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פרשת וישלח, ט"ו כסלו תשס"ו
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PARSHAS VAYISHLACH



The wind was blowing, and large flakes of snow were falling to the ground. The Stern children, Motti, Ari, Esther and little Chaim, trudged through the snow with their father on this wintry Shabbos morning. Motti held his little brother's hand firmly but patiently. He walked slowly so that Chaim would be able to keep up.

As everybody waited to cross a busy street, Motti said with a smile, "You know, Tatty, I can really understand what Yaakov Avinu meant when he told Esav that he would visit him eventually. After Esav invited Yaakov to come with him to his home at Har Seir, Yaakov said: 'Go ahead, Esav. I'll have to walk slowly because of my children and my many household duties.'"

"Yeah," laughed Ari. "If Yaakov's children walked as slowly as Esther and Chaim, Esav would have had to wait a very, very long time."

"And Esav is still waiting, till this very day!" smiled Mr. Stern.

"What do you mean?" asked Ari.

"Hey, Tatty's right," said Motti. "I don't remember learning that Yaakov actually visited Esav in Har Seir."

"You mean Yaakov made an empty promise?" asked Ari in surprise. "How could he tell Esav he would come and then never show up?"

"You've asked a very good question," replied Mr. Stern. "But it's hard to talk in this snow, so let's discuss it while we're eating our warm Shabbos meal."

Later, as the Stern family sat around their Shabbos table, Mr. Stern explained. "Yaakov Avinu indeed planned to visit Esav at Har Seir. The Torah tells us Ve'alu Moshiim beHar Tzion lishpot es Har Esav, 'Saviors will go up on Mount Zion to judge the Mountain of Esav.' Then, in the time of the geulah, Yaakov, the Jewish people will go to Har Esav, which is Har Seir, to bring judgment upon Esav and his descendants.

"Yaakov Avinu knew that this would not happen immediately, and he knew that he and his children would have to accomplish a great deal of work - he called it 'household duties' - before the geulah.

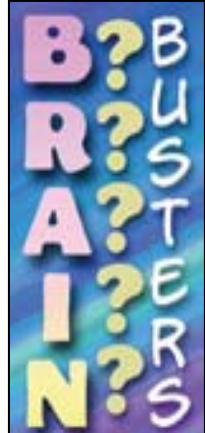
"A Jew's 'household duties' make the world a home for Hashem. Yaakov promised that he and his children, the Jewish people, would fulfil this mission with devotion, no matter how long it would take. This mission will be completed very soon, and then we will visit Har Seir."

'Please Tell Me What the Rebbe Said'
(Adapted from Sichos Shabbos Parshas Vayishlach)

WITH MANY THANKS TO OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS:

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MY FIRST IS MADE FRIDAY NIGHT AND MY SECOND IS KING OF THE NIGHT. THE ALTER REBBE STOPPED FOR ME.

Please send your answers to connections@shluchim.org
Last weeks' brain buster: Part of me is an ocean. The rest of me is the name of a month. Who are we?
Answer: שבטים

Congratulations to Mendel Vorst, age 9 & Levi Vorst, age 6 from Rotterdam, The Netherlands for solving the brain buster.



“ט כסלו – יאהרצייט פון דער מעזריטשער מגיד
 ר' ישראל בעל שם טוב, מעזריטשער מגיד of Liadi, was a תלמיד of the founder of חסידות בעל שם טוב. After the ר' ישראל בעל שם טוב passed away, the מעזריטשער מגיד was the leader of the חסידים from 1761 (תקכ"א) until he passed away on 1772 (תקל"ב).”



“ט כסלו – חג הגאולה פון דער אלטער רבי
 of Liadi, ר' שניאור זלמן (1798) “ט כסלו תקנ"ט On the first Rebbe of חסידות - 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 תנ"ך - תנ"ך correspond to the 52 days the אלטער רבי spent in prison). He was accused of threatening the authority of the Czar. The אלטער רבי's arrest wasn't just because of a קיטרוג (accusation) here on earth, it was also and mainly because of a קיטרוג from שמים.

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

The אלטער רבי was saying תהלים 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 אלטער רבי was actually released from prison.



“ט & כ' כסלו – ראש השנה לחסידות
 as the joyfully celebrate 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 תנ"ך as part of חסידות starts again on “ט כסלו” and so does the היום יום.



