



# PIRCHEI Weekly

Agudas Yisroel of America

July 29, 2023 - י"א מנחם אב, תשפ"ג - Vol: 10 Issue: 41

**כרשה:** ואתחנן - שבת נחמו **הפטרה:** נחמו נחמו עמי... (ישעיהו מ"א-כ"ו)

**אבות פרק ג' דף יומי:** גיטין ע"ד

**מצות עשה:** 8 **מצות לא תעשה:** 4 **שבועות לראש השנה:** 7

## Torah Thoughts

שְׁמוֹר ... יוֹם הַשַּׁבָּת לְקַדְּשׁוֹ כַּאֲשֶׁר צִוָּה ה' אֱלֹהֶיךָ (דְּבָרִים ה': י"ב)  
*Guard the שַׁבָּת day to sanctify it, as ה', your G-d, has commanded you.*

explains that ה' commanded us to honor our parents and to observe the שַׁבָּת in מְרָה, even before תּוֹרָה. מִן was also mentioned at the same time in the תּוֹרָה. It seems as if these two מִצְוֹת have some connection to מְרָה and to the מִן. What is it? And why specifically was the place called מְרָה, *Bitterness*?

Horav Tzvi Hirsch Ferber, ז"ל, offers an interesting response to these questions. The מִצְוֹת of שַׁבָּת and כְּבוֹד אָב וְאִם have a common thread between them: they each comprise an example of the type of מִצְוֹת which coincide with common sense. שַׁבָּת is a day when one rests, eats good meals and has time to oneself. Indeed, observing שַׁבָּת is not necessarily an indication that a person is overly pious, because it is a מִצְוָה that is truly relaxing and enjoyable.

כְּבוֹד אָב וְאִם is, similarly, a מִצְוָה that human nature would demand we observe. Parents go through a great deal to raise their children. They sacrifice all they have for the physical, spiritual and educational development of their children. The very least that we should do in repaying them is to grant them the respect they deserve. This is the very reason that ה' gave יִשְׂרָאֵל these מִצְוֹת in מְרָה, a

place that derived its name from the מְרָה, *bitterness*, exhibited by כָּלל יִשְׂרָאֵל when they arrived there.

It is comfortable to observe שַׁבָּת and כְּבוֹד אָב וְאִם when life is going easily and there are no challenges to overcome. What about a situation in which observing שַׁבָּת means great difficulty in securing a job? Or when honoring parents in the proper manner demands tremendous amounts of self-control and self-sacrifice? What about a circumstance in which one does not feel any strong appreciation towards his parents because he matured despite the miserable home life which they provided for him? Does כְּבוֹד אָב וְאִם apply here also? Is the מִצְוָה of שַׁבָּת to be observed under trying physical and material conditions?

Yes! This is what מְרָה teaches us. We are to observe these two "common sense" מִצְוֹת — regardless of the circumstances, even if they are bitter. This is specifically why the תּוֹרָה does not add that כָּלל יִשְׂרָאֵל were commanded concerning שַׁבָּת and כְּבוֹד אָב וְאִם in the פְּרָשָׁה of מִן. People might suggest that שַׁבָּת and כְּבוֹד אָב וְאִם were given to those who eat מִן, who have no concerns about earning a living. Quite the contrary, these commandments were given to everyone, to be observed under all conditions.

*Adapted from: Peninim on the Torah (with kind permission from Rabbi A.L. Scheinbaum)*



## Yahrzeits of our Gedolim

ר' ראש ישיבה was born to the ז"ל Henkin ר' יוסף אֱלֵהוּ י"ג מנחם אב 5641 — 5733 אֱלֵעָזָר קְלוֹנִימוֹס in Klimovichi, Russia. He learned under his father for five years. In 1896, he became a מְבַרְכֵי of תְּלִמֵיד מְבַרְכֵי ר' ה' אִיסֵר זֶלְמָן At 20, he received סְמִיכָה from מְלִטְזֵר אִיסֵר זֶלְמָן (בְּעַל עֶרֶוֹד הַשְּׁלֶחָן) ר' יְחִיאֵל מִיכָל עֶפְשְׁטִינְן זְצ"ל and ר' בְּרוּךְ בְּעַר זְצ"ל, רִדְב"ז of Kritshev. A רב, פְּרִינְדָא רְבֵקָה בַּת ר' יְהוֹנָה לֵיב קרִימְנֵדל In 1901, he married רב in many cities, he escaped to the US in 1923, becoming רב on the Lower East Side of Manhattan. He lived and breathed תּוֹרָה (עֶזְרַת תּוֹרָה) (עֶזְרַת תּוֹרָה לִיחַ) for 48 years and published the famous לִיחַ (יִשְׂרָאֵל הַלְכוּת וּמִנְהַגִּים) עֶזְרַת תּוֹרָה לִיחַ (סִפְרֵי עֲדוּת לְיִשְׂרָאֵל) based on his לְמַעֲשֵׂה פּוֹסֵק of New York and his גְּאוּנִיּוֹת is found in his many פְּקָרִים סִפְרִים.

