

AT THE ARTSCROLL SHABBOS TABLE

A PROJECT OF THE
Mesorah
Heritage
Foundation

פרשת משפטים
כ"ז שבט תשפ"ג

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ISSUE #129

RABBI YITZCHOK

HISIGER, EDITOR

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MRS. AVIVA KOHN

WEEKLY INSPIRATION AND INSIGHT ADAPTED FROM CLASSIC ARTSCROLL TITLES

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

PARASHAH

FEELING FOR OTHERS

Rav Yaakov Bender On Chumash 2

ותחת רגליו כמעשה לבנת הספיר וכעצם השמים לטהר.

And beneath His feet was that which had the form of a sapphire brick (24:10).

Rashi, at the end of *Parashas Mishpatim*, tells us how the *Bnei Yisrael* beheld the glory of Hashem: The form of a brick was in front of Hashem throughout the years that *Bnei Yisrael* were slaves in *Mitzrayim* in order that He remember the suffering of the *Bnei Yisrael*, who were toiling with bricks.

Ein shikcha, there is no forgetfulness, before Your *Kisei HaKavod*.

If nothing is forgotten in Heaven, what does the Torah mean when it says that Hashem remembered?

We are mandated to follow in His ways, *V'halachta bidrachav*. We are meant to study Hashem's *middos* and try to emulate them.

Of course Hashem did not forget — but He wanted to teach us not to forget the pain of others, to find ways to make sure that the realities and challenges facing those around us are front and enter in our minds as well.

When *Yidden* hear the *tzaros* of another, they react with a Yiddish word, "*nebach*," the timeless *Yiddishe* reaction to bad news. *Chassidim* say that there is no source for this word. Rather, it is an acronym, and it stands for "*nosei be'ol im chaveiro*" — feeling the pain of those affected.

The Torah is called *Rachmana*, because learning Torah and living Torah should make a person more compassionate, more empathetic, and more able to feel with others.

One of our *talmidim*, Yitzchak Alter, told me a *pshat* in a *Gemara* that I found so profound.

The *Gemara* in *Bava Kamma* (92a) says that one

who *davens* for his friend to be helped when he himself needs help in that same area will be helped first. The *me-farshim* have different suggestions as to why this is so, but this *talmid* suggested his own *pshat*: If a person needs help in that very area, then he feels the pain. He knows what it's like.

He gets the reality. And then, with that sort of empathy, he can really *daven* for his friend properly!

Talmidim in *Ponevezh* saw the *meshgiach*, Rav Chatzkel Levenstein, in bed one day, lying immobile. It was unusual to see him lying down, and frightening to see him like that, as if frozen.

Later, the *meshgiach* explained that he had been *davening* for one of the *talmidim* who suffered from seizures, and often, the disorder sent the boy to bed, where he was unable to move, as if trapped in his own body.

Rav Chatzkel, determined to maximize that *koach* of *tefillah*, was trying to imagine what the *bachur* felt like, and in order to do that, he enacted it, adding intensity to his *tefillos* for another.

As Rav Chaim Shmulevitz would say during the dark days when Jews were trapped in *Entebbe*, "*M'darf krank verren far zei*, One has to get physically ill with worry for them."

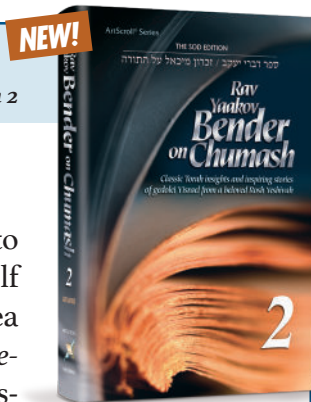
It's what *Yidden* do. Perhaps that *middah* of *rachmanus* is what makes our *tefillos* more effective, and thus, this is how we can help.

It's what the *pasuk* teaches us, the practice of the *Ribbono Shel Olam* Himself! 📖



Rav Chatzkel Levenstein

IT'S WHAT
YIDDEN DO.



