

CONNECTIONS



A project of
The Shluchim Office

CONNECTING TZEIREI HASHLUCHIM AROUND THE WORLD!

פרשת תולדות, ג' בסלו תשס"ז

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PARSHAS TOLDOS



"Oh Mommy," groaned Ari, "I'm so bored. Being stuck in bed with a broken leg is no fun at all."

Ari's mother nodded sympathetically. "I agree, Ari. Still, there is a lot of good a person can do even if he stays in one place."

"Like what? If I could go out, I would have more fun, and be able to do much more for you, too. I could go shopping for you or pick up Zevi from school. What good can I do when I have to stay in bed?"

Ari's mother sat down next to him. "You know, Ari, there's a lesson in this week's parshah which might help you think about things you can do. Parshas Toldos tells us about the life of Yitzchak. We read about a famine in Eretz Yisrael, just like in the days of Avraham."

"I remember learning about that," recalled Ari. "Yitzchak thought about traveling to Mitzrayim like his father did, but Hashem told him not to leave Eretz Yisrael."

"Have you ever wondered about that?" asked Ari's mother. "After all, both Avraham and Yaakov journeyed in and out of Eretz Yisrael. But Hashem told Yitzchak to stay put."

Ari thought for a moment. "I really don't know, Mommy. I remember learning how Avraham and Yaakov did many important things on their journeys."

"You see, Ari, there is a lot of good a person can do when he goes outside to be involved with other people. Still, by telling Yitzchak to stay in Eretz Yisrael, Hashem is teaching us that there is

a lot a Jew can - and should - do by staying in one place. Instead of being involved with many outside things like Avraham and Yaakov were, Yitzchak concentrated on working with the inner strength that Hashem gave him."

"Maybe that's why the Torah tells us about all the wells he dug," suggested Ari. "It's like digging into yourself and trying to bring out what you have inside."

"That is a very good thought," Ari's mother complimented him, patting his head proudly. "And if you remember what happened later, you'll see how working with the inside influences things on the outside too. Avimelech, king of the Plishtim, had argued with Yitzchak and caused trouble. But later he came to Yitzchak with the general of his army and asked for his friendship, telling him: "We realize that you are blessed by Hashem."

"We can see how much influence Yitzchak had on the outside even while he stayed inside concentrating on what he had within."

"You just got me thinking, Mommy," Ari said excitedly. "There really is a lot I can do in here."

"Good for you, Ari! I'm happy that you're going to start working with what you have inside. And I'm going to straighten up this room for you, because your digging inside is bound to influence the outside, and I wouldn't want anyone to come in now."

"Not even Avimelech, king of the Plishtim!" Ari laughed.

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

**WITH MANY THANKS TO OUR
GENEROUS SPONSORS:**

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**B?B
R?S
A?T
I?E
N?S**

**WE SAY THIS AFTER
WINE, SPICE & CANDLE**

Please send your answers to connections@shluchim.org

Last weeks' brain buster: I hold a lot - inside and out.

Answer: גמל

**Congratulations to Nechama Rapp, age 8 from Melbourne, Australia
for solving the brain buster.**



FROM THE DESK OF DR. GETZEL...

Hey there Junior Shluchim!

It was so nice seeing so many of you kinderlach by the Kinus Hashluchim. Of course none of you managed to see me. Well you did, but you didn't know who I was, so I guess that counts like not seeing me.

Well, I promised you a report on the Kinus, and a chosid always tells the truth, so here I am, sitting in another airport lounge writing up the report for this week's Connections, rushing to make sure that I finish in time to send it off before my flight leaves.

Actually it is a very good thing that I have to write my column right now, because normally, on my way back from the Kinus, with no Mrs Getzel to drop me off at the airport, anything could happen. In the years before I used to have to write a weekly column for the Connections, I missed planes, left my luggage in the airport, and even forgot that I was flying. But now I can't afford to do that, I need to be extra organized, and get to the airport extra early, so that I will have time to write up my column and send it off before I leave New York to make sure it is in this week's Connections.

