



פרשת וישב, כ"ד כסלו תשס"ז
Volume 3, Issue 9

A project of CHINUCH YALDEI HASHLUCHIM a division of The Shluchim Office
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PARSHAS VAYEISHEV - CHANUKAH



Rivki's room looked very much like the carnival her class was planning for Chanukah. Papers, streamers, balloons, tickets, prizes, and boxes were scattered all around. Rivki was the class president, and her friends were going to come over soon to organize the project.

Rivki sat hunched over her plan book. "What are we going to do?" she thought. "We don't have enough room to set up all the booths." She tried to rearrange the floor plan again on a fresh piece of paper.

While Rivki was busy working, her sister Leah came into the room. "Rivki, our class is putting on a Chanukah play. I'm one of the seven sons of Chana who wouldn't bow down to the idol. I can't decide which costume to wear."

"Oh, Leah!" blurted out Rivki. "I'm busy enough with my own problems, and I can't possibly worry about yours!" Rivki went back to her work. She didn't notice her mother standing in the doorway of her room.

"Rivki, I'm happy that you are so involved in a good project," her mother said with a smile. "I'm sure it's a lot of work and that you have to handle many details. Still, you might try to put your affairs aside for a moment and help someone else with theirs. Think what Yosef

HaTzaddik did when he was imprisoned in Egypt."

Rivki put down her pen and looked at her mother. To tell the truth, she was pleased to take a break from her project.

"Yosef HaTzaddik," her mother continued, "certainly had plenty of problems of his own. Nevertheless, he paid attention to other prisoners as well.

"One day, Yosef noticed that the royal butler and baker were in a bad mood. Yosef was probably not in a great mood himself, since he was taken from his family and thrown into prison. Still, he listened patiently to their dreams, and he offered them some advice.

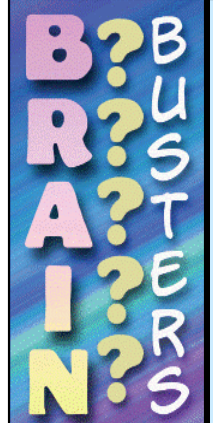
"This was very typical of Yosef. He was a person who cared about others even if he had his own worries. When he was born, his mother said, Yosef Hashem li ben acher. Acher means 'another.' It also means 'an outsider.' Yosef cares for other people even those who are different, and even those who are outsiders. He reaches out to these people and brings them close, making the 'acher' into a ben 'a son.' "

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

WITH MANY THANKS TO OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS:

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THEY RESTED ON THE TWENTY FIFTH.

— — — — —

Please send your answers to connections@shluchim.org

Last weeks' brain buster: My father passed away, I was freed.
 Answer: אלטער רבי

Congratulations to Chayah Turk, age 8 from Chicago, IL for solving the brain buster.



FROM THE DESK OF DR. GETZEL...

Hey there kinderlach!

I am so excited! I am finally back here in my favorite chair, at my favorite desk, holding my favorite red pen that I got as a birthday present from Mrs Getzel many many years ago.

What a week it has been! Did you know that the Shpalerno Prison is still in use?! I was so scared trying to get in there! My zeide – the original Reb Getzel - was one of the Chassidim who just managed to escape the NKVD by the skin of his teeth, and I was sure that they would still have a file open on him, and maybe they would think I was him and send me off to deepest Siberia!

You see everything in Russia goes by your passport. Or as they like to call it there, your 'document'. If you want to buy a train ticket – show your passport. If want to get into Shpalerno Prison – show your passport. If you need to ask a policeman for directions to the Petropolski Fortress – show your passport. It is a good job that Mrs Getzel had tied my passport around my neck otherwise I might have ended up in the Shpalerno Prison for real.

Anyway, since the Russians like passports so much, the first thing that happened when I asked Boris the Guard to let me into Shpalerno, was that he asked for my passport. Boy was I shaking! From the look on his face I got the feeling that he was already starting to think which of the many cells in Shpalerno he should put me in. Unfortunately, I never even got past the front door. Boris the Guard just told me in broken English, 'this Russian CIA.' By which I guess he means that the building is still used by the NKVD or whatever it is called these days. I tried explaining to them that this was an important historical building and they should let me in to take a few pictures but Boris did not seem very excited by this idea. So humming 'didan not-zach,' to myself, I wished him a 'dobrei dyen,' and headed on my way.