## Gedolim Glimpses

ר' יוסף אֱלֵהוּ זוכה to know Henkin ז"ל, talks about his צְדָקוֹת and his חֶסֶד with the same awe as they talk about his amazing גְּאוּנִיּוֹת and חֶסֶק. R' Yaakov Kaminetsky ז"ל, who was so careful with his every word, said at his לְוָנָה, "... all my years I thought he would lead our generation to greet אֶרֶץ... Now who will lead us?" A friend was מעִיד how every midnight he would see R' Henkin sit on the floor to say תְּקוּן חֲצוֹת, crying for the צְרוּת of his people, the גְּלוּת הַשְּׂכִינָה and asking for מְשִׁיחַ!



לעיני בני ישראל דוב ע"ה בן יבלחטי"א יצחק צבי ניי

לעיני ר' ישראל בן אברהם ז"ל

This week's Pirchei Weekly is dedicated

**(נפטרה ר"ח מנחם אב, ה' תשפ"ג) Ritterman לע"נ מרת טעמא בת ר' יוסף ע"ה**  
**(נפטר כ"ח תמוז ה' תשפ"ג) Greges לע"נ אהרון יעקב ע"ה בן יבלחטי"א ר' יהודה שליט"א**

For sponsorship opportunities please contact:

(347) 838-0869 • thepircheinewsletter@gmail.com



## Focus on Middos

Dear תלמיד, Henkin ר' יוסף אלקהו, carried on his shoulders the plight of, literally, tens of thousands of תורה dedicated families throughout the world. Their daily well-being was his constant personal concern. Yet, he never revealed to a soul who these families were. On the rare occasions when a recipient felt what he had received was insufficient, R' Henkin would respond by crying together with that individual. He would explain with tears that he understood how great the need was and he only wished that there were additional funds to provide.

In the 1960's, R' Henkin's weekly salary as the director of עזרת תורה was even below the minimal wage of \$1.40/hour. However, when a resolution to increase R' Henkin's salary was made at one of their meetings, R' Henkin rose from his chair and declared, "Must I leave עזרת תורה? The less I personally benefit from תורה, the greater the aid for תלמידי חכמים in distress."

To appreciate another level of his meager earnings, R'

Naftoli Riff זצ"ל, president of עזרת תורה (1958-1976) once recalled, "On several occasions I noticed R' Henkin refer to a mysterious, small notebook. He once revealed to me that in this notebook he kept a log of those minutes during the day that he did not utilize for תורה. He was not involved with his own personal business during those minutes, but when someone came to his office to discuss דברי תורה or if he received a telephone call from anywhere in the world requesting his opinion on a particular problem or שאלה, as he often did, he immediately looked at the time and noted in his record how many minutes he had borrowed from תורה. עזרת תורה. He would then know how many minutes to "make up" on behalf of עזרת תורה-related work."

My תלמיד, one recipient of his צדקה in צפת referred to R' Henkin as 'my beloved father'. In reality, he was a most beloved father and רבי of ישראל — he taught us how to collect and give צדקה, a מצוה that will ultimately help to bring the גאולה.

יהי זכרו ברוך!

