

CONNECTIONS



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פרשת וישלח, י"ז בסלו תשס"ז
Volume 3, Issue 8

A project of CHINUCH YALDEI HASHLUCHIM a division of The Shluchim Office
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PARSHAS VAYISHLACH - YUD TES KISLEV



In a small town in Poland, there was an orphan shepherd boy who grew up knowing very little about being Jewish. One day, shortly before Yom Kippur, he met a group of people who were traveling to Mezibush to spend the holy day with the Baal Shem Tov. The boy decided to join them and soon, he was standing with the many people in the Baal Shem Tov's shul.

But the boy did not know how to daven - he couldn't even read the Aleph-Beis. He saw all the people davening earnestly from the depths of their hearts, and he also wanted to say something to Hashem that came from deep inside. So he drew a deep breath and let out the shrill whistle that he would sound every evening when he gathered the sheep from the fields. Right in the middle of davening on Yom Kippur, the shepherd boy whistled as loud as he could.

The people in the shul were shocked, but the Baal Shem Tov calmed them and said, "A terrible decree was hanging over us. The shepherd boy's whistle pierced Shomayim and erased the decree. His whistle saved us, because it was sincere and came from the very bottom of his heart, where he feels love for Hashem even though he doesn't know or understand why."

The Baal Shem Tov was the founder of Chassidus. He taught people to serve Hashem with a sincere heart like the shepherd boy did. His students spread Chassidus to many Jews, teaching them that a Jew should serve Hashem with all his heart.

The Baal Shem Tov's main talmid was the Maggid of Mezritch. One of the many people who came to study with the Maggid was the Alter Rebbe. The Alter Rebbe spread Chassidus throughout Russia. When the Russian government saw that many people were following his teachings,

they arrested him. On Yud-Tes Kislev he was released, and this date became the Rosh HaShanah of Chassidus. From this day onward, the Alter Rebbe began spreading Chassidus even more than before.

The Alter Rebbe called himself the grandson of the Baal Shem Tov. "I am his student's student," the Alter Rebbe said, "so I am like his spiritual grandchild. I am continuing his teachings."

But wait a minute, this seems to be a contradiction. The Baal Shem Tov taught that a Jew must serve Hashem with his heart. But we know that the Alter Rebbe called his own teachings, Chabad which stands for Chochmah, Binah and Daas - wisdom, understanding and knowledge. These are all things we do with our mind, not our heart. So how could the Alter Rebbe say that he is continuing the Baal Shem Tov's teachings? The Baal Shem Tov stressed the heart, and the Alter Rebbe stressed the mind.

Actually, there is no contradiction. The Baal Shem Tov was talking about a Jew's love for Hashem that comes from deep inside. This is what the connection between a Jew and Hashem is all about. This is the feeling that came out in the shepherd boy's whistle on Yom Kippur.

But in the hustle bustle of our everyday lives, we don't always feel this love. The Alter Rebbe teaches us that we shouldn't only wait for special times to make us feel this love for Hashem. We can bring out this every day.

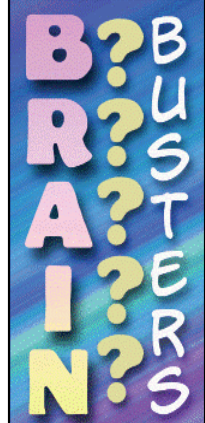
How? By studying the Chabad Chassidus the Alter Rebbe taught. These teachings allow us to understand many deep things about Hashem and about our neshamos. When we study this, our minds will understand and this will make our hearts feel.

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

WITH MANY THANKS TO OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS:

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Rabbi Kasriel and Mrs. Chana E. Shemtov

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Mr. Yochanan and Mrs. Peri Brook
Mr. Zalman and Mrs. Raizy Cousin



MY FATHER PASSED AWAY, I WAS FREED.

Please send your answers to connections@shluchim.org

Last weeks' brain buster: Climbing to protect, we start and end the same.
Answer: מלאכים

Congratulations to Menachem Mendel Shemtov, age 5 from Riverdale, NY for solving the brain buster.



FROM THE DESK OF DR. GETZEL...

Hey there kinderlach!

So how has your Chodesh Kislev been so far? I'm sure it has been action-packed just like mine! Do you remember where I said that I was going to be this week? Yup! Got it right first time – in the city of Petersburg (once upon a time known as Leningrad), Russia. A long way from the sunny (or at this time of year more like rainy) cornfields of Iowa.

It all started a few months ago when I got a phone-call from deep in Siberia. It was my good old friend Professor Ivanovitch on the phone. He is not only a good and old friend of mine, but he is also (as far as I know) the only other Seeing and Lens Making Professor in the world. Unfortunately Professor Ivanovitch however is not Jewish, so he makes totally different types of lenses to me – the Russians are not really interested in COL lenses or any other type of Chassidishe lens. Recently though, we have started working together on a new S.M.I.E. lens. Can you guess what S.M.I.E. stands for? Well of course! Sheva Mitzvos Lens!