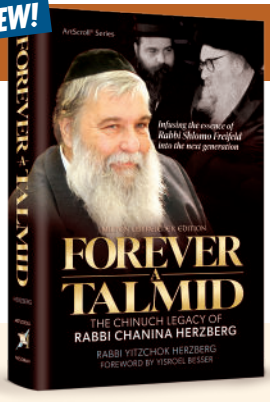
THIS WEEK'S ISSUE IS DEDICATED IN MEMORY OF
הרב דוד יצחק בן עקיבא יהודה קיהן ז"ל נפטר כ' חשוון תשפ"ב

MESORAH HERITAGE FOUNDATION

NEW!

REWARD FOR A TRIP

Forever a Talmid – The Chinuch Legacy of Rabbi Chanina Herzberg by Rabbi Yitzchok Herzberg



When the boys in *yeshiva* behaved properly, their *menahel*, Rabbi Chanina Herzberg, was quick to praise and reward them. R' Noam Singer, a *rebbe* at Yeshiva Toras Chaim, shared how his class was on the way back from a trip to a 7-11 store when R' Zev Davidowitz called with a message: R' Herzberg wanted to speak to the whole class upon their return to school.

The *rebbe* and his class went directly to R' Chanina's office, where R' Chanina addressed the boys. "My sister was in the 7-11 when you were there, and she described the exemplary *middos* and behavior of your class. This is what our *yeshiva* stands for: being a *mentch* and making a *kiddush Hashem!*"

To top it off, he gave the class a pizza party as a reward. The boys were pleasantly surprised to receive a reward for a trip! Even more important, they realized that being a true *ben Torah* is paramount to all.



Rabbi Chanina Herzberg

LET HIM KNOW THAT YOU CARE!

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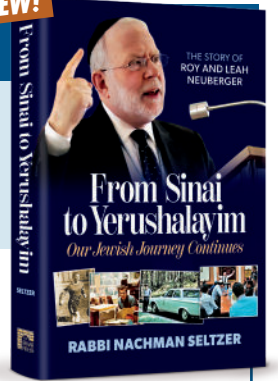
When R' Chanina Herzberg was a *bachur* at Yeshiva Sh'or Yeshuv, the *rosh yeshiva*, Rav Shlomo Freifeld, once walked up to the *bimah* in the middle of first *seder* and gave a *klap*, something extremely unusual. Silence reigned immediately, and in a booming voice, Rav Shlomo announced, "I just saw a stranger come into the *beis midrash*, and not one person went over to him to say *shalom aleichem*. If my

continued on page 3

NEW!

PRAY FOR ME, TOO!

From Sinai to Yerushalayim – Our Jewish Journey Continues The Story of Roy (Yisroel) and Leah Neuberger by Rabbi Nachman Seltzer



After Yisroel and Leah Neuberger became *frum*, Yisroel made a point of regularly meeting his parents for dinner in the city. Yisroel would pick up his father after work at the City Athletic Club, and from there they would go out to dinner.

One midwinter afternoon, he was on West Fifty-Third Street, in front of the Museum of Modern Art around the corner from the club. It was rush hour, and thousands of people were streaming out of the city on their way home. Those were the days when Edward Koch was mayor, and the street signs reflected his Jewish sense of humor, with slogans like "Don't even think of parking here!"

Suddenly, Yisroel realized that he had neglected to *daven Minchah*.

It was almost sunset. With no choice, he pulled out of the traffic, parked his car, and got out. Standing beside the car in a "No Standing" zone, with traffic streaming past and crowds rushing down the street, he turned to face east and began reciting *Ashrei*.

No sooner had the first syllable left his lips when he heard a loud and authoritative voice barking, "What are you doing stopping on this street? Move that car!"

Yisroel looked up to see a man in blue.

"I'm sorry, Officer," Yisroel said, "but sundown is in a few minutes, and I wanted to say my prayers before I miss my chance."

"You want to pray?" the cop responded. "You want to pray!"

Yisroel got nervous hearing the officer repeating his words. He figured that he was really in for it now. But no.