בנידידות Your רבי

Adapted from: *The Jewish Observer* (with kind permission)

## Understanding ט"ו באב

The last משנה in מסכת תענית (ד: ח) teaches us: לא היו ימים טובים לישראל כחמשה עשר באב... ימים ימים... וקיום הכפורים. *There were no greater days than the 15<sup>th</sup> of Av and the 15<sup>th</sup> of Tishrei.* The תענית (ל: ג) relates why טו באב is equivalent to the day of מחילה when the 2<sup>nd</sup> set of לוחות were given. **Three incidents involve the אהדות after being split:** marriages from one שבט to another; allowing שבט בנימין back to marry into another שבט; removing the border guards thus allowing the 10 שבטים to be **Two demonstrate 'ד's love even to the sinners in His people:** the last 15,000 of the עולי מצרים did not die; the bodies of those killed in ביתר did not rot and were buried. **One shows 'ד's love to His תורה:** after 'stopping cutting wood for the מניחה ceremony, we used our extra time for learning תורה.



## ערב שבת Learning Contest

Our Annual International הלכות חג Contest may have ended, but the enthusiasm and dedication of our boys (and their parents/rebbei'im) to their learning continues to warm our hearts.

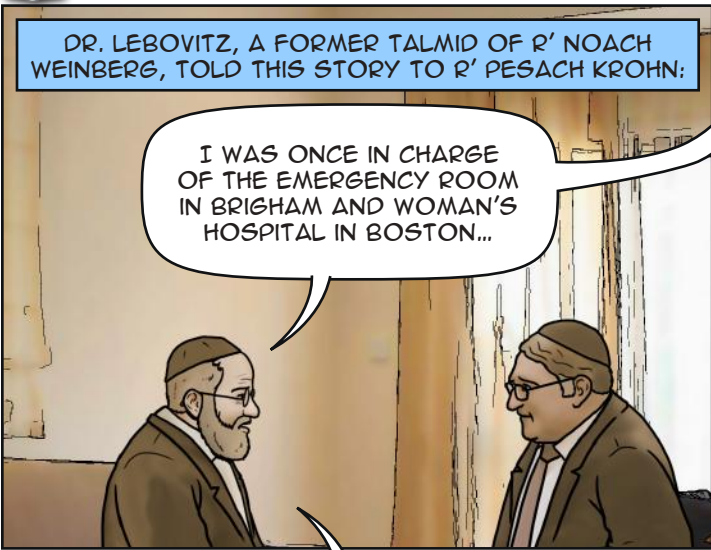
The current Pirchei Newsletter contest is designed to make your ערב שבת fulfilling and memorable. During the weeks leading up to קבלת התורה and beyond, learn at least 45 minutes before מנחה every ערב שבת. Learn for an hour or more and get an additional entry into the raffle. There is no particular למוד to learn — you can even review תרגום. If you arrange for a group to learn on the phone, and have a קדושת שבת to learn about הלכות שבת or קדושת שבת, you will receive an extra entry in the raffle. The contest is open for all ages up to 12<sup>th</sup> grade. To join this program, please send your weekly fax to 7185069633 or email to erevshabboslearningprogram@gmail.com by Monday 2:00 pm. Please include your name, grade, ישיבה, city, state, and contact # and your name will be entered into a drawing for a beautiful set of גדולות חומשים!

## Sage Sayings

What is the צדקה of תורה that R' Henkin זצ"ל devoted all his energy collecting funds from shul to shul? It was the lifeline for אלקנות and עניים in בני תורה. Dayan Yechezkel Abramsky זצ"ל wrote, "Today I received \$... from עזרת תורה. Praised be the name of ד' who has shown me grace... I cannot describe the severity of my situation." R' Isser Zalman Meltzer זצ"ל said, "אלע צדקות זענען קדוש, אבער עזרת תורה איז קדוש — All צדקות are holy, but עזרת תורה is Holy of Holies!"

Source: Adapted from *The Jewish Observer* (with kind permission)

# LEARNING FROM OUR LEADERS



DR. LEBOVITZ, A FORMER TALMID OF R' NOACH WEINBERG, TOLD THIS STORY TO R' PESACH KROHN:

I WAS ONCE IN CHARGE OF THE EMERGENCY ROOM IN BRIGHAM AND WOMAN'S HOSPITAL IN BOSTON...

A CODE BLUE ALERT SOUNDED...