Anyway, Professor Ivanovitch was calling to invite me to come and see the making of this lens in his new, state-of-the-art laboratory. Well, to be honest, the idea of travelling to deepest Siberia in the winter didn't exactly make me feel all warm inside. But then Professor Ivanovitch reminded me that his new laboratory wasn't in Siberia. It was actually in a little town called Pavlova which is just outside Petersburg.

'Ahh, Petersburg,' I said to Professor Ivanovitch, 'now that is a totally different story.' You see like most of you, I've never actually been to Russia, and a chance to go see the Petropolsky Prison and the Shpalerna Jail, and all the other 'tourist attractions,' of Petersburg was something that I was not going to turn down. Especially if the trip was going to be sponsored by the Russian Ministry of Science and Industry.

And so started the preparations for the grand trip. Every time Mrs Getzel went to the store I would remind her to buy tuna and crackers. And crackers and tuna. And tuna and crackers. Then, just as I think we had managed to buy every box of crackers and every can of tuna between here and New York, Mrs Getzel reminded me that boruch Hashem, communism had officially ended over fifteen years ago (although I think someone forget to tell that to the Russian Consulate in New York, it took them so long to give me my visa!), and now there are kosher stores, and kosher restaurants and hundreds of Shluchim across the whole of Russia, and especially in Petersburg!

The weeks flew by, and before I knew it, it was time to go. Professor Ivanovitch had kindly managed to arrange the trip so that I would be able to be in Petersburg for Yud Tes Kislev! I was so excited!

Anyway, I got to run now, I'm very busy here! More news from Petersburg next week!

Missing you all and my favourite Tropicana too. And my favourite goldfish Dovid, and my favourite half-chewed red pen that Mrs Getzel got me as a 39th birthday present that I left behind in case the Russian customs agents decided that it was a secret weapon and confiscated it. And my super-duper extra-large, expanding umbrella that.....

KIDS SPEAK

Where Young Shluchim talk about their Shlichus



MIRI KATZMAN, AGE 11
OMAHA, NEBRASKA

Hi! My name is Miri Katzman. I am 11 years old and I am the 8th in my family. I like to sing, dance, bake, read, baby-sit and of course, be with my friends.

I am writing to you from Omaha, Nebraska which is in the middle of the US, half way between New York and California. In addition to the State of Nebraska, our Shlichus responsibilities include serving the Dakotas and some parts of Iowa. My father does lots of traveling to serve the various Jews all around.

20 years ago the Rebbe gave a Brocha to my parents to move on shlichus. We have a nice, spacious Chabad House which we purchased eight years ago. It has a high ceiling and many wooden antiques. These antiques were donated by a museum that collected benches, bimahs, shtenders and other items from several Frum Shuls that closed down approximately 50 years ago. People then did not believe that Yiddishkeit could really survive in this town.

Like all Chabad Houses, we have many different kinds of programs and activities for adults, children, and families: Minyanim, classes, Ima and Me, Torah Tot's Preschool Enrichment and Camp Gan Israel are all part of what we offer the community.

By far, our biggest successes are family simchas. The brissin, upshernish's and Bar and Bas Mitzva's of my siblings attract the biggest crowds. People attend because they feel close to our family and like to celebrate with us. A Shabbos meal can bring them closer than a community-wide Purim or Chanukah party.

But the main thing is to be a true example like the Rebbe wants us to be...

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.

Dr. Getzel

Are you a Parsha Expert?



“ויהי חת”ת אלוקים על הערים...”

ילדי השלוחים RALLY FOR “ט כסלו”

“And the fear of ה was on the cities”

WHEN?

Sunday

“ט כסלו תשס”ז

WHAT TIME?

11:30 am ET - HEBREW via phone conference

1:00 pm ET - via web conference

4:00 pm ET - via phone conference

6:00 pm ET - via web conference

WHAT?

Join together with hundreds of fellow ילדי “ט כסלו” from around the world in a giant farbrengen. Say the פסוקים, hear a דבר תורה, Hear a great story. Sing ניגונים. Say לחיים.

You MUST register for the rally online. For more information, visit www.shluchimkids.org (Go to Latest News and click on Rallies)

The word “חתת” - “fear” - is also a ראשי תיבות for חומש, תניא and תהילים. The פריערדיקער רבי encouraged that every day of the week, every איד should study the portion of תהילים for the day of the week, a portion of תניא according to the day of the month and a portion of תניא as it is divided for each day of the year. This is a great סגולה for everyone and בגשמיות and ברוחניות.

