

AT THE ARTSCROLL SHABBOS TABLE

A PROJECT OF THE Mesorah Heritage Foundation

פרשת פנחס
"ט תמוז תשפ"ג

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RABBI YITZCHOK

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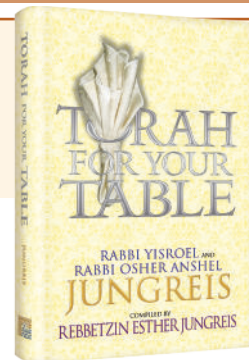
WEEKLY INSPIRATION AND INSIGHT ADAPTED FROM CLASSIC ARTSCROLL TITLES

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

CONVERTING HANDICAPS INTO ASSETS

Torah for Your Table by Rabbi Yisroel and Rabbi Osher Anshel Jungreis,
compiled by Rebbetzin Esther Jungreis



Moshe Rabbeinu takes the census of all the tribes, and we find that, strangely, the tribe of Dan has almost 20,000 more people than the tribe of Binyamin (26:41, 43). The remarkable growth of Dan is all the more astonishing since, initially, Binyamin had 10 sons, while Dan had only one, Chushim, who also happened to be deaf.

Consider for a moment the thoughts and feelings that must have plagued Dan. How could his tribe equal the other tribes of the *Bnei Yisrael*? He had only one son, and the boy was deaf. What would the future hold?

This week's *parashah* teaches us never to despair and never to measure ourselves by others. We need only make a sincere effort, give of our best, and strive to fulfill our own unique mission. If we do so, the possibilities are limitless. Perhaps it was precisely because Chushim was deaf that he remained immune to the many confusing and misleading voices

assailing the others.

The *Gemara* teaches that, when the sons of Yaakov Avinu came to bury their father in Chevron, Eisav protested and demanded to see the deed to the Me'aras HaMachpeilah. Naftali, noted for his swiftness, was commissioned by his brethren to return to Egypt for the deed. Chushim, who was deaf and not perturbed by Eisav's bullying, was out-

raged by the lack of respect shown to his grandfather and attacked Eisav, thus championing the honor of the patriarch.

The story of Chushim demonstrates that if we will it, our handicaps can become our assets and our burdens our inspiration. We need only have faith.

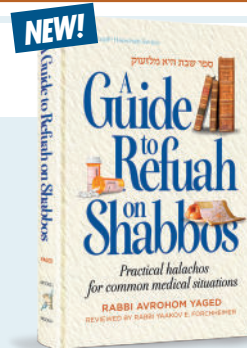
And so it was that from that one son, Chushim, the tribe of Dan grew and multiplied and surpassed the others. 📖

**NEVER DESPAIR
AND NEVER
MEASURE YOURSELF
BY OTHERS.**

HALACHAH

FOODS THAT HEALTHY PEOPLE EAT

A Guide to Refuah on Shabbos by Rabbi Avrohom Yaged



All foods and drinks that are typically eaten by healthy people may be consumed on *Shabbos*, even when the person's intention is to heal a minor ailment. Since it is not evident that he is doing so for the purpose of healing, the decree that one may not take medicine does not apply. However, if the foods or drinks are not

usually consumed by healthy people, then they may not be consumed by a healthy person to relieve a minor ailment.

Sore Throat

1. A person suffering from a sore throat or a cold may drink tea with lemon and honey (as long as no *bishul*, cooking, is involved) or chicken soup, since these are things that

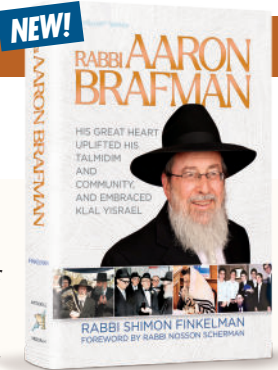
healthy people typically have.

2. One may bite into an orange or lemon and suck out the juice to soothe his throat, as healthy people would do this as well. Doing this involves no problem of *sechitah*.

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THIS WEEK'S ISSUE IS DEDICATED IN MEMORY OF A SPECIAL FATHER AND GRANDFATHER
ר' יעקב אלעזר בן ר' גרשון ז"ל

MESORAH HERITAGE FOUNDATION



"I WILL NOT SEND HIM BACK"

Rabbi Aaron Brafman by Rabbi Shimon Finkelman

Rabbi Mordechai ("Mookie") Diamond attended a coed day school through ninth grade. At the end of ninth grade, he told his parents that he wanted to transfer to a yeshivah, but did not know which one. Mordechai's parents were receptive, and the search for a yeshivah began.

That summer, we looked around for a yeshivah, but nothing seemed to be working out. Then someone suggested that we try Rabbi Brafman and Yeshiva of Far Rockaway. I went out and bought a yeshivische black hat and came to the interview wearing the hat, my Shabbos suit, and a white shirt. It was obvious that I really wanted to be accepted into the yeshivah.