"You want to pray?" he said to Yisroel again. "That's a different story! You just stay here as long as you want. And don't forget — pray for me, too!"

When we do what we're supposed to do, people admire and appreciate us, and know that we are their connection to the Creator of the world. 🌍



Yisroel (Roy) Neuberger

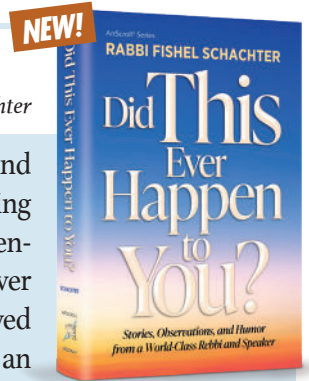
THIS WEEK'S DAF YOMI SCHEDULE: FEBRUARY / שבט-אדר

SHABBOS	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
18 כז	19 חג	20 טו	21 טז	22 יז	23 יח	24 יט
Nazir 26	Nazir 27	Nazir 28	Nazir 29	Nazir 30	Nazir 31	Nazir 32

THIS WEEK'S MISHNAH YOMI SCHEDULE: FEBRUARY / שבט-אדר

SHABBOS	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
18 כז	19 חג	20 טו	21 טז	22 יז	23 יח	24 יט
Eruvin 6:2-3	Eruvin 6:4-5	Eruvin 6:6-7	Eruvin 6:8-9	Eruvin 6:10-7:1	Eruvin 7:2-3	Eruvin 7:4-5

Did This Ever Happen to You? by Rabbi Fishel Schachter



When you're driving down a street in Brooklyn and you hear a car honking behind you, it can mean one of several things:

a. You are probably not traveling at the speed that meets your road neighbor's satisfaction and/or temperament.

b. It took you more than one-thousandth of a second to move after the light turned green.

c. On rarer occasions, perhaps on your way home from the country, the person behind you is alerting you to the fact that one of the boxes tied to your roof is now gracing his hood.

d. It may just be a friend trying to get your attention.

A story is told of a proud father who gave a speech at his daughter's *vort*. "Rabbosai, do you know how this *shidduch* came to be? My new son-in-law-to-be gave me a lift in his car. We traveled from Yerushalayim to Bnei Brak in grueling traffic during a heat wave. Despite the fact that he seemed agitated at the slow pace of the car in front of him, and

that the trip was a three-hour ordeal, not once did he honk the horn!"

The *chassan* turned red and almost choked on his cake. He finally confessed the truth to his future father-in-law: In fact, his horn was broken!

I guess if a *shidduch* is *bashert*, no horn in the world will change or stop it.

I recall one experience when a driver behind me seemed quite impatient as he waited for me to make a left turn. He finally zipped around me, rolled down his window, and gave me an angry stare. I couldn't

"IT'S NOT WHAT WE HAVE IN LIFE THAT REALLY MAKES US HAPPY. IT'S WHAT WE CHOOSE TO BE PROUD OF."



Rabbi Fishel Schachter

help but hear my own voice coming out of his car's tape deck. I considered following him and introducing myself, but his kids were in the car, and it's not good to embarrass a person in front of his family.

A while ago, I noticed in my rear-view mirror a very late-model Lex-

us flashing and honking, trying to get my attention. I pulled over and was relieved to see it was an old school friend who recognized me (or my car) and just wanted to say hello. He told me how successful he was in business and asked me, "So, what's it like being a *rebbe*?"

I thought there was a touch of condescension in his voice as he pointed to his car and then to mine. I assume he was referring to the generation gap between his new Lexus and my twelve-year-old Chevy Astro.

I pleasantly inquired how much he paid a month to lease this car that he was so fond of. He proudly told me the cost. Then I proceeded to explain that I, *baruch Hashem*, pay more than that in tuition and other *chinuch* expenses each month.

"Why are you telling me that?" he asked.

"To explain to you that I also lease a Lexus each month, just a different kind than yours. You see," I concluded, "it's not what we have in life that really makes us happy. It's what we choose to be proud of." 📖

REWARD FOR A TRIP *continued from page 2*

talmidim don't understand the importance of a *shalom aleichem*, then I may as well close the *yeshiva*!"