Anyway, the Kinus was great! Amazing! Exciting! Inspiring! Fantastic! Extraordinary! And a lot of fun too! It was like Tishrei in Crown Heights and a week long farbrengen rolled into one! So many of my old friends to see and so many new friends to make! Farbrengens, workshops and more farbrengens! The Vaad Hakinus had actually wanted me to speak at one of the workshops about the work I do in Iowa, but I told them that without Mrs Getzel to remind me, I'd probably forget all about it. And it is a good thing they agreed because I was so busy that I think that some nights I actually forgot to sleep. I'm not sure though.... I can't remember.

It seems to me that the Kinus is getting bigger and better every year. Of course one of the reasons for that is because there are so many more Shluchim this year than last year. I heard someone saying the actual number of Shluchim that came this year, and how many Shluchim there are in the whole world, but it was such a big number that my mind wouldn't remember it! The Rebbe is for sure getting so much nachas!

And then there were you, the Tzeirei Hashluchim. Any time I saw you it seemed to me that you were having a great time. And why not – you were with all your friends, enjoying an amazing program, specially made for you. It gave me so much chayus just seeing you, so young, but already out there on shlichus helping your Mommies and Tatties.

But the highlight of it all was the banquet. So many Shluchim packed into one room. So much simcha, so much chayus. I was sure Moshiach was going to come and join us all in our dancing and take us all to Yerushalayim, but I

guess we still have a little more work to do on our shlichus until that happens. But with such a huge amount of work being done by so many Shluchim, I'm sure it won't be long.

See you there,

Dr. Getzel



**MUSHKI ALPEROWITZ, AGE 12
BOURNEMOUTH, ENGLAND**

My name is Mushki Alperowitz. I live in Bournemouth, England; I am 12. Bournemouth is in the south of England, by the beach. The weather in Bournemouth is very strange, you can never tell if it will be raining or if it will be a boiling hot day, but it is mostly pleasant weather.

Our Chabad house has 4 floors, but it's not near a lot of the yidden here so we're selling it and buying a new one in a better location.

Our family makes a lot of programs to help bring yidden closer to yiddishkeit.

Here are some of the programs:

*Sukkos party on Chol Hamoed for children
*Giant menorah – This year we had a big screen showing the Chanukah DVD

*Yud Shvat farbrengen

*Purim party for children

*Purim megillah readings and seuda

*Pesach evening – teaching people about Pesach

*Lag B'omer BBQ – this year over 100 people came

*Shavuos ice cream party

*Shabbatons

*Rosh Chodesh woman's group

*Girls 12-14 program

*L.I.F.E.- Learning Is For Everyone – Shiurim

*Bagel Breakfasts – every Sunday after Shacharis

*Mivtzoim

Helping so many Jews in a lot of ways, makes me proud to be on Shlichus.

Hey kids!

Send us a report about your shlichus and we will 100% publish it in our future connections!

E-mail us at connections@shluchim.org

Please include your name, age and location of shlichus.



ט' בסלו



Not long before he passed away, the מעזריטשער מגיד called the אלטער רבי and told him about the שלום זכור of a

He also said: "A son will be born to you to whom you will give my name. During the night before the ברית מילה, you will remember all that I told you... and you will speak about it."

ר' דובער of יאהרצייט is both the birthday and of Lubavitch, the מיטעלער רבי, the son of the אלטער רבי.

The מיטעלער רבי was born in Liozna, White Russia, in מעזריטשער מגיד (1773). He was named after the תקל"ד, who had passed away on ט' בסלו of the previous year. The מיטעלער רבי became Rebbe after his father, the אלטער רבי passed away. The year after he became Rebbe, he moved to the town of Lubavitch, which was where חב"ד חסידות was based for the next 102 years.

When עשו came back to his father with the food he had prepared in order to get the ברכות, יצחק told him "Your brother came with wisdom and took away your ברכה." The word used in the תורה for 'wisdom' is 'במרמה'.

What was יעקב's 'wisdom'?

This story happened on פסח, at the time of the סדר. רבקה prepared the goats for the שולחן עורך and the מלאך מיכאל sent along wine for the ארבע כוסות. After שולחן עורך, we eat the אפיקומן and after that we aren't allowed to eat any more food.

The word 'במרמה' has the גמטריא of 287, which is also the גמטריא of the word 'אפיקומן'.

יצחק told עשו: "Your brother is very wise. Before you came, he gave me the אפיקומן and now I can't eat any more food tonight."

