



פרשת חקת-בלק, "יא תמוז תשס"ו
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PARSHAS CHUKAS - BALAK



"I'm impressed at how you found your way out of those woods so easily, Rochie," Chavie said with a sigh of relief. Rochie, the counsellor of Bunk Six, grinned at her co-counsellor and whispered, "We'll talk later." Loudly, she urged her campers on. "Let's go, girls! Last one to the water fountain is a dried up petunia!"

"We are all dried up petunias already," the girls called out laughing.

Bunk Six had been out on a hike in the woods and had taken a wrong turn. It was a hot, sticky hour later by the time Rochie led them back to the right trail.

Later, Rochie admitted to Chavie: "I didn't have the slightest idea what I was doing when I made all those turns on the winding trail. I was awfully worried. I just davened that we would get back fast."

"Really?" Chavie asked in disbelief. "You looked so calm, and you'd put the girls in such a happy mood!"

"I had to," explained Rochie. "I'm their counsellor. Imagine how upset everyone would have been if I had told them how worried I was."

Rochie had followed the example of Moshe Rabbeinu. As we learn at the end of Parshas Chukas, when the Jewish people had to wage war with Og the King of Bashan, Moshe was worried. "Perhaps," Moshe thought to himself, "we will not be able to overcome Og because he has special merit that will work in his favor." It was Og who had long ago informed Avrohom Avinu that his nephew Lot had been taken as a prisoner of war.

But Moshe kept his thoughts to himself, as Rashi tells us, "He said in his heart." Moshe was not going to let his worry affect the rest of the Jewish people.

This is exactly the opposite of what Balak the king of Moav did, as we find in Parshas Balak. The parshah begins by telling us, "And Balak the son of Tzipor saw all that Yisrael had done to the Emori, and the people of Moav became very frightened." In their despair, the people of Moav turned to the elders of Midyan to come up with a plan to overcome the Jewish people.

Why did the people of Moav suddenly become so frightened? The passuk tells us that they were afraid of the sheer size of the Jewish people, but if that was the only reason, then they should have been frightened earlier. The Jewish people had been instructed by Hashem not to pass through the land of Moav, but to go around it. We understand that the Jews had been camped around the borders of Moav for some time. The people of Moav had already seen them and their huge camp. Why did they panic now?

Rashi explains that it was Balak himself who had caused his people to panic at this point. Everyone had heard what had happened to the people of Sichon and Emori. But Balak knew something that his people did not. He knew about a secret arrangement that the nations living in and around Eretz Yisrael had with the kings of Sichon and Emori. They paid a special tax to these two powerful kingdoms so that they would be protected. Now that those kingdoms were defeated, Balak was in despair for there was no one to protect him! He could not control himself and blurted out the whole story to his people. No wonder they all suddenly panicked and rushed to consult the elders of Midyan.

This week, we celebrate the days of Yud Beis-Yud Gimmel Tammuz. The Friediker Rebbe was a true leader, like Moshe Rabbeinu. Before he was arrested, the Friediker Rebbe had realized that he and his entire network of activities were in grave danger. Later, he actually mentioned how frightened he was of the dangers. Yet, at the time he did not show his feelings to anyone; quite the opposite! He encouraged everyone to continue their efforts to spread Yiddishkeit even after he had already been arrested and thrown into prison. His strong stance of courage and leadership eventually led to his release from prison and to the continued spread of Yiddishkeit around the world.

(Adapted from Likkutei Sichos, Vol. VIII)
 'Please Tell Me What the Rebbe Said'

WITH MANY THANKS TO OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS:

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AFTER I DIED, THE אידן GRIED FOR MY זכות HAD DRIED.

Please send your answers to connections@shluchim.org
 Last weeks' brain buster: I smell sweet . Only Aharon can offer me
 Answer: קטורת

Congratulations to Motty Harlig, age 6 from Henderson, Las Vegas for solving the brain buster.



FROM THE DESK OF DR. GETZEL...

Hello Young Shluchim!

I love daydreaming. Here I am, sitting snugly in my little office in Iowa between the cows and cornfields, in my hometown, sitting and daydreaming. Of-course I should be sitting and working. I need to work on the important international work that Seeing Professors tend to do. You know, of-course that I am a world famous unannounced genius who spends his time tinkering and tinkering and making lenses that help people see the world in new and fabulous ways. You've seen my Chossid's lens, my 70/80-vision lens, my Lo-Lo lens, and many others that clutter my office from ceiling to floor and from door to door. But today, on this foggy fast day in Iowa, I'm twiddling my thumbs instead of working. I mean, Mrs. Getzel calls it twiddling thumbs; I call it daydreaming.

In my daydream I'm in Eretz Yisroel, and all the Arabs are politely saying, "Excuse me," and "Can I help you with anything?" in Hebrew. Yerushalayim is teeming with people, and some of them are my good friends who used to live in America, and who must have come here the same way I did.