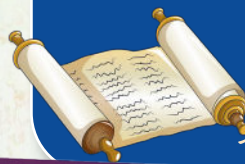
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"You have to show others your pearly whites!" R' Chani-na would say. "Like my *rebbe* used to say, you must greet everybody the way you would want to be greeted. When you say hello to someone and make him feel comfortable, you are showing him that he matters. When you give someone

a *shalom aleichem*, you're validating him, you're telling him he's important. A person coming into a strange place has *sfeikos*, doubts, about his *metziyus*, his essence. A *shalom aleichem* says to him, 'You are part of our *tzibbur*; you now have a *metziyus*.' When you give him a *shalom aleichem*, he feels like he's at home. So make him feel welcome. Whether it's with a *l'chaim*, a *shtickel* herring, a good *vort* — say something to him. Let him know that you care, that you are there for him!" 📖

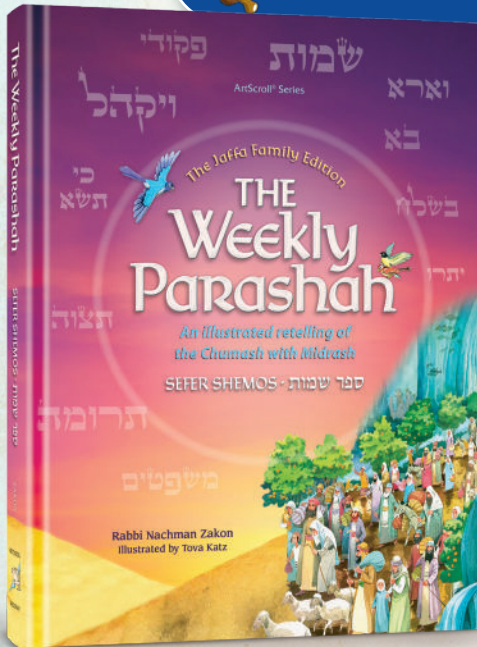
This week's Yerushalmi Yomi schedule:

FEBRUARY / שבט-אדר	SHABBOS	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
	18 Peah 3	19 כז Peah 4	20 כח Peah 5	21 כט Peah 6	22 ל Peah 7	23 א Peah 8	24 ב Peah 9



Parashah for Children

פרשת משפטים



THE LAWS OF DAMAGES AND SHOMRIM

The Torah now discusses the laws of what happens if someone hurts another person or damages property, and if someone was taking care of someone else's property.

Injury

Here is an example of how beis din deals with injuries: Yosef Gross hit Heshy Klein. Heshy, a 60-year-old man, fell and broke his arm. How would the beis din calculate how much money Mr. Gross has to pay him?

The beis din will charge Mr. Gross for five things:

- ▶ **Nezek (damages):** The price difference between what Heshy Klein would be worth if he was sold as a slave when he was well, and how much he is worth now with the broken arm.
- ▶ **Tzaar (pain):** How much would this man pay someone to give him a less painful way to break his arm. Let's say someone needs to have his arm broken, for a good reason. How much would he pay for a pill that makes him not feel the pain of the arm being broken?
- ▶ **Ripui (medical expenses):** All medical expenses that need to be paid to heal the broken arm.
- ▶ **Sheves (unemployment):** He gets minimum wage for the days he was out of work.
- ▶ **Boshes (embarrassment):** It's embarrassing to be hit and be lying in the street, screaming in pain from a broken arm! Beis din makes Yosef pay for embarrassing Heshy.

WIN A \$36
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THE WEEKLY QUESTION

Question for Parshas Mishpatim:

Why is the servant's ear pierced?

Kids, please ask your parents to email the answer to 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 Bo question is: YISRAEL SEGAN-KOHANIM, Los Angeles, CA

The question was: How many days before leaving Mitzrayim did the Bnei Yisrael receive the mitzvah of Rosh Chodesh?
The answer is: Fifteen days. It was the first mitzvah given to the nation.

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