My next stop was the Petropolski Fortress. I was so excited! I was travelling across the same river that the Alter Rebbe had crossed! Have you heard the story of how the Alter Rebbe made the boat stop to say kiddush levana? Well I was travelling across the same river! In fact the boat I was in looked so old, it could have even been the same boat!

Well at least I was able to get into the fortress, but unfortunately the actual part where the Alter Rebbe had been kept has been knocked down. It is still a very scary fortress and if you come by boat across the river it is even scarier because it really towers over you. It is easy to understand why the Chassidim were so happy when the Alter Rebbe was released!

Before I knew it though, my trip was over and it was time to head back to the water-logged corn fields of Iowa. It had been a really amazing trip – I had seen some special places in Petersburg, visited some of the Shluchim there, and even had time to eat in their super-fancy Shalom restaurant. And most important it had made me appreciate even more the mesiras nefesh that the Rabbeim had had for us Chassidim and for chassidus, and that made all the passport checks worthwhile.

Talk to you later (I mean next week).

Dr. Getzel

KIDS SPEAK

Where Young Shluchim talk about their Shlichus



**RIVKY GREENBERG, AGE 6 1/2
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA**

My name is Rivky Greenberg. I live in Anchorage, Alaska. There's 4 kids in my family. Me!!! (of course) and I'm 6 and a half. I have 2 brothers, and 1 sister. Their names are: Mendy who's 16, Mushky who's 15, and Levi who's 11.

I'm home schooled and I go to the Online School. I also have school, with teachers from other places In Alaska, the weather is below 0. Once on Chanukah we made an ice Menorah and it was outside, next to our front door for three months after our Chanukah party. Here, people go dog-sledding, skiing and other things.

I help teach. We have a pre-school, a Hebrew School, a Talmud Torah – only some kids go to it – and also a two week Summer camp. Every Yom Tov we have something else. Like on Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur we have it in a hotel. For Chanukah we have a big big big party with loads of games like bungy run, moon bounce, bingo and more stuff. Also for Purim we have a big party.

When my father and brother go to the Kinus we have a Ladies' Shabbos. In my class we make a Dvar Torah for every Shabbos. I read it in Yiddish and it makes a Kiddush Hashem. Our house is also our Chabad House. The outside is brown and next to the door there's a sign: "Beis Chabad". Downstairs is the Shul, an office and a Hebrew School. I also have school downstairs in a little classroom.

Hey kids!

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

Shabbos Mevorchim Checklist

Moshiach in the PARSHA

This Shabbos is **שבת מברכים חודש טבת**

- שבת 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 טבת. (The ברכה can be found in the סידור after שחרית for שבת)

The sons of יעקב were all צדיקים. If so, why did they want to kill יוסף?

The brothers knew that משיח will come from יהודה. But when יוסף told them his two dreams, they saw that יוסף wanted to be the leader over all the brothers, including יהודה! That would make him a rebel against the king, and therefore he deserved to die.

But really both יוסף and the brothers were right. יוסף was meant to be a leader, but only to get the world ready for משיח. His first dream came true when he became a leader in מצרים. The second dream was for his descendant, "משיח בן יוסף." He is the person 'ה' picked to prepare the world for "משיח בן דוד" - the true and final משיח, from the שבט of יהודה.

Rosh Chodesh Checklist

ראש חודש טבת
 ל' כסלו - Thursday
 א' טבת - Friday

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



כ"ט כסלו

Two years after he was arrested and set free in תקנ"ט (1798), the רבי אלטער was arrested a second time; the reason was the same as the first time. His second imprisonment was not as difficult as the first; and כ"ט כסלו on חג הגאולה we celebrate the חסידיים, the fifth day of חנוכה, with פארברענגען and learning the אלטער חסידות's רבי.

DID YOU KNOW?

Things weren't so bad for the Yidden when the Greeks first entered Eretz Yisroel. The Greeks were not uncivilized fighters; they did not want to destroy the Jewish people or their land. In fact, they were wise people, who liked to think, paint, and build. They admired beautiful things and they respected other peoples' wisdom.

So why did a war break out between the Greeks and the Yidden? Why did the Greeks make laws against the Torah and punish Yidden who did not follow their rules?