The Beis Hamikdash is standing like a magic castle and it sprung up in under 30 seconds although it's as long as the Mediterranean Sea! (Of-course, I have no idea how long the Mediterranean Sea really is, but I have a feeling that it is the same length as the Beis Hamikdash). The Beis Hamikdash is overflowing with gold and silver. Aha! This is a very good daydream.

Reb Yid is writing notes as usual on his super high-tech laptop that he got from NASA after he lost his teeth in a crash with a shooting star, even though he's gotten all his teeth right back into place. In fact, everyone has become 100% healthy. I'm not sure how. All wheelchairs and casts and canes and eyeglasses are actually heaped in a pile on the side of the road waiting for the Israeli garbage. It seems like no one needs them anymore.

Ouch. It's hard to daydream when your last cavity fell out and your tooth is really hurting.

My old Chumash teacher Rabbi Know-all is deep in conversation, with guess who? Rashi himself! He's actually learning Chumash with

Rashi. Imagine that! The Rambam is also very busy; doctors from all over the world want an appointment with him. They heard that he is a little bit like me -- a world famous professor.

Grumble, grumble. I'm really hungry, come to think of it.

In my daydream I see the Rebbe. The Rebbe is smiling and giving coins to all the kids who are hanging around and trying to get the gold coins that are swirling off the top of the Beis Hamikdash. I'm not getting a coin because I am not a child, but I'm so excited to see the Rebbe, that I'm smiling too. In fact, everywhere I look, people are smiling. I remembered the old Galus days, when people sometimes, for some strange reason, would forget to smile. But in my dream, everywhere I look, people are smiling.

I'm really hungry! I don't want to smile!

In my dream I get the best part. I'm a Levi and I get to stand on the steps and play a shiny violin. Did you know that I was a talented musician? You didn't? Well, don't feel bad. I didn't either. But as soon as I became an official Levi choir member, I started to play like a pro!

Rinnnnng! Beep Beep Beep! Ding dong ding dong! Oh no. My beeper is beeping and my cell phone is ringing (to the tune of, "Am Yisroel, have no

fear..."), and my fax machine is doing its little ditty.

It looks like the fast is over. Too bad. My daydream is so good, why would I want to break my fast? I always dream extra good when I'm fasting. Especially when it's a fast about the Beis Hamikdash, I dream real good stuff...

I'll tell you what's happening now in my dream... Everyone is running to the grand new-and-improved 770 building of the Beis Hamikdash plaza and trying to get a front seat to hear a Sichra from the Rebbe. I'd love to talk to you more, but I must run and catch a front seat too. After all, it's been years since I last heard a Sichra.

Who says this is a dream anyway? I think it's real... Of-course it's real. What do you think? Was I dreaming a dream or was it real?

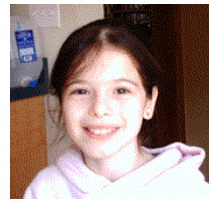
Of course it's real...

Have fun daydreaming with me!

Dr. Getzel

KIDS SPEAK

Where Young Shluchim talk about their Shlichus



CHAYA MUSHKA GROSSBAUM, AGE 11 MINNETONKA, MINNESOTA

Hi, my name is Chaya Mushka Grossbaum. I am 11 years old. I have 4 brothers and 3 sisters. Mendel (9), Chanie (7), Lieba (5), Levi (4), Berel (2), Meir (1). We live in Minnetonka, which is in Minnesota. We have been on shlichus for about 10 years. First we started in Minneapolis where we only had classes and Living Legacy. Four years ago we moved to Minnetonka where we opened a Chabad House. Our Chabad House for now is a storefront. It is a little small but nice. Boruch Hashem since more people are coming we will soon need to get a new Chabad House. We go to a Lubavitch Cheder in S. Paul that is about 45 minutes away. We have davening in our Chabad House every Shabbos and Yom Tov. Some of the things we do are: Parsha Classes, Rosh Chodesh Programs for Women, Living Legacy, Public Sedorim, Lag B'omer Barbecues and much more. We even started a preschool this year for kids ages 2-4. We are proud to be shluchim of the Rebbe.

Hey Kids!

Send us a report about your shlichus and we will try to publish it in our future connections!
E-mail us at connections@shluchim.org
Please include your name, age and location of shlichus.

Are you a Parsha Expert?



ב וי'ג תמוז - חג האולה

ב תמוז

On this day the פריערדיקער רבי was told that his גלות in Kostrama was at an end. On ג' תמוז the פריערדיקער רבי had been sent to Kostrama for three years. When he arrived there, he was ordered to come to the government office every Tuesday. So, on Tuesday, ב' תמוז the Rebbe, together with the ר' אליהו חיים, חסיד, Althaus, came to the office. The officer there greeted the פריערדיקער רבי warmly and told him that he won't have to come to the office any longer because they have received instructions to release the Rebbe.