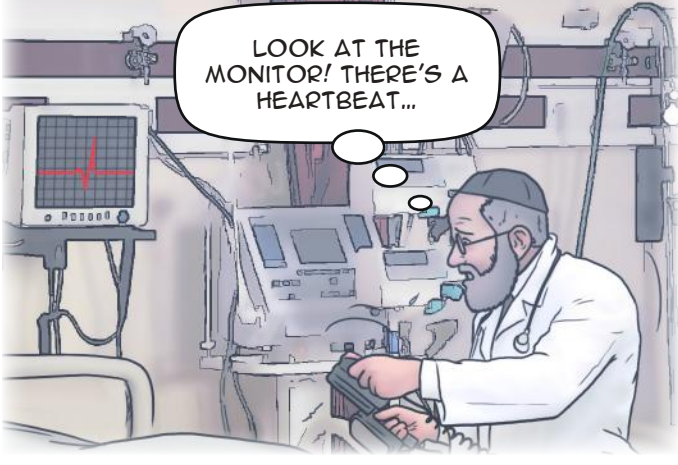
I'M AFRAID IT'S TOO LATE, DR. LEBOVITZ ... WE TRIED EVERYTHING...

I NEED TO TRY...



I TRIED WITH A DEFIBRILLATOR SIX TIMES, ON THE SEVENTH TRY...

LOOK AT THE MONITOR! THERE'S A HEARTBEAT...



THE GENTILE PATIENT FULLY RECOVERED.

...DOCTOR LEBOVITZ, MY SAYING, "THANK YOU," TO YOU NOW IS NOT ENOUGH...

EVERY TIME I SEE MY CHILDREN OR TAKE A WALK WITH MY HUSBAND OR ON EACH BIRTHDAY, I WILL NOW SAY: "THANK YOU, DR. LEBOVITZ!"



I WALKED OUT AND SAID TO MYSELF...WHEN I COME HOME TO SEE MY WIFE AND CHILDREN, I'M NOW GOING TO SAY, "THANK YOU, HASHEM," WHEN I WALK UP THE STAIRS EVERY NIGHT... I'M GOING TO SAY, "THANK YOU, HASHEM," ...



...AND WHEN I DAVEN AND FEEL CONNECTED TO HASHEM, I'M GOING TO SAY, "THANK YOU, R' NOACH WEINBERG," BEFORE I LEARN CHUMASH, I'M GOING TO SAY, "THANK YOU, R' NOACH WEINBERG!"



R' YISROEL NOACH WEINBERG זצ"ל WAS BORN ON NEW YORK'S LOWER EAST SIDE TO זיחק מרתיהו (GRANDSON OF THE 1ST SLONIMER REBBE, ר' אברהם, AND AYALA HINDA (A DIRECT DESCENDANT OF חנות דעת). HE FIRST LEARNED IN ישיבת חיים AND LATER IN ישיבת נר ישראל IN BALTIMORE, WHERE HE RECEIVED HIS SEMIKHA. HE MARRIED דנה GOLDMAN IN 1958. IN 1966, HE OPENED THE 1st ישיבה FOR בעלי תשובה IN ירושלים. IN 1970 HE CO-FOUNDED אור שמח (ORIGINALLY ישיבת שמע WITH R' NOTA SCHILLER, R' MENDEL WEINBACH AND R' YAakov ROSENBERG. IN 1974, HE ESTABLISHED אש התורה WITH 5 STUDENTS IN A SMALL APARTMENT IN ירושלים'S OLD CITY. התורה eventually GREW TO 30 BRANCHES WORLDWIDE AND HIS ICONIC BUILDING ADJACENT TO THE פותגל BECAME ITS CENTRAL LOCATION. IN 1985, ר' נח LAUNCHED THE HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL DISCOVERY [קירוב] SEMINAR WHICH HAS BEEN PRESENTED TO OVER 100,000 JEWS WORLDWIDE. ר' נח WAS AN UNUSUALLY MODEST, POSITIVE, KIND AND BRILLIANT רבי, WITH AN OVERFLOWING ישראלי AND אהבת ישראל. SOME OF ר' נח'S INGENIOUS TEACHINGS WERE CAPTURED IN HIS WRITINGS, INCLUDING: WHAT THE ANGEL TAUGHT YOU: SEVEN KEYS TO LIFE FULFILLMENT (ARTSCROLL), AND 48 WAYS TO WISDOM (ARTSCROLL), AMONG OTHERS. יהי זכרו ברוך!

For any inquiries or comments please feel free to call 347-838-0869 • Illustrated by: Yeshaya Suval

5690-5769 1930-2009 י"א שבט