(Adapted from 'Vedibarta Bam')



In פרשת תולדות we are told that יצחק dug three wells. After he dug each of the first two, אבימלך's shepherds came and argued with him over them. When he dug the third, there was no argument over it, so he called it 'רחבות' and he said:

כי "עתה הרחיב ה' לנו ופרינו בארץ" - "For now ה' has made room for us and we shall be fruitful in the land."

What do these three wells signify?

The three wells represent the three בני מים. They are the wells of תורה, called מקדש - living waters, which brought and will bring, אידן life to the רוחניות.

The first 'well' was destroyed by נבוכדנצר and the Babylonians. The second בית המקדש

was destroyed by the Romans.

After the fighting over the second well that יצחק built, he moved away. Later, he dug a third well. This time there was peace and calm.

We find the same thing in the history of the בית אידן. Since the destruction of the second המקדש, we were sent into גלות from our Holy Land - ארץ ישראל - and a long time has passed since then.

Now we are waiting eagerly for the third בני מים and אידן, any day now, we will be able to say: "כי עתה הרחיב ה' לנו ופרינו בארץ" - "For now ה' has made room for us and we shall be fruitful in the land," with the coming of Moshiach, NOW!

(Adapted from 'Vedibarta Bam')

Stories of the Rebbeim

After the אלטער רבי passed away, the מתנגדים thought that this would be the perfect opportunity to destroy חסידות chas vesholom. They thought that his son, the מיטעלער רבי, was not as powerful as his father had been.

Secret messengers were sent to many towns and villagers, where most of the אידן were חסידים, to try to convince them not to be חסידים of the מיטעלער רבי anymore, and not to associate with other חסידים. When this didn't work, they tried to convince the מיטעלער רבי himself not accept the נשיאות.

This also didn't work and by the time the מיטעלער רבי returned to Lubavitch, everyone knew that the Russian government had publicly recognised the help that the מיטעלער רבי and his father, the אלטער רבי had given them during their war against the French. The highest officers realised that their victory was largely because of the efforts of the אלטער רבי and the Russian officials acted kindly towards the מיטעלער רבי and his חסידים.

Another thing that showed the מתנגדים that they were wrong about the מיטעלער רבי, was that as soon as the מיטעלער רבי arrived in Lubavitch, he put into place a number of rules which made sure that the מתנגדים wouldn't have any influence over the חסידים. This proved that the מיטעלער רבי wasn't weak as they had thought.

One of these was that the מיטעלער רבי instructed his חסידים to build their own shuls, so that they wouldn't have to daven in the מתנגדישע shuls. If there was less than a מגן of חסידים in a town, he allowed them to listen to קריאת התורה through the windows of the מתנגדישע shul but they should daven on their own.

Another instruction of the מיטעלער רבי was that he forbade his חסידים from arguing with the מתנגדים and gave strict warnings to those who were likely to do so. He wanted his חסידים to stay far away from the מתנגדים and this way, the מתנגדים wouldn't be able to cause any trouble for them.

Besides these, rules, the מיטעלער רבי also made other rules. Any guest, no matter how old or important he was, was only allowed to stay in Lubavitch for two months and if he wanted to stay for another month, he had to get permission from the Rebbe. Also, anyone travelling from Lubavitch, had to stop off in all the towns and villages on his way and repeat in public the חסידות that he had heard while by the Rebbe, especially the מאמרים.

When the חסידים heard about these rules, they decided together that all guests, travelling to or from Lubavitch, either alone or in a group, would be given food and a place to rest. This made the bond between the חסידים grow tremendously

and תורת החסידות was growing even more than before.

ר' משה יצחק, a חסיד of the מיטעלער רבי once travelled home from Lubavitch and stopped in the town of Apte. He knew about the מיטעלער רבי's rules and he was excited to follow them. He hurried to one of the shuls in the city to review a מאמר that he had heard in Lubavitch and began saying it enthusiastically, each word loud and clear.

Now in that town, at that time, lived the famous אפר זדיק who was very much against spreading חסידות to everyone, especially those that didn't know the basics of תורה. ר' משה יצחק didn't know that he had chosen the very shul which the אפר זדיק used to attend.

When the אפר זדיק came in and heard a total stranger repeating חסידות loudly in his shul, he was furious. "Even here they dare go against me?" He then turned angrily to ר' משה יצחק, cursed him that he wouldn't live out the year and stormed out.