Rabbi Aaron Brafman

The first Hoshana Rabbah towards the end of Hoshanos, everyone took their hoshanah and proceeded to beat it on the floor. I didn't have a hoshanah, so I started to beat my lulav on the floor. Rabbi Brafman came running from the front of the beis midrash to stop me.

The road to success was not easy, but Rabbi Brafman never gave up on me. He did not hover over me; he let each rebbi develop his own relationship with me, and indeed, I became particularly close with one rebbi who helped me very much. On the other hand, Rabbi Brafman seemed to have a sixth sense for always knowing what spiritual level I was at and what I needed at any given time.

One day, he came into our class and said that he expected everyone to make a siyum on the masechta we were learning that year, Bava Kamma. He had a sheet of paper on which he wanted us to sign our commitment to be mesayem. Later, when we passed each other in the hallway, he told me, "I don't expect you to finish Bava Kamma, but I do expect you to get a new hat. The one you're wearing is not befitting a ben Torah." I was wearing an old, beat up hat that was totally bent out of shape. It didn't bother me, but it did bother him, and he didn't hesitate to let me know. 📖

Rabbi Brafman tried to test me on my knowledge of Gemara, but he soon came to the realization that I knew absolutely nothing - no Gemara, no Rashi, and certainly no Tosafos. He gave me a Masechta Megillah and told me to read. I couldn't read the abbreviations in the Mishnah. He asked me to read an easy Rashi, but I had no idea what it meant. He did not ask me to read Tosafos.

Rabbi Brafman called in my mother, who had accompanied me to the farher, and told her, "I don't know where we're going to put him; he hasn't learned Gemara. But I will not send him back to where he came from. We'll take him, but we can't put him in an aleph shiur."

I was clueless about basics, and Rabbi Brafman was always there for me.

FOODS THAT HEALTHY PEOPLE EAT

continued from page 1

3. Someone with a sore throat may suck a cough drop or candy on Shabbos, since healthy people would have such a candy as well.

4. Someone with a sore throat may not gargle with any liquid that people normally drink, since it is obvious that he is doing so for *refuah*. He may swallow the liquid and drink it in the normal fashion, and does not have to swallow it in one gulp.

5. If the liquid is one that people can safely drink but do not commonly do so (such as cooking oil), then drinking it is prohibited, since it is evident that he is doing it for *refuah*.

6. Someone who has a sore throat may not chew raw garlic or swallow it whole. However, he may put garlic into a salad.

7. One may eat plain honey to soothe his throat, since it is a food that healthy people would eat.

Headache

8. Someone who has a headache may drink black coffee, even if he wouldn't usually drink it, since it is something that healthy people would drink.

Indigestion

9. Someone who has indigestion may not take Alka-Seltzer or similar medicines on Shabbos. However, he may eat regular foods that can re-

continued on page 3

THIS WEEK'S DAF YOMI SCHEDULE:

JULY / תמוז

SHABBOS	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
8 יט	9 כ	10 כא	11 כב	12 כג	13 כד	14 ה
Gittin 53	Gittin 54	Gittin 55	Gittin 56	Gittin 57	Gittin 58	Gittin 59

THIS WEEK'S MISHNAH YOMI SCHEDULE:

JULY / תמוז

SHABBOS	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
8 יט	9 כ	10 כא	11 כב	12 כג	13 כד	14 ה
Succah 3:9-10	Succah 3:11-12	Succah 3:13-14	Succah 3:15-4:1	Succah 4:2-3	Succah 4:4-5	Succah 4:6-7



In the *sugya* of Kamtza and Bar Kamtza in *Maseches Gittin*, we find (56b) that Rabban Yochanan ben Zakai made three requests of Vespasian: that he spare Yavneh and its scholars, that he spare the family of the *nasi*, and that doctors be provided to cure Rav Tzadok. We can well understand how fundamental the first two requests were to the survival of the Jewish nation. They ensured nothing less than the continuity of Jewish leadership and of the Torah itself. But how is the cure of a single sage — Rav Tzadok — placed on par with these other two requests?

Rav Avraham Schorr (*HaLekach VeHaLibuv* [ed. 5765], pp. 121-122) presents a beautiful explanation. Jewish survival requires more than just Torah study and practice and effective Jewish leadership. Times change and levels of greatness decline. For the continuity of the Torah nation, it is essential to preserve for the new

generation a living example of the greatness that can be attained by a true Torah personality — even one born and reared in a time only slightly removed from our own.

Yerushalayim and the *Beis HaMikdash* were about to be destroyed. The nation would be thrust into a bewildering new era that their ancestors had never known: a world of near-to-



Rav Avraham Schorr

IT WAS IMPERATIVE TO SALVAGE A LIVING REMINDER OF THE GREATNESS THAT ONCE WAS AND THAT STILL COULD BE.

tal destruction, bereft of the city and the *Beis HaMikdash* whose Divine service had been the lifeblood of the nation. It was imperative to salvage from the wreckage a righteous sage of the pre-Churban era, whose Torah and piety would be a beacon to the post-Temple generation, a living

reminder of the greatness that once was and that still could be. Nothing was more vital to the nation's survival than saving Rav Tzadok.

