



PIRCHEI Weekly

Agudas Yisroel of America

May 18, 2024 - י' אייר תשפ"ד - Vol: 11 Issue: 32

כרשה אמור הפטרה והכהנים הלויים בני צדוק... (יחזקאל מד:טו-לא)

פסח שני ביום רביעי לפרשת בהר

דף יומי: בבא מציעא פ' אבות: פרק ג' עומה: כ"ה מצות עשה: 24 מצות לא תעשה: 39

Torah Thoughts

שור או ... כי יגלד והנה שבועת ימים תחת אמו ומיום השמיני והלאה ...
When an ox...is born, it shall remain under its mother for seven days; and from the eighth day on... (ויקרא כ"ב: כ"ז)

Why is it necessary to state that the newborn will be together with its mother for seven days? Would it not suffice merely to state that the animal is fit for a sacrifice when it is eight days old or older?

The *מדרש* gives a *משל* to explain that the first seven days are also a necessity. A king once imposed a decree in his kingdom that any person wishing to have an audience with him must first appear before the governor. So, too, states the *מדרש*, an animal is unfit to come before the *הקביה* until it has lived in the world for seven days and spent a *שבת* in this world. Upon being imbued with the spirit of *שבת* (the governor), the animal is then ready to be received by *הקביה*.

The *Taz* (יורה דעה רנ"ה) points out that for this reason, we celebrate the *שבת* preceding the *ברית מילה* of a newborn baby boy. The child is not ready to absorb the sanctity inherent in the *מילה* until he first experiences a *שבת* in the world.

There is a story told (Visions of Greatness VI, Page 199) about Señor Yaakov Yaakobi, a secular Jew, who was in the process of becoming religious. He owned a parcel of property in the downtown section of Mexico City. The year was 1985; the Mexican economy had suffered a strong downturn. Señor Yaakobi was losing money every day that he held the property with no tenants, and he couldn't find a buyer.

The first *מזנה* that Señor Yaakobi chose to keep entirely was *שבת*, and the first Friday after his commitment came with an unbelievable challenge. An interested team of buyers had come to evaluate the property on Friday afternoon. They discussed the property and its dimensions, then began to negotiate the price. As time passed, however, Yaakov began to look uneasily at his watch. Sunset was soon approaching. He had made a commitment to himself to start observing *שבת*. After so many weeks of considering the issue, he had finally resolved to begin now. He desperately wanted to conclude this deal, but was it worth his newfound resolution to keep *שבת* properly?

At last he made up his mind. To the surprise of the buyers, Yaakov rose to his feet. "Gentlemen, I can see that this will take some time. Perhaps we should adjourn our meeting now and continue our discussion on Monday morning?"

The men left, but they never returned on Monday morning. Less than one month later, a devastating earthquake struck Mexico City. The city reeled in disbelief, as only a few buildings withstood the tremors. Señor Yaakobi's empty office building was one such building. Within days, he sold his suddenly valuable property for a huge sum of money, far greater than what he could have ever dreamed of before the quake.

Señor Yaakov Yaakobi learned firsthand the value of living through a first *שבת*.

Adapted from: Words of Torah - R' Dov A. Brisman (with kind permission from NCVI)



Yahrtzeits of our Gedolim

ט"ז אייר 5666 - 5763 1906 - 2003 R' Yechiel Michel Feinstein זצ"ל, born to אברהם יצחק and אסתר in Lithuania, lost his father at age 7 and went to live with his grandfather, רב ר' דוד, of Stravin, Byelorussia. At the age of 13, he traveled to Slutsk to learn under זלמן מילצער R' Meltzer זצ"ל. At 16, he left for Mir to learn with ר' ליווויץ Levovitz זצ"ל. Traveling with ר' אהרן קוטלר R' Kotler זצ"ל, he escaped to the US in 1941. R' Feinstein זצ"ל, his uncle, soon summoned him to serve by his side as head of ישיבת תפארת ישיבת תפארת (NY). In 1946, he married the Brisker רב's daughter, Lifsha. He returned to ארץ ישראל in 1952 and founded בית הנהגה. After his daughter's פטירה (1976), he moved the ישיבה to בני ברק. His son-in-law is R' Tzvi Kaplan שליט"א.