ר' משה יצחק was horrified. He quickly left, got his horse and wagon ready and hurried back to Lubavitch. When he got there, he arranged for a יחידות with the מיטעלער רבי as soon as was possible.

When his turn came, ר' משה יצחק entered the Rebbe's room and sadly told him everything that had happened - how he arrived in Apte, got up in shul to review חסידות the way the Rebbe had instructed and finally the curse from the אפר זדיק. A curse isn't something to be ignored, especially from a זדיק. "Did you offend the אפר in any way?" the Rebbe asked.

"No, not at all!" ר' משה יצחק answered. "I had no idea that this was the shul that he went to. When I came in and saw people sitting around not doing much, I used the opportunity to fulfil the Rebbe's instructions. I stood in the middle of the shul and reviewed חסידות for everyone to hear."

"Don't worry. You will live longer than a year," the מיטעלער רבי guaranteed. But ר' משה יצחק wasn't happy with that, what use was just one year. The מיטעלער רבי rested his face in his holy hands, and, after some time continued: "You will live longer than the אפר."

ר' משה יצחק wasn't happy with that either. After all, the אפר was already quite old, while he was still pretty young. Is this what he deserved for spreading חסידות? For a second time, the מיטעלער רבי lowered his head into his hands and then assured his חסיד, "You will live longer than his children too."

And so it was. ר' משה יצחק had the זכות to live for many years, living longer than all of the אפר's children.

(Adapted from 'Chassidic Portraits')

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

פרשת תולדות

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:

Read the information about our Rabbeim and circle the odd one out!

רבי רש"ב רוז'ינער רבי אלטער רבי פריערדיקער רבי מיטעלער רבי

רביצין בלומא רביצין חיה מושקא רביצין שיינא רביצין שטערנא שרה רביצין רבקה

י"ט כסלו י"א ניסן י"ב כסלו ט' כסלו ח"י אלול

Lubavitch Liadi Vitebsk Liozna Rostov

ר' שמואל ר' מנחם מענדל ר' משה ר' שניאור זלמן ר' דובער

ספר הזכרונות היום יום תניא תורה אור זוהר

הצלחה רבה

Name: _____ Age: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Country: _____ E-mail: _____

Last Week's Winners:

Mendel Benjaminson, age 5 from Glenview, IL &
Mussie Loewenthal, age 6 from Melbourne, Australia

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

פרשת תולדות

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:

Read the information about our Rabbeim and circle the odd one out!

מיטעלער רבי רבי מהר"ש אלטער רבי מעזריטשער מגיד רבי רש"ב

רביצין רבקה רביצין שטערנא שרה רביצין שיינא רביצין חי'ה מושקא רביצין דבורה לאה

ר"ח כסלו ט' כסלו י"ב כסלו י"ד כסלו י"ט כסלו

Lubavitch Liadi Yekatrinoslav Liozna Rostov

רביצין ברכה רביצין סטערנא רביצין מנוחה רחל רביצין שרה רביצין ביילא

תורה אור אמרי בינה שער האמונה פירוש המילות עטרת ראש

הצלחה רבה

Name: _____ Age: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Country: _____ E-mail: _____

Last Week's Winners:

Mendel Chein, age 10 from Cheale, Cheshire, England

Rivky Greenberg, age 6.5 from Anchorage, Alaska

Happy Birthday!

חודש כסלו

א' כסלו

Mendel, Mangel- Dayton, OH
Sarah Sasha, Chitrik- Istanbul,

ב' כסלו

Sholom Dovber, Dubov- Princeton, NJ
Dovi, Paltiel- Laguna Niguel, CA
Simcha, Zajac- Auckland,
Yisroel Aryeh Leib, Traxler- Tsfat,

ג' כסלו

Mushki, Katz- Buffalo Grove, IL
Menucha Rochel, Posner- Plantation, FL
Shneur Zalman, Lipsker- Reading, PA

ד' כסלו

Raizel Shoshana, Schapiro- St. Ives, NSW
Menachem Mendel, Raskin- Larnaca,

ה' כסלו

Brocho Gitel, Blumenfeld- Buenos Aires,
Mindy, Zucker- Key West, FL
Asher Shmuel, Bekhor- Milano, MI
Meir, Gansburg- Coconut Creek, FL