Let's try to picture how it might have happened: The Greek king wanted to find out how to rule Eretz Yisrael, so he sent out some soldiers to mix with the Jews. "Find out more about these people. See how they live. Study their daily activities, and then report to me," he instructed his soldiers.

The soldiers set out on their mission. At first they didn't mind what they saw; honest shopkeepers were good for everyone, and even the mezuzos on their doors didn't bother them - they believed in remembering history.

On their way, the soldiers passed by an olive grove. "Take a look at that fellow," one pointed to a Jewish worker. "He's collecting single drops of oil from each olive."

"Hey Jew, it'll take you forever to get the oil out of the olives if you do it that way. Here, let me show you how we do it..."

"Thank you, sir," the worker replied. "We also use oil presses. But not for this oil. These first drops of oil will light

the menorah in our Holy Beis Hamikdosh."

"Menorah? What's that? And why do you do it that way?"

The worker explained about the Beis Hamikdosh, and concluded: "...that's the way G-d tells us to do it."

"You mean you do it just because your G-d says so?"

The Jew nodded and went back to work; he didn't try to explain. The Greeks believed only things that they could understand. It wasn't easy to explain to them that we do things just because Hashem says so.

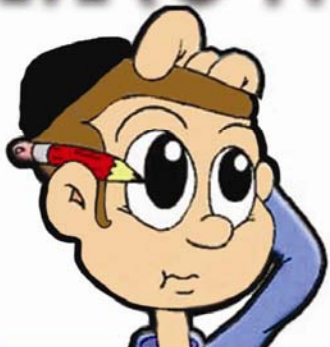
The soldiers reported to their king. He was bothered by what they told him. "We'll show them," he said to his men. "They may have an interesting religion, but they have to learn to accept man-made ideas, not some holy commandments from an invisible G-d."

"Let them light the menorah if they want to. But we'll give their oil our Greek touch."

And that's what the Greeks did. They entered the Beis Hamikdosh and made the oil impure. Then they tried to stop the Jews from observing Hashem's Torah and mitzvos.

The Jews responded with mesiras nefesh, challenging the most powerful army in the world with just a few men and hardly any arms. But Hashem helped them. They miraculously defeated the Greek armies, came back into the Beis Hamikdosh, and cleansed it of that Greek touch. And then, the menorah again burned with the light of pure oil.

'Please Tell Me What The Rebbe Said'



Stories of the Rebbeim

אברהם Greenwald first saw the Rebbe when he attended the Rebbe's wedding in Warsaw in 1929. He was thirteen.

He had lost both his parents at a young age and was brought up by his mother's cousin, the famous חכם תלמיד חכם Zamba. When Rabbi Zamba attended the Rebbe's wedding, along with hundreds of other רבנים and תלמידי חכמים, young אברהם went along.

The day after the wedding, Rabbi Zamba and the boy went to the Rebbe's hotel room to personally wish him מזל טוב. The Rebbe received them warmly and as they were about to leave, after a friendly and lively תורה conversation, the Rebbe turned to אברהם and asked, "Do you know why it is a מנהג by many חסידים to make a special celebration on the fifth night of חנוכה?"

Neither of them answered...so the Rebbe continued, "The purpose of the חנוכה lights is to light up the רוחניות darkness of the outside world. The fifth night of חנוכה is the darkest because it is the only night of the יום טוב that can never fall on שבת. And this is the job of every איד, whether in Warsaw or in London, to light up even the darkest places."

Time passed. אברהם got סמיכה, married and had five beautiful children. But Poland wasn't a very safe place anymore for the אידן.

The Germans, ימח שמם, conquered Poland. Together with the willing help of the Polish people, they sent millions of אידן into concentration camps where they suffered terribly and murdered most of them. ר' אברהם was no exception. He suffered for years through several concentration camps and his wife and children were killed. After the war he was broken, physically and mentally.

An uncle of his, ר' משה Greenwald, lived in America. When he heard that אברהם ר' was still alive, he offered to buy him plane tickets and finally managed to convince him to come to America.

Then after a year or so, in 1948, he introduced אברהם ר' to a woman who also had lost everything in the holocaust and they agreed to marry. But before the wedding, the רב's כלה, Rabbi Kopel Shvarts of Toronto who was close to the פריערדיקער רבי took אברהם ר' to New York to

receive a ברכה.