Brochie Matusof, 11
 Calgary, Alberta, Canada

On Chanukah in Calgary we have a program for children which we call the Chanukah stamped. In this carnival we have all different types of booths like Menorah crafting, dreidel casino, candle making (for a menorah), sand making with Chanukah papers, latkeh frying, doughnut decorating and raffles etc.

Last year we had an olive oil press it was a lot of fun! I help with a lot of preparations like setting up the Chabad House etc. We also have a public Menorah lighting at City Hall we have about 500 to 600 people who come. It is also live on T.V. This year you can go on it and watch it on www.shul.tv or www.menorah.ca on December 27 at 5:00 P.M Calgary time which is 7:00 P.M New York time. I think you will really enjoy it!!!

At the Menorah lighting the Mayor comes and other important people. 2 Jewish schools usually sing and last year Levi, my brother sang אנו מאמין of M.B.D representing Chedar Chabad which is the school me my younger brother Yudi and a another lubavitch family which is on Shlichus here in Calgary. It is small but really good. אנו מאמין was a big hit and it was really amazing to see how many people knew the song. It was a big Kiddish Hashem and Kiddush Lubavitch.

At the program we also have latkes and cards that have on them Chanukah gelt a candy and a cookie shaped in a dreidel. This is given out to everybody that comes. We have an 18 feet tall menorah on a street called Heritage Drive and on my mother and fathers cars.

I feel very privileged that I got the zchus to do the Rebbe's shlichus here in Calgary, Alberta. I also encourage all of you shlichim to call and participate on the farbrengens on the phone it is really fun and encouraging!

MOSHIACH NOW!!

A FRAILECHEN CHANAUKAH!

Hey Kids!

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



A story of the אלטער רבי

י"ט כסלו Phone Rally

When?

Tuesday

י"ט כסלו תשס"ו

What time?

1:30 pm EST

6:30 pm EST

8:30 pm EST

What?

Join together with hundreds of fellow ילדי י"ט כסלו from around the world in a giant farbrengen.

Say the פסוקים, hear a דבר תורה, hear a great story, sing ניגונים and say לחיים!

You should get an e-mail with all the information by Sunday. If you don't, check out www.shluchimkids.org/latestnews

Don't miss it!!

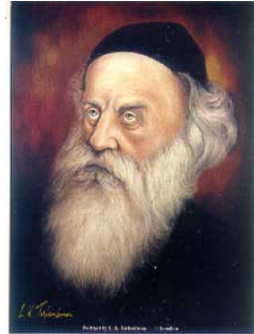
Hope to hear you there!!

When the אלטער רבי was almost 20, he decided - with the agreement of his wife, רביצין סטערנא, - to travel to a center of תורה learning and עבודת ה'.

At that time Vilna and Mezeritch were the great Jewish capitals of Eastern Europe. Vilna was where אליהו ר', the Vilna Gaon lived, and Mezeritch was the hometown of ר' דובער, מגיד, leader of the חסידים.

ר' שניאור זלמן said: "I wasn't sure about where I should go. I knew that in Vilna one was taught how to learn, and that in Mezeritch one could learn how to daven. To learn I knew a bit, but of davening I knew very little. So I went to Mezeritch.

"He blessed me with making the right choice. I became a devoted תלמיד of our Rebbe and, when I returned to Vitebsk, I guided my students in the teachings of חסידות, which were well received by them."



DID YOU KNOW?



י"יהי חת"ת אלוקים על הערים..."

The word "חת"ת" - "fear" - is also a ראשי תיבות for חומש and תהילים. The תניא and תהילים, חומש urged that every day of the week, every Jew should study the portion of חומש for the day of the week, a portion of תהילים according to the day of the month (the תהילים is divided for the 30 days of the Hebrew month) and a portion of תניא as it is divided for each day of the year. This is a great סגולה for everyone ברוחניות and בגשמיות.

In 1843 the צדק sent his son, the רבי מהר"ש 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 בעל שם-טוב. She asked for a ברכה to lessen the difficulties that people had against the spreading of חסידות. The בעל שם-טוב told her that through learning the holy ספרים of חומש and תהילים, תניא, all difficulties and "barriers" would be nullified.

