



**Parshas Vayeitzei, ח' בסדר, 5766**  
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A project of CHINUCH YALDEI HASHLUCHIM a division of The Shluchim Office  
 816 Eastern Parkway, Brooklyn, NY 11213 ~ (718) 221-0500 x317 ~ cyh@shluchim.org

## PARSHAS VAYEITZEI



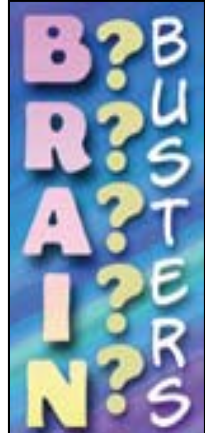
"Daniel," his father asked him, "what do you think Yaakov took with him when he left his home and journeyed to Charan?"  
 "What do you mean, Tatty?" Daniel asked in surprise.  
 "Well, the parshah begins by telling us that Yaakov set out for Charan. Doesn't a person have to take things with him when he travels?"  
 "Sure," replied Daniel. "But the Torah doesn't tell us anything about Yaakov's luggage."  
 Daniel's father smiled. "I'm not asking about the bags Yaakov took with him. When a person moves to a new place, he takes more than just his suitcases. He also takes with him his thoughts, his plans, and his ideas about how he is going to live his life there."  
 "But how can we know what Yaakov was thinking, or how he was planning his life in Charan?"  
 "Daniel, if we read the pesukim carefully, we can find out quite a bit. Let's start with the very first two pesukim."  
 "The Torah tells us that Yaakov left Beer Sheva and went to Charan. Then - 'Vayifga bamakom' - he davened to Hashem," Daniel said, reading first from the Chumash, and then from Rashi.  
 "Right here, we have lesson number one," explained his father. "Yaakov is on his way to a new country. What does a person do when he moves to a new place?"  
 "Well, when Aunt Dina and Uncle Ephraim went on shlichus to Russia, they studied Russian. They also bought some clothes and heavy coats like the ones that people wear in Russia."  
 "And most important," his father reminded him, "we took them to the Ohel on the way to the airport."  
 "Yes, I remember. They were davening there for

such a long time that I was afraid they would miss their plane," recalled Daniel.  
 "That's the first thing Yaakov did, too: he davened. He was just beginning his shlichus in Charan, so he started it off with tefillah to Hashem. A Jew sets out with prayer."  
 "Later," his father continued, "when he prepared to go to sleep, he set up stones around his head. Rashi says that he did this to protect himself from wild animals."  
 "I always wondered about that, Tatty," said Daniel. "If Yaakov trusted Hashem, why did he need to protect his head? And if he felt that, in addition to trusting in Hashem, he still had to do something to take of himself, why did he protect only his head? What about the rest of his body?"  
 "That's a good question, Daniel. And it teaches us another lesson."  
 "Yaakov's shlichus took him far from the holiness of Eretz Yisrael, the Torah he studied at the yeshivos of Shem and Ever, and the righteousness of his parents' home. He knew that in Charan, on shlichus, life would be different. He would be living among people who were not very righteous and who worshiped idols. He was determined that although his life might be different, his thoughts and ideals would not change. He would be doing the work of a shepherd, but he would be thinking the thoughts of a yeshiva student."  
 "In setting up the stones around his head, Yaakov made a firm decision to 'protect his head,' showing that his mind would not change even if everything else around him did."  
 "Please Tell Me What the Rebbe Said" (Adapted from Likkutei Sichos, Vol. I)

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**PART OF ME IS AN OCEAN. THE REST OF ME IS THE NAME OF A MONTH. WHO ARE WE?**

Please send your answers to [connections@shluchim.org](mailto:connections@shluchim.org)

Last weeks' brain buster: I am ketchup color  
 And I will serve my younger brother

Answer: **לש**

**Congratulations to Yossi Iasker, age 11 from Brussels, Belgium for solving the brain buster .**



### ט' כסלו



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

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

ר' דובער was born in Li'ozna, White Russia in תקל"ד (1773). He was named after the מעזריטשער מגיד, who passed away on י"ט כסלו of the previous year. ר' דובער became Rebbe after his father passed away. The next year he moved to the town of Lubavitch, which was where חב"ד was based for the next 102 years.

