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PARSHAS CHAYEI SARAH



"What is the name of this week's parshah?" Morah Yaffah asked her fifth-grade class.

"Chayei Sarah," answered many voices together. "That means 'the life of Sarah,'" continued Morah Yaffah. "This parshah describes three things that happened after Sarah Imeinu passed away."

"But Morah," Peninah called out. "If the parshah tells us things that happened after Sarah died, why is it called Chayei Sarah - the life of Sarah?"

"That's a very good question," said Morah Yaffah. "That is just what we are going to be learning today. Our Chachomim teach us that tzaddikim are described as being 'alive' even after they pass away. Let's try to understand what this means."

Chani raised her hand. "Morah, I'm not sure if this is a good example, but I think I understand. You see, my mother's grandmother was a very special woman. My mother says she was a real tzadeikes. I never met her; she passed away before I was born. But somehow I feel like I know her. My mother always talks about her. She always says - 'Bubbe used to do this,' 'Bubbe used to say that,' 'Bubbe would do it this way.' In our family, we do a lot of things the way Bubbe used to do them. It's as if everything about her is still with us today."

"Thank you for sharing that with us, Chani," replied Morah Yaffah. "It is a good example. Now let's think about the three episodes in Chayei Sarah."

"The first story is about Avraham buying Me'aras HaMachpeilah to bury Sarah," said Brachi, "And the second is about Yitzchak marrying Rivkah."

Morah Yaffah nodded. "And at the end of the parshah, we read that Avraham married Keturah and they had many children. But later, when Avraham

divided his belongings among his children, he only gave gifts to Keturah's children and sent them away. It was Yitzchak who inherited everything Avraham had.

"Now as we think of Chayei Sarah - the life of Sarah - we can see how the episodes in this parshah tell us about the things which Sarah worked hard for in her life. These are the things she talked about; these are the things she worked for.

"Sarah knew that Hashem chose Yitzchak to inherit all the spiritual strengths of Avraham, his possessions and the right to the land of Eretz Yisrael.

"Me'aras HaMachpeilah was the first piece of land a Yid ever actually bought and owned in Eretz Yisrael. This came about because of Sarah's death, but it was exactly what she lived for. She wanted Eretz Yisrael to become the Jewish people's land.

"When Yitzchak married Rivkah, he saw three miracles: A cloud of glory hovered over their tent, her Shabbos candles burned all week, and there was a bracha in the challah she made. These same miracles had taken place in Sarah's lifetime. Yitzchak saw that Rivkah, his wife, would carry on his mother's life work.

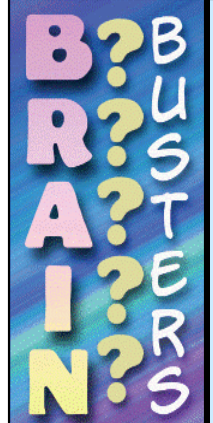
"And when Avraham sent away Keturah's children, it was because of Sarah's wish that Yitzchak and his family should not be influenced or bothered by them. Many years before, Sarah had told him: 'Send away this maidservant and her son.' Later, even Yishmael did teshuvah, and showed that he understood that Sarah was right and only Yitzchak should inherit Avraham's blessings."

(Adapted from Likkutei Sichos, Vol. XV, Parshas Chayei Sarah)
"Please Tell Me What the Rebbe Said"

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I HOLD A LOT - INSIDE AND OUT.

Please send your answers to connections@shluchim.org

Last weeks' brain buster: Tests, 90, bris, 100.

Answer: יצחק

Congratulations to Tzemaeh Dovid, age 9 and Toby, age 7 Wilansky from Portland Maine for solving the brain buster.



FROM THE DESK OF DR. GETZEL...

Hey there Junior Shluchim!

Can you guess where I am writing from? Nope, I'm not sitting in my messy office in Iowa this week. And I'm not in my lens-making-laboratory either. And no, I'm not lost either, I am exactly where I am sitting! Three guesses, you're out! I'm sitting in the departure lounge of the one and only International Airport of Iowa on my way to the Kinus Hashluchim!

Did you know that Iowa has 113 airports? Neither did I till I tried to book a ticket to this year's Kinus Hashluchim. You see my regular travel agent was away on holiday so I had to try a different one. My travel agent knows to book me the quickest way to New York, but this new guy was a bit confused. Instead of asking me where I wanted to fly to, he asked me where I wanted to fly from! 'Iowa, of course.' I told him! 'But from which airport?' He asked me. Now that was a good question. I have never really noticed which airport I fly from. You see I'm a bit tzufloigen and so Mrs Getzel always drops me off right outside the airport terminal to make sure I don't get lost. But Mrs Getzel was out visiting the aineklach, so I couldn't ask her which airport I needed to fly from.

'How many airports are there in Iowa anyway?' I asked the travel agent. 'I mean, I always fly from the same one, and I always land in the same one in New York. How many airports could there be already?'

