

AT THE ARTSCROLL SHABBOS TABLE

A PROJECT
OF THE
Mesorah
Heritage
Foundation

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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

LIVING TRUE

Rav Yaakov Bender on Chumash

וְעֵצֵי שֵׁטִים — *And acacia wood (25:5).*

Rashi asks: From where did they have acacia wood in the *midbar*? Rav Tanchuma explained that Yaakov Avinu foresaw that *Klal Yisrael* would build a *Mishkan* in the desert, so he brought the acacia trees along with him to Mitzrayim and planted them, commanding his sons to take them along when they would leave.

The question is: Why was this necessary? Along with the commandment to build a *Mishkan*, the Creator would no doubt have provided the necessary materials. The *tachash*, for example, was a miraculous creation, unique in history, there to provide the skins that covered the *Mishkan*.

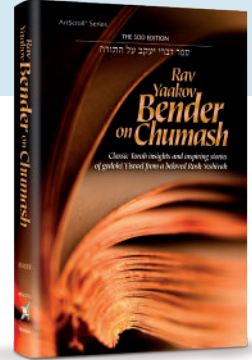
Couldn't the *Borei Olam* have found a solution for acacia trees as well?

My friend, Rav Zevi Trenk, shared a beautiful explanation with me.

Yaakov Avinu was not worried that his descendants would have any difficulty finding the wood. His concern was something entirely different. The *Mishkan*, site of the *Shechinah's* home in this world, would be suffused with *kedushah* and *taharah*, a place of great light and holiness, but there was one more ingredient necessary — *mesorah*! A *makom kadosh* needs to be connected to those who came before us, to their *avodah*, in order to flourish. Yaakov brought the trees from the land of the *Avos* so that the *Mishkan* could be touched with their *hashpa'ah*.

The Toronto Kollel was one of the first out-of-town *kollelim* in the world, the concept of full-time

yungeleit still unfamiliar outside of Lakewood, Monsey, and Brooklyn. The *roshei kollel* came directly from Rav Aharon Kotler's Lakewood, bringing vision, determination, and *achrayus* with them from Beis Medrash Govoha, and along with that, they brought one more thing — one of the old, wooden *shtenders* from the Lakewood *beis medrash*. Thus connected to the *mesorah* of their great *rebbeim*, they sat down to learn, creating a lighthouse of Torah.



Rav Elya Svei



Rav Zevi Trenk

Rav Elya Svei asked a complicated question on the *Rambam*, and after *shur*, a *talmid* came to show him a different *girsa* (version) of the *Rambam*. According to the second text, the difficulty was resolved.

Rav Elya thanked him, but did not accept the resolution. "*Mir lernen di zelbe Rambam vos di rosh yeshivah hut gelernt*, we learn the same *Rambam* that the *rosh yeshivah* learned."

His *rebbe*, Rav Aharon Kotler, had learned with the first *girsa*, and veering from that text was not an option.

Even Torah itself, the essence of truth, needs to be rooted in *mesorah*!

The *Aron*, which houses Torah and represents Torah, the core of our being, must be connected to those who turned us into a nation, the *Avos*.

Yaakov Avinu saw very far. The forefather of truth planted truth, allowing us to live true. 📖

THIS WEEK'S ISSUE IS SPONSORED BY YEDIDYAH AND LEAH SCHIERMEYER
IN HONOR OF OUR AMAZING CHILDREN, THEIR WONDERFUL SPOUSES, AND OUR ADORABLE GRANDCHILDREN

MESORAH HERITAGE FOUNDATION

SHABBOS FOR ORI

Angels in Orange – Uplifting Stories of Courage, Faith and Miracles from the United Hatzalah Heroes of October 7th by Rabbi Nachman Seltzer



The story of Ori Magidish, a soldier who was captured by Hamas, taken into captivity in Gaza, and was miraculously rescued, gave hope and *chizuk* to the entire nation.

Morris Elul is Ori's uncle. Unlike many who heard the tragic story but didn't know what they should do about it, Morris decided to do something concrete for his niece.

"I was sitting together with Ori's parents," Morris recalls, "and I said to her father, 'Yossi, I have a feeling that Ori has some sort of protection from above.'"

Ori's mother, Maggie, performed *hafrashas challah* in her daughter's merit, and something incredible occurred as she was performing the *mitzvah*.

Ori's mother looked heavenward and began to pray. "I am doing this in the merit of my daughter and all the people who were taken captive," she said. "Please, please, *Borei Olam*, I love You, I love You! Please don't forsake me, Master of the world!"

The entire country was overcome when they saw the video of a mother begging Hashem for her daughter's safe return and in the same breath telling Hashem how much she loved Him. It was an incredibly spiritual moment and a huge *kiddush Hashem*.

The family took a *Sefer Torah* around the city, dancing with it in honor of the captives, and then the *Sefer Torah* was brought to Ori's home and carried into her room.

