

AT THE ARTSCROLL SHABBOS TABLE

WEEKLY INSPIRATION AND INSIGHT ADAPTED FROM CLASSIC ARTSCROLL TITLES

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L'ILLUI NISHMAS RAV MOSHE BEN RAV YISSOCHOR BERISH AND MARAS YENTA BAS YISROEL CHAIM

PARASHAH

LOTS OF LIFE

Rav Chaim Kanievsky on Chumash - Vayikra compiled by Rabbi Shai Graucher

אֲשֶׁר עָלָה עָלָיו הַגּוֹרָל
Designated by lot (Vayikra 16:9)

With the dozens of daily visitors from all around the world, one can think that every possible type of question has already been presented in Rav Chaim's room. Yet there is always something new...

Four brothers appeared before Rav Chaim, with their somber faces betraying the gravity of the circumstances that had brought them there.

"Our sister is very ill," the oldest among them began. "Both of her kidneys have failed, and she is currently forced to undergo grueling dialysis treatments on a regular basis. The doctors say that the only hope for her life is to have a kidney transplant. All of our family members eagerly went to be tested, in the hope that we could save our dear sister's life. Each of the four of us was found to be a match, and we each want to do this great mitzvah for our sister. We could not come to a consensus as to which of us should have the right to be the donor, so we came to the Rav for a solution."

Visibly moved by this selfless display, Rav Chaim asked a few questions, and determined that the correct method of decision was to perform a goral. He took out a Tanach, and, according to the rules passed down to him, the name Evyasar emerged. The second of the brothers bore that name, and his face beamed with inner joy that he would merit to

be the one to save his sister's life. His brothers all congratulated him, and, escorted by Rav Chaim's warm blessings, they went on their way.

A few weeks later, three of the brothers were once again waiting outside Rav Chaim's room. When their turn came, they added a fascinating twist to this tale:

"While undergoing tests in preparation for the kidney donation, the doctors discovered an irregularity in Evyasar's heart! Had it gone unnoticed, it could have endangered his life, chas v'shalom, but now the doctors are confident that, with Hashem's help, he will have a full recovery! Baruch Hashem, his having been chosen by the goral likely saved his life. Nevertheless, with his current condition, he is no longer an eligible candidate to be the kidney donor. We have therefore

come to ask the Rav to please help us choose his replacement!"

Moved anew, Rav Chaim repeated the goral, and the name of one of the remaining brothers emerged. With renewed blessings, they went home again, and, a short time later, they sent word that, with Hashem's help, all of the siblings were now hale and healthy. 📖



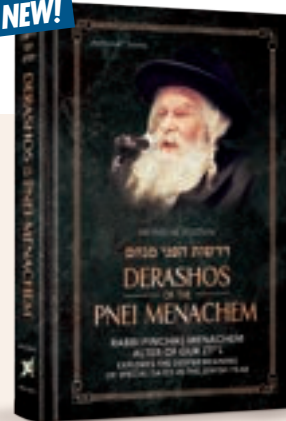
Rav Chaim Kanievsky

**HIS HAVING
BEEN CHOSEN
BY THE GORAL
LIKELY SAVED
HIS LIFE!**



THIS WEEK'S ISSUE IS DEDICATED ANONYMOUSLY.

MESORAH HERITAGE FOUNDATION



The Sages of the Mishnah lived in the time of the Roman occupation of Eretz Yisrael. One time, they discussed how to view the improvements that the Romans had made. R' Yehudah noted that they built marketplaces, bridges, and bathhouses. R' Shimon argued that they made these things only in order to suit their own vile pleasures.

After this debate was brought to the attention of the Romans, R' Shimon was forced to flee for his life. When R' Shimon first heard that the Romans sought to kill him, he hid in the beis midrash (*Shabbos* 33b), after which he and his son went to hide in a cave for twelve years, during which time they studied together the secrets of the Torah.

If we were to understand this at face value, the beis midrash seemed to have been the worst possible choice for his initial hiding place, since that is the first place where the Romans would look for him. Furthermore, how could he hope to hide in such a public place, where everyone who came to learn would see him?



The Pnei Menachem

Instead, the Maharal explains, when danger loomed, R' Shimon hid himself *within the Torah*. This is similar to what happened many years before, when Yehoshua sent Pinchas and Calev to spy out the Land of Canaan prior to their conquest. When the Canaanites stormed Rachav's house to look for them, she hid Calev under a pile of flax on her roof. The *pasuk* here uses the singular, *vatitzpina*, and [she had] hidden him (*Yehoshua* 2:4), since she hid only Calev. She did not need to hide Pinchas, since he could make himself invisible (*Bamidbar Rabbah*, *Shelach* 16). Here too we can explain that Pinchas made himself invisible by hiding himself in the Torah.