ג תמוז

ב' תמוז was a public holiday in Kostrama so the פריערדיקער רבי only received his release papers on ג' תמוז. After the פריערדיקער רבי received his release papers, he held a farbrengen and gave over a מאמר.

ד תמוז

On Thursday, ד' תמוז the פריערדיקער רבי left Kostrama at ten in the morning.

ט"ו תמוז

The פריערדיקער רבי arrived at his home in Leningrad. The next day, שבת פרשת פנחס, he was called to the תורה and benched גומל.

(Adapted from 'Days in Chabad')

When בלעם was speaking, he praised himself by saying that he was 'שטום העין' - 'blind in one eye'. Why did בלעם think this was a good thing?

When the פריערדיקער רבי was a young boy he asked his father the following question: "Why did ה' create me with two eyes. One eye would be enough because when I close one eye, I can see just as well?"

His father, the רבי רש"ב, explained that people have two eyes for a reason. The right eye stands for looking at things positively and the left eye, for looking at things negatively. There are certain things at which we should "look with the right eye" - with love and concern - and there are things which one should "look with the left eye". When we look at another איד, we should always look with the right eye and find his good qualities. The left eye is for גשמיות matters and things of minor importance. Sometimes we should even close it and not fulfill our דיקע תאוות.

בלק was extremely disappointed with בלעם because instead of cursing the בני ישראל, he praised and blessed them. בלעם comforted בלק and told him, "Do not fear, I am blind in one eye. My right eye has no vision, and so I cannot see any good in the Jewish people."

(Adapted from 'Vedibarta Bam')

DID YOU KNOW?



שבעה עשר בתמוז

שבעה עשר בתמוז is a fast day, when we remember the sad things that happened on this day. We don't eat from "daybreak" (about an hour before sunrise) until nightfall. We add special תפילות during davening and lein a special part of the תורה.

שבעה עשר בתמוז is also the beginning of **The Three Weeks** which ends on באב.

We don't have חתונות, haircuts or do other happy things.

We fast on שבעה עשר בתמוז, to remember five sad things in Jewish history:

1. לוחות משה רבינו broke the first set of לוחות.
2. An idol was put in the בית המקדש.
3. The קרבן תמיד was stopped in the Second בית המקדש.
4. The Romans broke the walls of ירושלים leading to the destruction of the Second בית המקדש.





Stories of Olde

The decree in שמים was sealed: "The בית המקדש should be destroyed, and the בני ישראל should be driven out of their land!" Then ה' said: "But the כותל should not be destroyed, so that there should always be a reminder that ה' שכינה rests there!"

The איד could not and would not forget their בית המקדש. Every year on תשעה באב, the איד assembled at the כותל המערבי to pour out their hearts about the destruction, and to beg ה' to rebuild the בית המקדש.

The Romans could not bear to see how stubbornly the איד kept to their אידישקייט, and how holy they regarded the כותל המערבי. The Romans came up with a plan of how to fix the situation; they issued an order that all non-Jews who live in ירושלים must dump their garbage daily near the כותל.

Day in, day out, the heap of garbage grew. Bit by bit the whole כותל was covered. The איד mourned again.

Many years went by. A צדיק from outside of ארץ ישראל came to ירושלים to pour out his heart to ה' over the destruction. He walked through the streets of ירושלים, searching for the כותל, but he could not find it. Everyone he asked shrugged their shoulders; they had never in their lives seen the כותל.

The איד, however, did not give up hope. Day and night he looked for the כותל. One day, he came upon a huge hill of rubbish and wondered how so much garbage came to be accumulated at this place. He noticed a very old woman carrying a heavy sack on her back.

"Old woman, what are you carrying?" the איד asked her.

"I am carrying a sack of garbage to throw on the hill."

The איד inquired, "Do you have no room closer to home for garbage, that you are forced to bring it here?"

"It is an old custom for us to bring the garbage here. Once there stood here a huge stone wall that the איד regarded as holy, so we were ordered to cover the wall." She emptied her bundle and returned home..

Tears poured from the Jew's eyes. "I will not move from here until I work out a plan how to remove the dirt and reveal the כותל המערבי once more."

Suddenly an idea came to him. The איד went back to town and whispered to everyone he saw: "They say that a big treasure lies buried beneath the hill of dirt over there."

He took a shovel and a bucket and began digging in the dirt. A short while later many more people arrived. The whole city of ירושלים was excited by the news that a huge treasure lying beneath the hill. They dug for a whole day till the upper stones of the כותל came into view. The sun set and the people went home to rest from their day's hard work. The איד then took out some golden coins, covered them with dirt and left.