'Actually, for your information,' said the travel agent, 'Iowa only has one international airport but there are also 112 other airports.' Well, I thought to myself. Flying to the Kinus Hashluchim in New York, it isn't quite flying international. But on the other hand, it is one of the best reasons that I can think of to ever fly on a plane. Of course, Moshiach finally arriving and needing to go to Eretz Yisroel would be a better reason, but then we will all fly on the clouds and we won't need to go to the airport or even call our travel agent!

'Okay,' I said to the travel agent. 'I want to fly from the biggest and best airport that we have in Iowa, which I am guessing is our one and only international airport. I just hope that Mrs Getzel knows the way there!'

But would you believe it, I forgot to ask to travel agent which airport I was flying from and I forgot to tell Mrs Getzel that this time I was flying from the biggest and best airport in the whole Iowa. But I didn't want to get Mrs Getzel upset (she sometimes gets a little upset when I am very absentminded), so I just hoped for the best, all the way to the airport. Well, Boruch Hashem it turns out that I actually fly from the International airport every year, so it didn't matter anyway. Which just goes to show, like the Rebbe would often tell us, 'tracht gut, vet zayn gut.'

Stay tuned next week for a full report on the Kinus Hashluchim!

Dr. Getzel

KIDS SPEAK

Where Young Shluchim talk about their Shlichus



**MENDEL RAPOPORT, AGE 8
SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA**

Hello, My name is Mendel Rapoport and I am almost 9 years old, I live in suburb of Scranton, PA, called Clarks summit, which is in the United States. In Pennsylvania we speak Pennsylvanian, oh-no, I mean English. About five years ago, we moved here and opened up a Beis Chabad and called it the "Jewish Discovery Center" it is a place for yidin who are not yet frum and can become closer to Hashem and torah & Mitzvos.

Of course we also have programs for kids, adults & seniors! For kids we have the Mitzvah Factory which is a thing we do every Sunday morning where different projects are done by the kids. For adults we have the JCI and other Chassidus classes and lectures too. For seniors we make baking shops were we show them how to make Challah & other things also.

We just started a new boys club for kids around my age. My brother Yosef and me are not just members of the club, but we also help out on trips and during activities to make sure that the other boys have a great time and want to learn more about being Jewish.

I go to school at the Scranton Hebrew Day School which is not a Lubavitch School. At home I learn Sefer Hamitzvos like the Rebbe said, and also I love to read "Chassidic stories for Children" which I read on my couch before I go to sleep.

I know that at my school people are always looking at me and judging the way I act, I feel that I must be a dugma chaya (a living example) that other kids can see what a chosid is and how he or she should behave.

My other brothers and sister work very hard helping my parents run the Chabad House, and we try to be extra kind to children who come to our programs.

I really wish that Moshiach would already come so I could see the Rebbe smiling, being proud of his Chassidim.

Shabbos Mevorchim Checklist

Moshiach in the PARSHA

שבת מברכים חודש בסלו

- morning I made sure to say תהילים. (Remember to say your quota for the World-Wide Tehillim club)
 - I went to Shul and made the special ברכה for the new month of בסלו. (The ברכה can be found in the סידור after שחרית for שבת)
- is when the שלוחים from around the world come back home to 770 for a special כינוס to share ideas and to receive new חיות in their עבודה. The Rebbe would give a special talk to the שלוחים in honor of this occasion.

Rosh Chodesh Checklist

ראש חודש בסלו
 ל' חשוון – Tuesday
 א' בסלו – Wednesday

- I remembered to say יעלה ויבא in עשרה and in bentshing.
- I remembered to say הלל after עשרה.
- I remembered to daven מוסף.
- I remembered to say ברכי נפשי after the שיר של יום.
- (For Girls) I didn't sew or do any laundry.



is a חסידישע חודש. It is full of חסידישע יומים and even made up a ניגון which is known as the 'ראש חודש בסלו ניגון'.
 And of course, we also have the יום טוב of חנוכה to look forward to at the end of the חודש.

ראש חודש בסלו

In this week's calendar we have the חסידישע יום of ראש חודש בסלו טוב.

On the night of the happy יום טוב of שמיני עצרת in the year תשל"ח (1977), the Rebbe suffered a massive heart attack while dancing with thousands of his חסידים in 770. The Rebbe had to stay in his office for five weeks until he was finally well enough to go home on ראש חודש בסלו. חסידים were so happy and thankful to ה' that the Rebbe was better that they danced and sang in the streets. They decided that this day would be a

the תורה tells us that ה' blessed אברהם, 'בכל' - with everything. What is 'everything'?

When we spell the word 'בכל', writing out the letters - בית, כף, למד' - the total גמטריא of all those letters is 586. This is the same גמטריא as the word 'שופר'.

יצחק was originally supposed to be offered up on the מזבח as a קרבן. When the מלאך called out, he was saved. And instead אברהם offered up as a קרבן a ram which suddenly appeared.

The שופר that ה' blew when the אידן received the torah came from this ram. This שופר will also be sounded to announce that משיח is here.

So יצחק is connected to both the giving of the תורה and משיח. To the Yidden, תורה and משיח are everything - 'בכל'. And so, the פסוק is telling us that אברהם was blessed with a son who will be connected to the giving of 'everything' to the אידן - משיח and תורה!