The Midrash (*Devarim Rabbah* 1:19) relates a discussion between Klal Yisrael and Hashem in which Klal Yisrael asks, "Master of the Universe! Yitzchak blessed Eisav, 'You shall live by your sword,' and You agreed to this *berachah*. What shall we do when Eisav raises his sword against us?"

"Hide from him," Hashem answers.

"Where shall we hide?" Klal Yisrael asks.

"Hide yourselves in the Torah," Hashem answers.

So it was with Pinchas, who hid himself by focusing all his thoughts on Torah. He thereby removed himself to an exalted plane of being, where the Canaanites who pursued him had no connection with him at all, and no ability to harm him. So it was with R' Shimon when he hid in

the beis midrash. So it was with Yaakov Avinu himself. When he fled from Eisav, he went to the beis midrash of Eiver to study Torah for fourteen years before continuing on to Charan to search for a wife. Why did he choose to hide in the yeshivah? Was this not the first place where Eisav would look for him?

But here too, when he immersed himself in Torah, nothing could harm him.

And so too is the path for every single Jew. We can find refuge from any hardship that might loom over us through the power of Torah study, which protects and saves (*Sotah* 21a).

The Lev Simchah would say in the name of our father, the Imrei Emes, that it is unnecessary to travel to Meron on Lag BaOmer. One can just as well learn Gemara instead, since R' Shimon himself is hidden inside the Gemara. He invested all his powers into the Torah, making all the wondrous *segulos* of his merit available throughout the generations to all those who study the Torah.

The Gemara (*Berachos* 35b) tells us that many tried to follow the ways of R' Shimon bar Yochai but failed. True, it is no easy feat to follow in his ways, and do nothing but serve Hashem *lishmah* through Torah and *tefillah* all day long. Still, we must awaken in our hearts a sense of desire, that at least we wished that we could do so. Then, we set our feet upon the path and begin to serve Hashem as best we can, with the knowledge that Hashem will help us proceed, one step after another. 📖



Rav Michael Wolpin, a Seattle native, once entered the study of Rav Shmuel Kamenetsky, rosh yeshivah of Yeshivah of Philadelphia, and was surprised that Rav Shmuel stood up for him and said, "I must thank you for saving my life!"

Rav Wolpin was taken aback, as he did not recall saving Rav Shmuel's life. Rav Shmuel explained as follows.

In 1937, Rav Yaakov Kamenetsky, Rav Shmuel's father, left his family in Lithuania and traveled to America, seeking a position as a rav. Through a series of events, he secured a job as an interim rav in Seattle, and during that time, he met the Wolpin brothers, who attended the local Jewish day school. Rav Yaakov spent some time speaking to them before he proceeded to test the boys on what they were learning in class. Young Michael knew the portion of *Maseches Bava Kamma* that he was learning fluently, astonishing the new rav with his clear understanding of the Gemara. Rav Yaakov was very impressed.

After a short time, Rav Yaakov secured a steady job in Toronto, and moved there, while trying to bring his family from Europe to Canada. One day, he received a letter from his brother-in-law, Rav Avrohom Grodzensky, who was taking care of his family in Lithuania while he

was abroad. Rav Avrohom wrote that although he feels comfortable allowing the younger children and the girls to travel to America, he was hesitant to permit Rav Yaakov's two older sons, Binyomin and Shmuel, to travel to America, as they were already studying in yeshivos in Europe. With a weak infrastructure of



Rav Yaakov Kamenetsky

NOW YOU KNOW HOW YOU SAVED MY LIFE.

yeshivos in America, Rav Grodzensky was concerned about their spiritual well-being and their ability to learn Torah properly abroad.

Rav Yaakov, however, was not concerned. He explained, "If Michael Wolpin, a young child in Seattle, can master *Bava Kamma*, then my children can also study Torah and master it here in America."

With that, he insisted that his entire family, including his two older sons, travel to Canada.

Rav Shmuel explained to Rav Wolpin, "Now you know how you saved my life. So many who stayed behind in Europe perished. Your mastery of *Bava Kamma* gave my father the confidence to bring my brother and me to Canada just before the war broke out!"