ו' כסלו

Shaina Chaya, Rodkin- Brighton, MA

ז' כסלו

Levy Yitzchok, Hayman- Phoenix, AZ
Shneur Zalman, Scop- Mill Valley, CA

ח' כסלו

Menachem Mendel, Vorst- Rotterdam,
Mushky, Wineberg- Overland Park, KS
Rivkah Gitel, Stiefel- Laval, QC

י' כסלו

Menachem Mendel, Danow- Gothenburg,
Dovber Zev, Jaffe- Carindale, Brisbane
Deena, Heidingsfeld- Winnipeg, MB
levi Itzchak, Gopin- Miami, FL

יא' כסלו

Rivkah, Kessler- Montreal, QUE
Menachem Mendel, Spiero- Haarlem,

י"ב כסלו

Lieba, Fischer- Augusta, GA
Shterna Sara, Bronstein- Andover, MA
Michal Mushka, Tenenbaum- North Caulfield,
VIC
Schneur Zalman, Cunin- Pacific Palisades, CA
Menachem Mendel, Wilhelm- Oslo,

י"ג כסלו

Moussia Haja, Wilhelm- Oslo,
Sarahle, Zippel- Salt Lake City, UT
Chana, Shmotkin- Milwaukee, WI

י"ד כסלו

Menachem Mendel, Steinmetz- Sarasota, FL
Menachem Mendel, Sudak- London,
Shmuel, Kaplan- Thornhill, ONT
Menachem Mendel, Rosenblum- West Orange,
NJ
Levi, Sudak- Edgware, Middx

ט"ו כסלו

Devora Lea, Kittner- Milwaukee, WI

י"ז כסלו

Menachem Mendel, Wilansky- Portland, ME
Mushka, Osdoba- Belle Harbor, NY
Chaya Mushka, Krinsky- Needham, MA
chana, Mendelsohn- Ottawa, ONT

י"ח כסלו

Tzemach, Shemtov- Stamford, CT
Menachem Mendel, Simmonds- Winnipeg, MB
Devorah Lea, Amar- Pontault Combault,

י"ט כסלו

devorah leah, Popack- Denver, CO
Chaya, Zippel- Salt Lake City, UT
Rochel, Wolff- Springfield, MA
Shloima, Gerber- Wynnewood, PA
Shneur zalman, Barrocas- Pittsburgh, PA

כ' כסלו

Shterna Sara, Kittner- Milwaukee, WI
Levi, Wolowik- Woodmere, NY
Raizy, Lew- Atlanta, GA

כ"א כסלו

Golda, Botnick- Ottawa, ONT
Levi Yitzchok, Katz- Miami, FL
Yacha Raizel, Lew- Stanmore,

כ"ב כסלו

Chaya Mushka, Eilfort- Carlsbad, CA
Chavie, Kahanov- Jacksonville, FL
Yesshaya Aba, Cohen- Almaty,
Menachem Mendel, Smoller- S. Diego, CA
Chaya Mushka, Citron- Belfast,

כ"ג כסלו

Chaya Mushka, Moscovitz- Northbrook, IL

כ"ד כסלו

LUBECKI, Lubecki- Paris,
Dovid, Tiechtel- Berlin,
Achinoam, Kohen- Swampscott t, MA
Menucha, Fox- Pretoria,

כ"ה כסלו

Mendel, Levinson- Kharkov,
Menachem Mendel, Goldberg- S. Paulo, S.P.
Refael Yehuda, Tenenbaum- North Caulfield,
VIC

Levi Yitzchok, Greenberg- Commerce, MI
Meir Shloma, Botnick- Ottawa, ONT
Sara"le, Kivman- Mansfield, MA

כ"ו כסלו

Yaakov Aryeh, Bergstein- Buffalo Grove, IL
Menachem Mendel, Mann- Miami Beach, FL
Yisroel Aryeh Leib, Shemtov- Brooklyn, NY
Chani, Galperin- Miami, FL

כ"ז כסלו

Nechama Chaya Mushka, Kievman- Liverpool,

כ"ח כסלו

Yosef, Kaye- Bellevue Hill, NSW

כ"ט כסלו

Moshe Yitzchak, Konikov- Southampton, NY

The Yaldei Hashluchim listed above
are subscribed to the Yaldei
Hashluchim birthday package.
To register your child/ren,
go to www.shluchim.org/profile.