The next morning, soon after dawn, there was an uproar by the hill. Someone had found a golden coin, and so did a second, and a third. The people started to dig with even more enthusiasm.

Every day they dug deeper and deeper. Every day a few golden coins were found. But, they were certain the real treasure lay at the bottom. The איד spent all his money on his mission to uncover the כותל המערבי.

For forty days the people dug around the כותל and looked for the treasure. Finally the whole כותל was cleared of garbage. They did not find the treasure, but in front of their eyes a big stone wall appeared.

Suddenly a great storm broke out and rain came pouring down. It rained for three days, washing the כותל clean of any traces of dirt. When the people came out to see what they had unearthed, they saw a handsome wall with huge stones, some of them as much as ten feet high.

On the spot where אברהם brought יצחק as a קרבן, where the first בית המקדש stood, built by שלמה המלך, and the second בית המקדש, built by עזרא and נחמיה - on this very spot the third and final בית המקדש will be built, when משיח comes.

(Adapted from L'chaim Weekly)



TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

פרשת חקת-בלק

Kids! Fill out the answers to the puzzle below, and fax it to the Shluchim Office at (718) 221- 0985 or e-mail it to connections@shluchim.org by Wednesday

Level 1:

MATCH THE QUESTION TO THE CORRECT ANSWER.

When was the פריערדיקער רבי born?

יוסף יצחק

Where was the פריערדיקער רבי born?

Kostrama

Who was the פריערדיקער רבי's father?

ט' אדר

What is the פריערדיקער רבי's name?

י"ב תמוז

Which prison was the פריערדיקער רבי taken to?

רבי רש"ב

Where was the פריערדיקער רבי sent into גלות?

The Rebbe

After the פריערדיקער רבי left Russia, where did he move to?

Lubavitch

When did the פריערדיקער רבי arrive in America?

Shpalerka

Who did the פריערדיקער רבי's second daughter marry?

Riga

הצלחה רבה

Name: _____ Age: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Country: _____ E-mail: _____

Last Week's Winners:

Mendel Baron, age 5 from Sunny Isles Beach, Florida

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

פרשת חקת-בלק

Kids! Fill out the answers to the puzzle below, and fax it to the Shluchim Office at (718) 221- 0985 or e-mail it to connections@shluchim.org by Wednesday

Level 2:

FIND THE ANSWERS TO THE QUESTIONS ABOUT THE פריערדיקער רבי IN THE WORD SEARCH, THEN USE THE REMAINING LETTERS TO SPELL OUT A SENTENCE. (YOU WON'T NEED ALL THE LETTERS).

Y	Y	U	D	T	B	O	E	I	K	S	T	A	K	H
N	U	D	R	Y	H	U	T	F	D	E	G	O	I	C
M	M	D	E	E	L	E	A	W	S	T	H	A	M	T
M	U	Z	B	I	B	R	R	V	O	C	S	T	H	I
A	E	T	C	E	C	B	O	E	Z	C	H	A	G	V
H	G	A	E	H	I	V	E	T	B	G	K	E	U	A
L	A	I	A	S	T	S	I	R	H	B	O	F	T	B
H	E	B	R	A	A	Y	T	F	A	R	E	I	E	U
R	A	D	M	I	F	D	K	A	E	S	R	R	E	L
D	B	M	B	E	E	U	A	D	M	L	H	G	K	W
N	U	T	S	K	O	S	T	R	A	M	A	A	A	X
Z	V	O	E	L	E	V	E	N	B	V	U	R	B	U
E	Y	A	K	R	E	L	A	P	H	S	S	Z	Q	W
Y	J	G	L	S	O	H	E	K	A	A	U	A	F	T
T	B	P	L	L	X	S	F	Z	W	D	V	X	Z	A

- When was the פריערדיקער רבי born?
- Where was the פריערדיקער רבי born?
- Who was the פריערדיקער רבי's father?
- What is the פריערדיקער רבי's name?
- At what age did the פריערדיקער רבי start to put on תפילין?
- Which prison was the פריערדיקער רבי taken to?
- Where was the פריערדיקער רבי sent into גלות?
- On what date did the פריערדיקער רבי arrive home from Kostrama?
- After the פריערדיקער רבי was released, where did he move to?
- In which city did the פריערדיקער רבי first live, when he moved to Poland?
- What was the second city that the פריערדיקער רבי lived in Poland?
- When did the פריערדיקער רבי arrive in America?
- What is the name of the village that the פריערדיקער רבי founded in ארץ ישראל?
- What is the name of the Lubavitch publishing house that the פריערדיקער רבי started?
- Who did the פריערדיקער רבי's second daughter marry?

הצלחה רבה

Name: _____ Age: _____
 City: _____ State: _____
 Country: _____ E-mail: _____

Last Week's Winners:
 Blumi Keselman, age 11 from London, England