The מיטעלער רבי passed away on his 54th birthday in תקפ"ח (1827).

### י' כסלו

In תקפ"ז (1826), the מיטעלער רבי was arrested. He was accused that his teachings threatened the authority of the Czar, but he managed to convince the judges that this wasn't true, and he was released. The date of his release, י' כסלו, is celebrated by חסידים as a "חג הגאולה." We don't say תחנון, we have farbrengens, and we learn some of the מיטעלער רבי's חסידות.



### י"ד כסלו

On י"ד כסלו תרפ"ט (1928), the Rebbe, married רביצין חיה מושקא Schneersohn, the daughter of the פריערדיקער רבי. The חתונה was held in Warsaw, Poland, at the Lubavitcher Yeshivah, תומכי תמימים.

The Rebbe's parents, ר' לויק and רביצין חנה were not able to travel to the חתונה so they organised a סעודה in their home in Yekatrinoslav. They invited many of the אידן that lived in the city. In ר' לויק's house, the joy and dancing lasted the whole night long.

On י"ד כסלו תשי"ג (1953), at a farbrengen for his 25th wedding anniversary, the Rebbe said to the חסידים:

"דאס איז דער טאג וואס האט פארבונדען מיר מיט אייך און אייך מיט מיר" - "This is the day that connected me to you, and you to me."



"Of whatever you will give me, I will give a tenth to you." - "וכל אשר תתן לי עשר אעשרנו לך"

(כ"ח:כ"ב)

The famous Jewish בעל צדקה, Sir Moses Montefiore, lived in England in the 1800's. Queen Victoria once asked him, "What is the amount of your wealth? How much do you own?" Sir Moses told her it would take him a few days to do some calculations, and afterwards, he would reply.

When Sir Moses told her his wealth she became upset, saying, "You are insulting me. Everyone knows that you have much more." Sir Moses explained that whatever money he gave away to צדקה he counted as his wealth. Anything else that he owned was only temporary and could be confiscated or lost.

עקב was thinking the same thing and said to ה', "וכל אשר תתן לי" - "I realize, that 'for me' - I will only have the ten percent which I will give away as צדקה."

# Stories of the Rabbeim

Over 150 years ago in Russia there lived a תלמוד חכם called ר' יוסף. He was a very clever man and also very humble. He knew all of the גמרא – both the תלמוד בבלי and תלמוד ירושלמי – by heart, and also knew many ספרי הלכה and קבלה as well.

ר' יוסף was thinking about becoming a רב in a large city and since he was a חסיד of the רבי מיטעלער, he travelled to Lubavitch to ask for the Rebbe's ברכה and advice. But when he informed the Rebbe of his plan, the Rebbe wasn't so excited.

The רבי מיטעלער looked up at ר' יוסף from his desk and said seriously: "ר' יוסף, if you are offered the opportunity of being an important רב, it's better for you to be a wagon driver."

Even two days later, when he arrived home and told his wife what the Rebbe had said, he himself still hadn't fully understood it.

"If that's what the Rebbe said", she said, "You must go down to the wagon drivers and ask their advice on what type of carriage to buy, how much it will cost and how long it will take to learn." She answered.

"Learn what?" He just shook his head every time his wife mentioned it, and went back to studying גמרא or something else.

Then about a month later a group of the elders of the city knocked at ר' יוסף's door and officially offered him the important position of רב of the city of Minsk. He told them to come back in a week for his answer.

As soon as they left, ר' יוסף's wife reminded him that now he had no choice other than to finally go talk to the wagon drivers.

So the next morning ר' יוסף put on his fur coat and high boots and made a visit to the stables. At first the drivers thought he was a customer. Then they thought he was joking or crazy. But when they saw he was serious, one of the older drivers agreed to show him around, carefully pointing out how each of the many things that a wagon driver did was difficult, dirty, or dangerous.

