have an awesome responsibility. You must pray for them, for they can no longer pray. You must study Torah for them, for they can no longer study. You must give *zedakah* for them, for they can no longer give *zedakah*. You must do *mitzvos* for them, for they can no longer do *mitzvos*.”

“So, guys, listen to me,” I said. “Go into the field and hit a home run for your people. Build up your team and make it better than ever. And if you do, the stadium will be filled and everyone will be cheering. You can restore the faith of our people. Make our people win. Let us build a team of Torah, and spread the holy rays of blessing, truth, kindness, integrity, wisdom, and righteousness, which are all contained in our Torah. We need only to bring them forth.” 📖

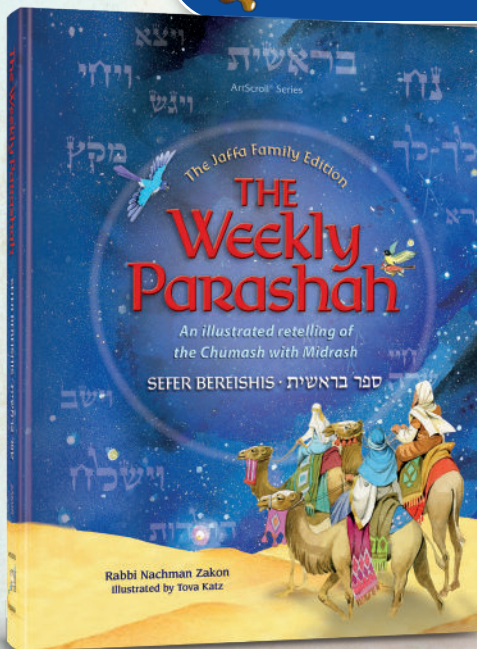
*This week’s Yerushalmi Yomi schedule:*

DEC-JAN / טבת	SHABBOS	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
	31	1	2	3	4	5	6
	א	ב	ג	ד	ה	ו	ז
	Berachos 48	Berachos 49	Berachos 50	Berachos 51	Berachos 52	Berachos 53	Berachos 54



# Parashah for Children

## פרשת ויגש



### Yosef Welcomes His Father

**Y**osef put on his most beautiful robes. He got on his chariot and drove through the city to greet his father and family. The second most powerful man in Egypt doesn't travel alone! His bodyguards and important officers went with him. When they passed Pharaoh's palace, more officials saw Yosef go by, and they joined him. After all, if the viceroy was going somewhere, they wanted to go with him!

As this parade of important people went by, the Egyptians went along as well, to see what all the excitement was about.

Imagine the scene. Yosef, dressed royally, on his chariot. Spread out behind him were more chariots, pulled by galloping horses, carrying generals and important members of the government. Following them was a huge crowd of Egyptians.

When they reached Yaakov, Yosef's chariot came to a stop. The whole parade stopped too. What a great welcome Yaakov was given when he arrived in Egypt! What honor they showed him!

### Shema Yisrael!

**Y**osef ran to Yaakov, whom he hadn't seen for so long. Hugging him, Yosef couldn't stop crying. Tears of happiness streamed down his face.

While Yosef was embracing his father, Yaakov covered his eyes with his hand and said the words of Shema Yisrael, which includes the words of "ve'ahavta," the mitzvah to love Hashem.

Yaakov poured out all his feelings, all the love he had for Hashem, Who had given him back his beloved Yosef. He put all those feelings into the words of Shema. He used his feelings of great happiness to serve Hashem, by doing the mitzvah to love Hashem with great love and joy.

**WIN A \$36 ARTSCROLL GIFT CARD!**

## THE WEEKLY QUESTION

Question for Vayigash:

**How old was Yaakov Avinu when he said, "I have had a hard life"?**

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 Vayishlach question is: NOEY KAHN, Boston, MA**

The question was: In which city did Hashem give Yaakov Avinu his new name, Yisrael?  
The answer is: Beis El