The פריערדיקער רבי cried tears of pain when he heard what אברהם ר' had been through. He gave him a ברכה and suggested that since he had been at his son-in-law's (the Rebbe's) wedding he should go to visit him as well.

When they entered the Rebbe's room the Rebbe recognized him immediately and began to ask about ר' אברהם's cousin, Rabbi Zamba who had been murdered by the Nazis, ימח שמם. He concluded by saying, "Since the Rebbe, my father in law, sent you to me I will say a דבר about חנוכה, as we are in the month of כסלו. It is known that there is מנהג by those who follow the בעל שם to make a special celebration on the fifth night of חנוכה. Why? Because that night never can fall on שבת which is the greatest darkness. That is the power of the lights of חנוכה and the duty of every איד, no matter where he is, whether in New York or in London, to illuminate the darkest רוחניות situations."

אברהם ר' was amazed that the Rebbe repeated exactly what he had said twenty years ago in Warsaw. And he was confused as to why he again included London. He didn't dream of the importance it would have to him one day.

Eventually, after his חתונה, אברהם ר' settled in Toronto working with Satmar חסידים as a רב and teacher and he had three children, two boys and a girl.

Unfortunately, many Satmar חסידים were against the Rebbe and Lubavitcher חסידים and spoke not nicely about them. Even though אברהם ר' lived among them, he and his children never spoke bad against חב"ד.

His children grew and eventually his son, משה חיים, met a nice girl and they became engaged. ר' אברהם decided to take him to the Rebbe for a ברכה before his wedding as he had done years ago.

A month before the חתונה in 1969, he again was standing before the Rebbe's door, but this time with his own son.

As soon as they entered, the Rebbe immediately recognized him and said "Well, it's about time, after a twenty year break!" ר' אברהם was astounded but after a few seconds he recovered enough to give the Rebbe a small page upon which he wrote all his requests.

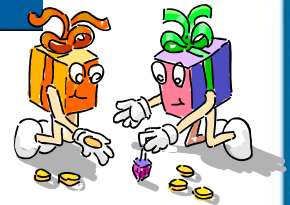
(To be continued)

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

פרשת וישב

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:



Circle whether each sentence is True or False

כ"ה כסלו starts on the night of חנוכה.

True False

We light the מנורה for 8 nights.

True False

Our מנהג is to light the מנורה between חממה and שקיעת.

True False

We light the מנורה from left to right.

True False

The שמש has to burn all night.

True False

The leader of the חשמונאים was מתתיהו.

True False

The חשמונאים came from a city called מכבי.

True False

After מתתיהו passed away, the leader of the חשמונאים was his son שמעון.

True False

The last night of חנוכה is the most important night because that is when we get the most חנוכה געלט!

True False

The רבי said that we should light big מנורות in public places so more people will know about the miracle of חנוכה.

True False

הצלחה רבה

Name: _____ Age: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Country: _____ E-mail: _____

Last Week's Winners:

Leah Schlanger, 4.5 from Bakersfield, California
Zelig Weiss, age 8 from Charlotte, North Carolina

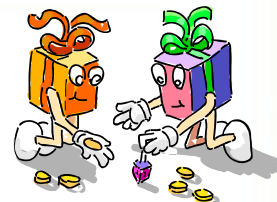
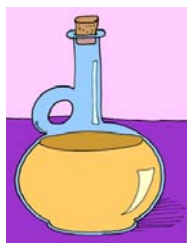
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Level 2:

How many times can you find the word חנוכה?



ה	נ	ח	נ	ה	נ	ח	נ	ה
כ	כ	נ	כ	כ	כ	נ	כ	כ
ו	ח	ו	ה	ו	ח	ו	ה	ו
נ	נ	כ	נ	נ	נ	כ	נ	נ
ח	נ	ה	נ	ח	נ	ה	נ	ח
נ	נ	כ	נ	נ	נ	כ	נ	נ
ו	ח	ו	ה	ו	ח	ו	ה	ו
כ	כ	נ	כ	כ	כ	נ	כ	כ
ה	נ	ח	נ	ה	נ	ח	נ	ה



הצלחה רבה

Name: _____ Age: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Country: _____ E-mail: _____

Last Week's Winners:

Mendel Azimov, age 6 from South Brunswick, NJ

Devorah Freundlich, age 9 from Beijing, China