After several hours he returned home with a full report to his wife and a חשבון that a wagon and horse cost much more than they could afford, and that was the end of it.

"יוסף!" said his wife. "Are you a חסיד or not? The Rebbe wants you to be a wagon driver. I'll sell my jewellery and our silver שבת candle sticks, and we'll buy a horse and a wagon." And so it was that ר' יוסף was one of the town's wagon drivers.

He accepted his new job with as much שמחה as he could. He took good care of his horses and his carriage, and the other drivers always helped him and tried to give him the easiest trips.

He also tried to keep himself as holy as possible. While he was driving he would recite the גמרא he knew by heart, and he never began working until he had spent one hour davening שחרית, but even so, he found his new life very hard and he wasn't happy.

One cold winter morning, as he was feeding his horses and getting the wagon ready for the day's work, a rich-looking, goyishe businessman entered the stables and asked him if he was

willing to take him to Petersburg.

"That's a two-day journey", answered ר' יוסף. "I'll gladly take you, but I'm telling you now that I don't begin at the crack of dawn, like the other drivers. I am a Jew that believes in ה' and every morning I must daven for one hour."

"Fine, fine," The businessman replied. "Maybe on the second day I'll get another driver. The main thing is that I leave immediately. All my baggage is here and I want to leave as soon as possible."

ר' יוסף wasted no time getting the horses ready and in fifteen minutes they were on their way.

That night they stopped at an inn. Before they went to sleep, the businessman paid him for the day's journey, saying something about finding another driver that would leave early. They shook hands and the innkeeper showed them to their rooms.

ר' יוסף woke, as was his מנהג, at midnight, washed his hands and began to say תיקון הצות. His heart was broken enough as it was, and when he began thinking of the terrible גלות of the אידן the pain was too much to bear, he poured out his heart into the words of the תפילות.

When he finished, he opened the ספר גמרא he always took along on his trips and began studying. At daybreak, he put on his שחרית and davened תפילין.

He had just put away תפילין back after davening, and was about to sit down and have something to eat, when suddenly the door opened and there stood his passenger.

His clothes were messy as though he hadn't slept all night and it was clear that he had been crying.

"I want to ... put on your תפילין," he said as he burst into uncontrollable tears and fell to his knees. "Oh please forgive me!" He sobbed "ה', please, forgive me!"

He collapsed on the floor with his face in his hands and his entire body shaking with heart-rending sobs. The astounded ר' יוסף watched with his mouth open wide. He had never seen anything like this in his life!

When the man had calmed down he explained: he was an איד, but he lived like a גוי. The night before, he was about to go to sleep when he heard through the wall the midnight תפילות of ר' יוסף. At first he paid no attention, and then he got angry because it was disturbing him; but then, slowly it woke up something inside of him.

He remembered that when he was a boy his father used to daven like that. He now was a wealthy man and had long forgotten about all that but ר' יוסף's תפילות made him want to change.

He decided that he wanted to return to his true self – he wanted to be an איד again.

Two days later they were standing before the Rebbe. ר' יוסף was told that he had fulfilled the purpose of becoming a wagon driver.

# TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

## ברשת ויצא

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](mailto:connections@shluchim.org) by Wednesday

### Level 1:

Match the question to the correct answer

What was the רבי מיטעלער's name?

אלטער רבי

Who was the רבי מיטעלער's wife?

רביצין סטערנא

Who was the רבי מיטעלער's father?

ט' כסלו

Who was the רבי מיטעלער's mother?

The רבי מיטעלער was freed from prison

Who was the Rebbe before the רבי מיטעלער?

ר' דובער

Who was the Rebbe after the רבי מיטעלער?

רביצין חי'ה מושקא

When was the רבי מיטעלער born?

The רבי מיטעלער passed away

What happened on ט' כסלו?

רביצין שיינא

What happened on י' כסלו?

The צמח צדק

What was the רבי מיטעלער's daughter's name, who married the צמח צדק?

אלטער רבי

## הצלחה רבה

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

Country: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

### Last Week's Winners:

Esther Zucker, age 8 from Key West, Florida