"It was at this point," Ori's uncle continued, "that my children said to me, 'Abba, do something for Ori!' I couldn't refuse. So many people were doing things in her *zechus*. How could I say no? On the spot I decided to keep *Shabbos* as a *zechus* for Ori to return home. Then I took it a step farther and I said, 'If Ori comes home healthy and well, I will continue keeping *Shabbos* — every single week!'

"On Sunday I was at work, and I told one of my coworkers about my niece who was taken into Gaza. He looked at me in shock. 'Morris,' he said, 'I just heard on the radio that the army brought Ori out of Gaza!'

"I thought he was joking, so I turned on the news. A minute later, the announcer said, 'Just to recap what we were talking about a few minutes ago, the army just let us know that they rescued a soldier named Ori Magidish from Gaza. Again, one soldier — Ori Magidish — was just rescued from Gaza!'

"I burst into tears. When I managed to get myself under control, I called my son. The moment he heard my voice, he exclaimed, 'Abba, do you see what *shemiras Shabbos* can do? Hashem heard your prayers!'"

Almost immediately, the streets near Ori's home in Kiryat Gat were filled with dancing people and the sound of music. Cars drove down the street honking with happiness.

"When I walked into Ori's home," her uncle said, "I went over to Ori's father and said, 'Didn't I tell you that Ori had a special protection from above?'

"He grabbed my head, kissed me, and said, 'It's all from Hashem!'

"When I saw Ori, I told her the story and the promise that I had made. Then I told Ori, 'Now I have to keep *Shabbos* forever.'

"Since then, I have kept *Shabbos* and will continue doing so. I also started putting on *tefillin* every day. An open miracle happened to me. There's no other way of looking at it. We need to believe in Hashem. We need to daven to Hashem. He loves us and He hears our prayers!"



Morris Elul



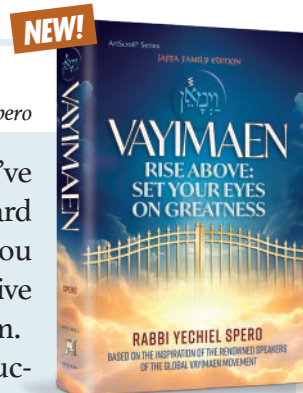
"IF ORI COMES HOME HEALTHY AND WELL, I WILL CONTINUE KEEPING SHABBOS — EVERY SINGLE WEEK!"

THIS WEEK'S DAF YOMI SCHEDULE:

| SHABBOS | SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY |
|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| 17 Bava Kamma 107 | 18 Bava Kamma 108 | 19 Bava Kamma 109 | 20 Bava Kamma 110 | 21 Bava Kamma 111 | 22 Bava Kamma 112 | 23 Bava Kamma 113 |

THIS WEEK'S MISHNAH YOMI SCHEDULE:

| SHABBOS | SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY |
|----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| 17 Kesubos 13:5-6 | 18 Kesubos 13:7-8 | 19 Kesubos 13:9-10 | 20 Kesubos 13:11 - Nedarim 1:1 | 21 Nedarim 1:2-3 | 22 Nedarim 1:4-2:1 | 23 Nedarim 2:2-3 |



KFC. It stands for Kentucky Fried Chicken. One of the most famous and popular non-kosher restaurants, KFC has over 25,000 locations throughout the world. In just about every city and town in the United States, you'll find the KFC sign, inviting customers to come on in and have a bite of its reportedly delicious product.

Believe it or not, there is a valuable lesson to be learned from this very successful, non-kosher franchise.

The man who started it all was famously known as Colonel Sanders. Over sixty years old when he first devised his recipe, the colonel's fried chicken would eventually take over the world. Over sixty years old!

Some people are starting to think about retirement at that age, but Colonel Sanders was just getting started. At that point, he was a failure. He had failed at everything he tried, only surviving thanks to his \$105 monthly Social Security check. That's what put food on the table.

Nevertheless, he believed in his recipe, and he started trying to sell it. Initially, he didn't make serious money off of it. He traveled the whole country, trying to convince people, but everywhere he went, people told him no.

Colonel Sanders refused to give

up. He continued to push his product until someone finally gave him a yes. And then another and another. Soon, word began to spread. His business exploded.

And, as they say, the rest is history.

That's how we find KFC stores in over 145 countries and territories, employing 800,000 people.

Next time you pass one of those 25,000 stores, think of this.

The colonel didn't start when he was twenty or thirty or even forty or fifty. He began when he was over sixty years old. And he didn't open his first store until years later.

So, no matter how long things have not been

going your way, you still have a chance to do something life-altering and life-changing. It could be the KFC franchise, or it could be some other venture that you have failed at repeatedly.

Imagine trying your hand at various business ventures for years, with mediocre success at best.

But one day, it happens.

Years of mediocrity (and some failures, as well) yield inconceivable results.

When it comes to *kedushah*, your story is also not yet complete. Even if you've walked down the street hundreds or thousands of times

and you've failed to guard your eyes, you must not give up your dream.

You can succeed. You can build something special.

Efforts yield results.