In 1843 the רבי מהר”ש sent his son, the צמח צדק to Petersburg to discuss some concerns. Before he left, he told him that his mother, רביצין דבורה לאה, appeared to him and told him that she had the זכות to visit the holy palace of the שם טוב in בעל שם טוב. She asked for a ברכה to lessen the difficulties that people had against the spreading of חסידות. The שם טוב told her that through learning the holy ספרים of חומש, תהילים and תניא, all difficulties and barriers would be nullified.

This פסוק hints to this: “ויהי חת”ת” - when one learns חומש, תהילים and תניא, then no one will chase after the children of יעקב to do them any harm and בגשמיות and ברוחניות.

(Adapted from L’Chaim Weekly)



“ט כסלו”

“ט כסלו” is the יאהרצייט of the מעזריטשער מגיד. The מעזריטשער מגיד, דובער ר’, was a תלמיד of the founder of חסידות בעל שם טוב, ר’. After the שם טוב passed away, the מעזריטשער מגיד was the leader of חסידים from תקנ”א (1761) until he passed away on “ט כסלו תקל”ב (1772).

“ט כסלו” is the חג הגאולה of the אלטער רבי. On “ט כסלו” of Liadi, the first Rebbe of חסידות - חב”ד - was released from prison in the Peter-Paul fortress in Petersburg, where he was held for 52 days. (The 52 פרקים of the first part of תניא - ליקוטי אמורים - תניא correspond to the 52 days the רבי אלטער spent in prison). He was accused of threatening the authority of the Czar. The קיטרוג of the רבי אלטער's arrest wasn't just because of a קיטרוג (accusation) here on earth, it was also and mainly because of a

שמים from קיטרוג.

The אלטער רבי was upset that the מלאכים were spreading חסידות. So, “ט כסלו” is more than just a חג for the אלטער רבי, it's also a special day for ראש השנה לחסידות, חסידים.

The אלטער רבי was saying תהילים at the time that he was told that he could go free. He was saying קאפיטל נ”ה and was up to the words “פדה בשלום נפשי”.

“ט כסלו” was the day that the רבי אלטער was actually released from prison.

ראש “ט כ” & “ט כ” as the joyfully celebrate חסידים חסידות, with farbrengens and החלטות to learn more חסידות and behave in a more חסידישע way. We also don't say תחנון on these days. The cycle of learning תניא as part of חת”ת starts again on “ט כסלו” and so does the היום יום.



Stories of Olde

The אלטער רבי once sent one of his חסידים on a mission to raise a large sum of money for an important cause.

The רבי gave him a ברכה for a safe trip but mysteriously warned him not to enter any house that had its door on the east side. The trip went well and soon most of the money had been collected. But one day the חסיד found himself caught in a snowstorm on a lonely road winding through the forest. The wind grew steadily stronger and colder. He urged his horse on, hoping to reach some sort of an inn before he lost his way entirely in the snow; but hours passed and still he didn't see any kind of house.

He was numb and freezing, and the snow was falling so thickly that he couldn't see where he was going. He davened to ה' for a נס.

Suddenly through the white sea of swirling snow he saw what looked like the outline of a house just off the road. With his last ounce of strength he forced the horse in its direction, and sure enough it was a house! It even had a מזוזה on the door. A אידישע house! He thanked ה' as he jumped from his wagon onto the front porch and knocked on the door.

An elderly woman opened the door and let him in to the warm house. "Come in you must be freezing," she said. "Come have a cup of tea, sit here by the stove. In just a minute my sons will return, they will put your horse in the barn, please sit down." Just as he sat and began thawing out he remembered that it was almost night and he hadn't yet davened מנחה. So he asked the woman which direction was מזרח - east and davened, thanking ה' for helping him.

As he finished davening, he noticed that something was wrong: the eastern wall was the one with the main entrance of the house in it!

Without hesitation he put on his coat and walked to the door saying apologetically, "I'll be right back" but the door was locked. He went to a window but it too was locked. "I forgot something in the wagon," he called to the old woman, who had slipped out of the room "Could you please open the door?" Suddenly a key turned in the door from the outside, and four big strong young men came inside. As soon as they saw their visitor they immediately grabbed him, emptied his pockets, tied him up, laid him on the ground in a corner, and sat down to eat while their mother examined what they had stolen.

"Ho ho!" she exclaimed. "Look what we have here!" As she held up the pack of money she found in his wallet, that he had collected for the אלטער רבי. "Looks like we caught a big fish this time." One of the sons examined the money, went to the cupboard, took out a large bottle of vodka and put it on the table with a bang. "Brothers, lets celebrate! G-d has been good to us! We have enough money here to be happy for a long, long time!