(Adapted from 'Vedibarta

and even made up a ניגון which is known as the 'ראש חודש בסלו ניגון'.

The Doctors warned the Rebbe that if he continued working so hard, there would be a 60% chance of this ח"ו happening again. But the Rebbe, who always teaches us to be positive and to 'טראכט גוט ועט זיין גוט', heard good news. He heard that the doctors thought that there is a 40% chance of nothing to worry about and he continued the same schedule as before: farbren-gens, dollars, answering thousands of letters.

Let us daven that משיח will come now and we will have our Rebbe back to lead us again!

ב' בסלו

After the court case of טבת ה', the ספרים were actually returned to the library on ב' בסלו.



Stories of the Rabbeim

One time, a חסיד who was a simple merchant came to the מעזריטשער מגיד. "I am not able to concentrate during davening and learning," he complained to the מגיד. "Often, my mind begins to wander and I start to think about work, or my family, or even the latest news in town. And, what is even worse," he continued, "I even sometimes think about things I shouldn't at these times."

The מגיד told the visitor. "Go to my חסיד, זאב, Zhitomir. He will be able to advise you what to do."

The visitor listened to the מגיד's suggestion. He immediately set out for the village in which זאב ר' lived. He arrived at the village later that evening. Without much difficulty, he was able to find זאב ר' house but it was very late at night, and the house was shuttered.

Because he had come at the מגיד's suggestion, the merchant was sure that he could knock on זאב ר' private door and that he would be let in. He knocked on the door, but there was no reply.

The visitor knocked again on the door, this time a little louder. Again, no one seemed to hear - no one answered the door. Again and again the visitor knocked, pounded, banged, and even kicked the door, but it was no use. Despite the commotion, the door was not opened.

The winter night was cold and the merchant was uncomfortable. He had travelled a long distance to talk to זאב ר'. He was tired and hungry. But, the מגיד had sent him to זאב ר', and so he continued to try and get into זאב ר' house rather than staying somewhere else for the night. He kept knocking and finally began shouting in anger and frustration. "How can you be so mean to leave me standing out here in the cold?" he cried loudly. Still, through everything, the door stayed closed. This continued all through the night.

As the sun came up, the door was opened. The

visitor entered and made arrangements to stay with זאב ר' for a few days. Throughout the entire time, זאב ר' practically ignored his guest.

The man began to wonder why the מגיד had sent him here. How was he to learn from זאב ר', who would not even give him the time of day? He thought that the whole trip was a waste of time and began preparing to leave. Up until now, זאב ר' had ignored him every time he had tried to talk to him.

He decided to try once more before he left. "I cannot understand why the מגיד sent me to you!" he told זאב ר'. "I told the מגיד that I could not concentrate during davening and learning because my mind wandered off in all directions. He told me that you could help me, but I think my trip was just a waste of time," he exclaimed angrily.

To this זאב ר' replied, "I will tell you why the מגיד sent you to me. You have seen that I have acted like a true בעל הבית. When I did not want you to come into my house, you were forced to remain outside. So too, with your complaint. If you do not wish to have other thoughts or, even worse, improper thoughts, enter your mind during davening, learning תורה or at any other time, do not let them in! Fill your mind with words of תורה. You, as the בעל הבית of your mind, can let in whatever you wish and refuse entrance to those thoughts that you chose not to let enter."

זאב ר' words made a strong impression on the חסיד. He returned home knowing full well that he could be in control of his thoughts if he really wanted to. True, it would require effort and work, but ultimately he would be the one to determine which thoughts were "welcome" and which were not.

(Adapted from L'chaim Weekly)

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

פרשת חיי שרה

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:

Fill in the Crossword with the answers to the clues (they are in לשון קודש).

			3		2		1		
					6				
									4
				5					
				8					7

Down

1. I sold to מערת המכפלה אברהם.
2. I am רבקה's wicked brother.
3. I passed away at the beginning of the פרשה.
4. The name of the פרשה.
5. I am אברהם's faithful servant.

Across

4. מערת המכפלה is in this city.
5. I bought מערת המכפלה from עפרון.
6. רבקה met אליעזר at the
7. I married יצחק.
8. My father sent אליעזר to find a wife for me.

הצלחה רבה

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

Last Week's Winners:

Rochele Swued, age 7 from Barranquilla, Colombia
 Yosef Yitzchak Wolowik, age 9 from Los Angeles, California

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

פרשת חיי שרה

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:

Answer the questions in the ring. The last letter of each answer is the first of the next!

10

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

1

 This is where שרה passed away.
 2 I used to own המכפלה.
 3 One of the gifts that רבקה got from אליעזר.
 4 A wicked father.
 5 A wicked brother.
 6 A Prince (of 'ה).
 7 A faithful servant.
 8 A rose amongst the thorns.
 9 עפרון's last name.
 10 A son of old age.

_____ 1
 _____ 2
 _____ 3
 _____ 4
 _____ 5
 _____ 6
 _____ 7
 _____ 8
 _____ 9
 _____ 10

הצלחה רבה

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

Last Week's Winners:

Mendy Schapiro, age 12 from Sydney, Australia
Mushky Wineberg, age 8 from Kansas City, Kansas