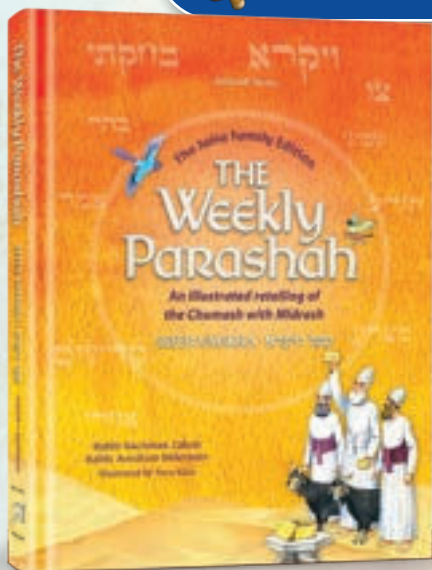
In addition to the lesson of hakaras hatov demonstrated by Rav Shmuel – that one must appreciate something done for him, even if it was many years earlier and even if the benefactor is not aware of what he's done – there is a remarkable message regarding the phenomenal power of an individual, even a child. Young Michael Wolpin surely had no idea of the impact he would have through his mastery of *Bava Kamma*. Like any child, he probably did what he was told and devoted effort to mastering his studies. Yet, his diligence and knowledge ensured the safe passage of two brothers, both of whom would make a colossal impact on tens of thousands of Jews. 🇺🇸

YOMI SCHEDULES FOR THIS WEEK:		SHABBOS MAY 10 יב אייר	SUNDAY MAY 11 יג אייר	MONDAY MAY 12 יד אייר	TUESDAY MAY 13 טו אייר	WEDNESDAY MAY 14 טז אייר	THURSDAY MAY 15 יז אייר	FRIDAY MAY 16 יח אייר
	BAVLI	Shevuos 9	Shevuos 10	Shevuos 11	Shevuos 12	Shevuos 13	Shevuos 14	Shevuos 15
	YERUSHALMI	Eruvin 52	Eruvin 53	Eruvin 54	Eruvin 55	Eruvin 56	Eruvin 57	Eruvin 58
	MISHNAH	Avodah Zarah 5:6-7	Avodah Zarah 5:8-9	Avodah Zarah 5:10-11	Avodah Zarah 5:12 - Avos 1:1	Avos 1:2-3	Avos 1:4-5	Avos 1:6-7
	KITZUR	83:3-84:4	84:5-15	84:16-85:3	85:4-86:5	86:6-87:6	87:7-17	87:18-88:1



Parashah for Children

פרשת אחרי מות-קדוש'ים



Kosher Clothes

Shatnez: Not only does the food we eat have to be kosher, the clothes we wear have to be kosher too!

Kosher clothes don't have "shatnez" in them. Shatnez is a mixture of wool and linen, and is a kind of kilayim. If the buttons on a wool coat were sewed on with thread made of linen, the entire coat is shatnez and we are not allowed to wear it. That's why suits, dresses, coats, dress pants, and even expensive neckties all have to be brought to a shatnez tester.

Even if a dress or suit has a tag that says it's made of 100% wool, it still should be tested.

Why?

A company is allowed by law to label clothing 100% wool, even if the buttons or lining are sewed on with linen thread!

The Shatnez Hero

Today, there are shatnez testers everywhere. But it wasn't always like that.

Mr. Joseph Rosenberger was a Holocaust survivor. Since Hashem had miraculously saved him from the Nazis, Mr. Rosenberger decided to dedicate himself to stopping American Jews from wearing shatnez. This was a big project for someone who was a poor refugee and couldn't speak English, yet nothing stopped him.

First, Mr. Rosenberger learned everything he could about wool, linen, other fibers, and clothes manufacturing. Within a year of starting his project, he invented a way to test for shatnez using chemicals. Agudath Israel of America helped him out by letting him use their office. Mr. Rosenberger printed up advertisements about shatnez and the need to test clothing. He went to shuls and yeshivahs and told people about shatnez. Other major Orthodox Jewish organizations also helped get the word out. It wasn't long before people wouldn't wear clothing that didn't have a "no-shatnez" label on it.



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THE WEEKLY QUESTION

Question for Acharei Mos:

What did the Kohen Gadol do when he entered the Kodesh HaKodashim on Yom Kippur for the fourth time?

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*.

WINNERS: Vayikra: MICHAEL M. COHEN, Baltimore, MD.

Pikudei: MEIR FARBER, North Woodmere, NY. Vayakhel: TZVI HERSHFELD, Lakewood, NJ

Question for Vayikra was: Of all the animals that can be brought as a Shelamim, which was the only one that had its tail put on the Mizbei'ach? Answer to Vayikra: A sheep

Question for Pikudei was: Who was appointed to be in charge of organizing all the Levi'im to move the Mishkan? Answer to Pikudei: Aharon's son, Issamar



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