And so it has been throughout our long and turbulent history, down to our own time. From the cataclysmic horrors that engulfed European Jewry, Hashem salvaged for the next generation and those to come extraordinary *gaonim* and *tzaddikim*, living reminders of a shining past, who would bring the torches of bygone glories to distant shores, to rekindle and fan the nascent flames of Torah rebirth into roaring fires that can warm the chill winds of any time or any clime [*This same idea is found in Nesivei Yeshurun al HaTorah by Rav Yaakov Yisrael Luria, on Vayikra 19:32.*]

FOODS THAT HEALTHY PEOPLE EAT *continued from page 2*

lieve indigestion, such as yogurt, milk, and eggs.

10. Tums may be taken on *Shabbos* for indigestion since healthy people would eat them too, because they taste good, or as a calcium supplement.

Voice Improvement

11. One may swallow a raw egg to improve his voice. Note: A raw egg is not *muktzeh*.

Toothache

12. Someone with a toothache or pain in his gums may not rinse his mouth with vinegar or with any other strong-tasting liquid, such as an alcoholic beverage, since it would be obvious that he is doing this for *refuah*. However, he may drink whiskey or any other alcoholic drink in the regular fashion.

13. Someone who has a toothache may not dab or pour an alcoholic beverage on the painful area.

14. Some hold that a person suffering from a bad toothache may rinse his mouth with an alcoholic drink before swallowing it.

15. One may not rinse his mouth with salt water to alleviate mouth sores, even if the salt water was prepared before *Shabbos*.

Breath Freshening

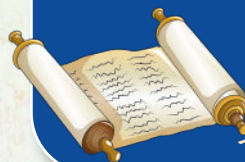
16. Mouthwash may be used to freshen one's breath.

17. Chewing gum and mint candies may also be used to freshen one's breath.

This week's Yerushalmi Yomi schedule:

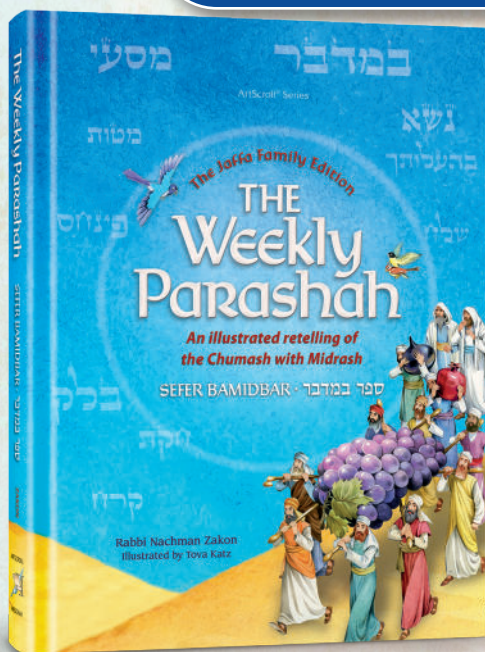
SHABBOS	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
8 י"ט Demai 70	9 כ Demai 71	10 כ"א Demai 72	11 כ"ב Demai 73	12 כ"ג Demai 74	13 כ"ד Demai 75	14 כ"ה Demai 76

JULY / תמוז



Parashah for Children

פרשת פנחס



Right or Wrong?

Remember the end of last week's parashah? Zimri, the prince of Shevet Shimon, publicly went against the Torah's law and married Cozbi, a woman from Midian, in front of Moshe and all the people. Pinchas was outraged at this public defiance of Hashem, and he killed both Zimri and Cozbi.

That was the right thing to do. But many Jews were angry at Pinchas. They said he had no right to kill Cozbi and Zimri.

Why did they say that?

Pinchas's grandfather, his mother's father, was Yisro. Before Yisro converted and became a Jew, he had fattened up calves to be sacrificed for idols.

Yisro used to be an idol worshiper! How dare Pinchas, who had an idol-worshiping grandfather, kill a prince, the leader of an entire Jewish tribe? At least, that's what some Jews thought.

Awesome Reward

Hashem Himself defended Pinchas. He told Moshe to tell the Jews that because they did not protest what Zimri was doing, they should have been severely punished. It was only because of Pinchas that they were not destroyed!

Hashem called Pinchas "Pinchas, the son of Elazar, the son of Aharon HaKohen." This was Hashem's way of telling the Jews not to focus on the fact that Pinchas's grandfather was Yisro! Hashem was reminding the Jews what a special family Pinchas came from, and that he had saved their lives. They should stop being upset at him for what he did.

Hashem gave Pinchas an awesome reward for what he did. Hashem gave him an unbreakable promise of peace, called "brisi shalom." This meant he would live forever. Hashem also made Pinchas a Kohen.

Hashem commanded the Jews to treat Midian as an enemy and fight the nation for causing them to sin.

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THE WEEKLY QUESTION

Question for Parashas Pinchas:

***Pinchas was Aharon HaKohein's grandson,
so why wasn't he himself born a Kohein?***

*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*.*



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