But first, let's take care of our guest." He pulled a large knife from somewhere under his coat while one of his brothers was pouring him a drink. He took a cup of vodka in his free hand, raised it high and said, "To long life, except for you!" as he looked at the tied-up חסיד.

One of the brothers, surprised by the joke, laughed so hard that the vodka came spraying out of his mouth on the others, and they all began to laugh, and then someone began a song and they had some more vodka, then some more. Then the door opened again and it was their father. "Aha!" He shouted as he looked at the money on the table and the tied-up Chassid on the floor.

"Good work boys! Excellent! We'll have to kill him though ... I'm glad you left him for me. You know what? In the morning I'll take care of him. Now let's drink to our good fortune!" And before long they were all drunk and forgot completely about our poor חסיד.

Late that night, when they were all sleeping soundly, the father woke, looked around to make sure that no one else was awake, tiptoed over to the חסיד, motioned him to be silent, cut his ropes and silently told him to follow. He tiptoed to the door, opened it and gave the חסיד his coat. "Here is your money back," he whispered in the חסיד's ear as he pushed the wallet his coat pocket. Then he pressed a gold coin in the חסיד's hand. "This is for צדקה from an old man who has done many עבירות. Tell your רבי to please daven for me. Now go! Get out of here as fast as you can ... run for your life." The sun was beginning to rise, the storm had stopped, and the grateful חסיד was on the road back home.

When the חסיד entered the אלטער רבי's room, the רבי looked up at him and said: "I know what happened, you don't have to tell me. I was up all night davening on your behalf."

The חסיד took out the golden coin and told of the old thief's request. The אלטער רבי took the coin and wedged it in a crack in the wall next to his desk and said no more.

Fifteen years passed and the חסיד, who was now married with a family, became one of the אלטער רבי's גבאים. One day he answered the door to an old beggar and told him to wait. When he entered the אלטער רבי's room and informed him that there was a beggar at the door, the רבי pulled the gold coin from the crack where it had been for the past fifteen years and told the חסיד that this was the old man who had released him years ago.

It seems that when his wife and sons awoke and realized what he had done, they beat him and sent him out of the house just a few hours before the police came and took the mother and sons off to prison. The old man began a life of גלות, waiting for a sign that his תשובה had been accepted in שמים.

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

פרשת וישלח

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 in the word-search.

ו	ש	ל	ח	ז	ע	ר	ו	ך	ך	א	ק	ר	א	ט	פ
ן	נ	ס	פ	ש	ד	ג	כ	ע	י	ח	ל	ך	ף	ד	ז
ס	י	ב	ה	נ	ה	כ	י	א	נ	מ	צ	ת	ה	ץ	מ
ק	א	ר	א	ט	ו	י	ן	ס	פ	ש	ד	ב	י	ג	ע
כ	ו	ע	י	ח	ל	ק	ך	ף	ז	ס	ש	ב	ו	ה	ז
נ	ר	ב	ה	נ	מ	ר	צ	ת	ץ	ל	ק	ר	ס	א	ר
ט	ז	ו	ן	ס	פ	ו	ש	ד	ו	ג	כ	ע	י	י	י
ח	ל	ל	ך	ף	ז	ב	ס	ס	ב	ה	נ	מ	ו	צ	ט
ת	מ	ץ	ק	ר	א	ט	ט	ו	ן	ס	פ	ש	ס	ש	ש
ד	ז	ג	כ	ע	י	ח	ל	ך	ף	ז	ס	ב	ה	נ	ע
מ	צ	ת	ץ	ק	ר	א	ט	ו	ן	ס	פ	ש	ד	ג	ר
ת	ו	ד	י	ס	ח	ל	ה	נ	ש	ה	ש	א	ר	כ	מ
ע	י	ח	ל	ך	ף	ז	ס	ב	ה	נ	מ	צ	ת	ץ	ג
ק	ת	נ	י	א	ר	א	ט	ו	ן	ס	פ	ש	ד	ג	י
כ	ע	ה	י	ח	ל	ך	ף	ז	ס	ב	ה	נ	מ	צ	ד

1. What was the אלטער רבי's name?
2. What two main ספרים did the אלטער רבי write?
3. What words was the אלטער רבי in middle of saying when he was told he could go free?
4. What קאפיטל is it in?
5. Besides תניא, what other daily שיעור do we restart on כסלו?
6. What do Chassidim call כסלו?
7. Who passed away on כסלו?
8. On which of the 12 פסוקים is תורה based?
9. When the minister came to visit the אלטער רבי, which word didn't he understand?

הצלחה רבה

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

Last Week's Winners:

Rivka Shmotkin, age 7 from Bayside, Wisconsin &
 Mussi Stiefel, age 8 from Almere, Netherlands