לעיני ה' ישעיהו דוב ע"ה בן יבלחטי"א יצחק צבי נ"י

Gedolim Glimpses

Feinstein זצ"ל *davened* with the same עבודת and dedication as when he learned תורה. His תלמידים would wait for him, not to end קריאת שמע, but to begin it! He sat in thought for a few minutes, slowly counting on his fingers. Nobody knew why. After his פטירה, one תלמיד related that once, he plucked up the courage to ask רבי what he was doing. "I am counting the הדברות *עשרת הדברות*," R' Michel replied. He would accept each דברה of the *עשרת הדברות* before he recited קריאת שמע!



לעיני ר' ישראל בן אברהם ז"ל

אחינו כל בית ישראל, הגתוגים בערה ובשביה, העומדים בין בים ובין ביבשה, המקום ירחם עליהם ויוציאם מערה לרנחה, ומאפלה לאורה, ומשעבוד לגאולה, השתא בעגלא ובזמן קריב, ונאמר אמן:

For sponsorship opportunities please contact:
(347) 838-0869 • thepircheinewsletter@gmail.com

Focus on Middos

Dear תלמיד,

R' Yechiel Michel Feinstein זצ"ל often said that when a Yid *davens* sincerely, with all his heart, on behalf of another Yid, his תפלה reaches the כסא directly, even if he is not a great צדיק.

One of R' Michel's תלמידים once came to give him the good news that his daughter had become engaged. "It is the נס's ראש ישיבה Just a month before, the father had asked R' Michel to *daven* that he find his daughter's שדוך quickly.

"This is not a נס!" R' Michel insisted. "When you came to see me, I saw your pain and was very distressed. I put all my heart and soul into the תהלים that I recited. I then blessed you wholeheartedly. You should know that ד' fulfills the request of any Jew who gives a ברכה wholeheartedly!"

R' Yitzchok Zilberstein שליט"א recalls the time that he was presented with a difficult query concerning a terminally ill patient who was in serious condition. The woman wanted

very much to see the חפה of her engaged daughter. It was חול המועד and the question was how to find a way that a חפה might possibly be arranged during חול המועד (since הלכה prohibits marrying on חול המועד).

R' Zilberstein consulted with R' Michel and explained the שאלה to him. After listening carefully, R' Michel told him, "Why are you looking for leniencies? Let us *daven* that the mother has a long life!" R' Michel then *davened* and did not answer his שאלה.

R' Zilberstein returned to the family and instructed them not to change the original date of the חתונה. The mother lived to see her daughter's wedding, which was held during חנוכה. She passed away the day after the שבע ברכות ended.

My תלמיד, R' Michel lived and פסקו'd based on the power of a sincere תפלה for another Yid. Think about others during your תפלה; it will help your תפלות reach directly to the כסא הקבוד!

הי זכרו ברוך!

בגידות, Your רבי

A letter from a Rebbi, based on interviews

Understanding ספירת העומר



... אם אין קמח אין תורה; אם אין תורה אין קמח
... if there is no sustenance (lit. flour) there is no תורה;

if there is no תורה there is no sustenance (אבות ג: כא).

The חנוך (שי"ב, מנחה שייב, ש"ו) explains that the קרבן עומר is brought as an expression of our belief that we recognize that ד' wants mankind to live. He creates a new crop annually in order to sustain us. Before we can derive any benefit from the new crop, we first offer it up to ד' to show our thanks to Him for His kindness. ספירת העומר, counting the days from the bringing of the עומר towards שבעועת, is an expression of our love for the תורה. Both "flour" and the תורה were created in order to provide sustenance to the world. If כלל ישראל had not accepted the תורה, we would have ceased to exist and the world would not have survived.



ערב שבת Learning Contest

The current Pirchei Newsletter contest is designed to make your ערב שבת fulfilling and memorable. Beginning this week and continuing in 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 למועד to learn — you can even review מקרא שנים. If you arrange for a group to learn on the phone, and have a שיעור to learn about הלכות שבת or קדושת שבת, you will receive an extra entry in the raffle. The contest is open for boys of all ages up to 12th grade. To join this program, please send your weekly fax to (718) 506-9633 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 מקראות גדולות חומשים!

Sage Sayings



R' Michel Feinstein, זצ"ל, related משה's ר' תימן עוזר to describe R' Dovid Karliner זצ"ל, one of the greatest Lithuanian גאונים in ר' תימן's time. "A true master tailor makes his own needle, sharpens the point and decides precisely where to make the hole!" ר' תימן continued, "אין אינגער, צו פארשטיין יעדערער — R' Dovid made his own needle! — In order to understand each סגינה, he began anew [without using works of others!]."

Adapted from: Dei'ah veDibur