You may not see it at first, but each moment of *kedushah* plants seeds and creates worlds.

When faced with a challenge, know that by exhibiting *gevurah*, you are sowing eternal *kedushah* that can never be taken away from you.

If at first you don't succeed, try, try again. Every opportunity offers another chance to conquer the *yetzer hara*, to build one success on top of another. The more we push away those impure images, the more we build the power of *taharah* and of *kedushah* in our world.

Today, you can find a KFC anywhere. But just envision if, because of your efforts, you see a *beis midrash* or *beis knesses* in the spot where you controlled yourself, in the spot where you connected to Hashem. By pushing away the impurity and instead welcoming Hashem, you embedded holiness there.

In time, your efforts can take over streets and villages and cities and countries, and eventually, the world.

With every moment of self-control, you are conquering the *yetzer hara* and building holiness.

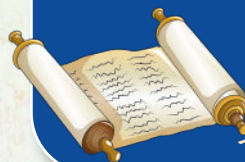
Take a lesson from the colonel: It's never too late. 📖

YOU ARE SOWING ETERNAL KEDUSHAH THAT CAN NEVER BE TAKEN AWAY FROM YOU.

This week's Yerushalmi Yomi schedule:

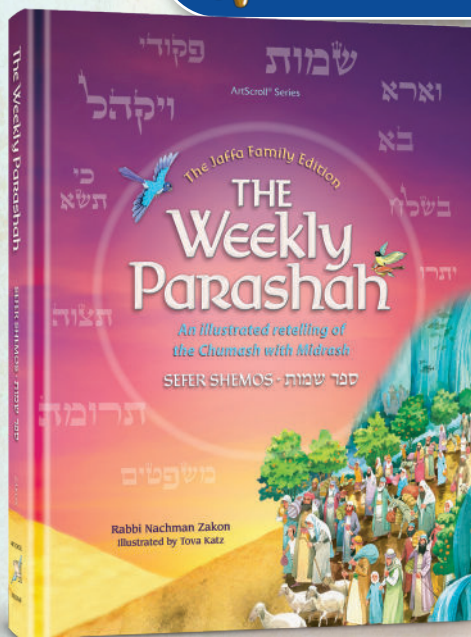
FEBRUARY /
אדר א'

| SHABBOS | SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY |
|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| 17 ת | 18 ט | 19 י | 20 יא | 21 יב | 22 יג | 23 יד |
| Terumos 46 | Terumos 47 | Terumos 48 | Terumos 49 | Terumos 50 | Terumos 51 | Terumos 52 |



Parashah for Children

פרשת תרומה



Shittim Wood and Solid Gold

The Aron was made of three boxes. The main one was made of shittim wood and the other two were made of gold. One of the gold boxes was a bit bigger than the wooden box and the other gold box was a bit smaller than the wooden box. The wooden box was put into the bigger golden box and the smaller golden box was put inside the wooden one, so all the wood was covered with gold.



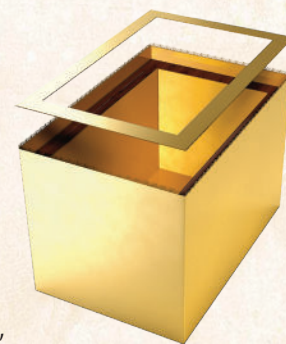
After the three boxes were put one inside the other, if you were looking at the top you would still see the top of the wooden box in between the gold. To cover that, a thin piece of gold was placed on top of the boxes. Now, no matter from what direction you looked, you would see only gold.

Wood?

Why wasn't the Aron made of one box of gold? What is G-d's message when He instructs us to place a box of wood between the gold boxes?

There are many answers. Here are a few:

- ▶ To remind us that the Torah is the tree of life. You want to have a good life? Live according to the Torah's rules. Be like a tree that grows. Never stop learning Torah, keep growing in Torah knowledge.
- ▶ A wooden box isn't worth much, but if it's carrying the Torah, we cover it with gold boxes. When something is enclosed in gold boxes, we know it's very valuable. This teaches us how much we must honor and respect scholars, even if they are poor. The Torah inside them is like the wood of the Aron, deserving to be covered with gold.
- ▶ The wooden box reminds us that Torah study is like a tree that grows fruit. The fruits of Torah study are the rewards that grow in Heaven. They will be enjoyed by those who study Torah. (Of course, that's besides the rewards they will get in this world.)



THE WEEKLY QUESTION

Question for Terumah:

Gold is very expensive. Why cover the inside of the Aron with gold if no one sees it anyway?

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 Beshalach question is: MOSHE ARONOVITCH, Cherry Hill, NJ

The question was: Why didn't Hashem tell Moshe to use his stick to split the Yam Suf? The answer is: Hashem didn't want the Egyptians to think that Moshe's miracles happened because his stick had great powers. So at Kriyas Yam Suf, Hashem told Moshe to do this miracle without the stick, just by stretching his hand over the water. Now everyone saw that Moshe himself performed the miracles and it wasn't his stick.

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