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

(Taken from the weekly L'Chaim magazine)



Stories of the Rabbeim

A young unmarried חסיד named מאיר spent the ימים טובים by his Rebbe, the מעזריטשער מגיד. When it was time to leave and he went into the Rebbe for יחידות, he told the Rebbe about the difficulties he was having finding a wife. Because he was so poor, no one wanted to marry him.

"צאתכם לשלום," said the Rebbe. "Accept the first שידוך that is suggested to you."

On his way home מאיר spent the night in a village inn, where he found a group of bored people wasting their time in drinking and talking about silly things. Being cold from his journey, he found a seat in a corner next to the stove. He tried not to let them notice him but the mischief-makers spotted him, and asked him where he was from and what he was doing. He gave them the name of his home town, and told them that he had just visited the מעזריטשער מגיד. "What did you want from the Rebbe, and what did he answer you?" they asked.

He told them: "I asked the Rebbe for a ברכה that ה' should let me meet my באשערט, and he told me that I should agree to the first שידוך that is suggested to me."

At this, one of the men jumped up and exclaimed: "Excellent! I've got a great שידוך for you. My sister is a really nice girl, and she has a dowry of hundred silver rubles -- and she's here right now! If you're agreeable, we can shake hands on it." Now in fact this good-for-nothing wasn't related at all to the young woman; she was the daughter of the wealthy innkeeper, who was not home at the time. מאיר answered: "Fine, I agree."

The prankster ran into the kitchen, explained the joke to her and asked her to join in, saying it would be excellent for the inn's business, because they would buy lots of mashke to celebrate. She innocently agreed, and when she came into the main room, there loud cheers and applause.

They had a great time toasting לחיים and offering מאיר their ברכות, all the while snickering behind his back. Then one of them came up with a better idea: "Why don't we arrange the חופה straight away? Then we can have a really great party!" But one of his friends thought of a problem: "None of us know how to write a כתובה or run the חופה."

מאיר, overhearing them, promptly volunteered that he knew how to do both. This made them laugh even harder. They took a clean tablecloth and held it up with four broomsticks over the heads of the couple as a חופה. מאיר wrote out the כתובה; and then he married the giggling young lady כדת משה וישראל.

In the morning he heard one of the servants saying: "Here comes the 'father of the כלה' at the front door!" The young man walked towards the innkeeper, and said, "How do you do, שווער!" The innkeeper was a bit surprised: "Who is this? What is he talking about?" he asked.

His daughter, who had come out to say hello to him, explained: "This young man has been providing us with a little entertainment, and last night we had an engagement and a חופה, just for fun! You'll be pleased with how much extra food and mashke was sold."

Her father did not like the sound of what he heard, and asked a lot of questions to find out exactly what had happened. When he heard her answers, he shouted furiously at מאיר: "Fool! What's the idea of marrying this young lady? Those idiots may not understand what a כתובה means and a חופה in front of witnesses, but if you are a חסיד and a בחור, you should certainly know better. Didn't you realize that they were making fun of you?"

And, to make his point clearer, he slapped the poor young man across the face. Soon enough though, he realised that he had to do something. He changed the way he was speaking and asked מאיר politely to give his daughter a גט, and promised him twenty silver roubles. To his surprise, the obviously poor young man quickly refused. He offered more money, but מאיר still refused. "You might as well stop trying," said מאיר finally. "Let me tell you what is really going on. My Rebbe told me to agree to the first שידוך that was suggested to me, and that's what I did. This crowd may have treated the whole matter as a joke, but I took it seriously. I accepted the offer according to the Rebbe's instructions, and I certainly will not agree to give your daughter a גט unless the Rebbe tells me to. If you don't agree to the שידוך, let us go to the Rebbe together; let him decide."

The upset innkeeper realized he had no choice but to travel to Mezritch. When they arrived, he complained to the מגיד: "I was away from home, and along came this poor בחור, who believed a bunch of jokers who told him my daughter was their sister, and he accepted their suggestion to marry her. Then they set up a חופה, and he married her in front of witnesses! I offered him some money to give her a גט, but he won't agree without asking you. I am now willing to offer him one hundred silver rubles, as long as he gives my daughter a divorce."

"I'll discuss the matter with the young man," said the Maggid.

When the innkeeper returned a few hours later, the Maggid told him: "I discussed the divorce with the young man, and he agrees - only that you give him a thousand silver rubles. But what about your daughter? Isn't it time that she got married? Allow me to suggest an excellent שידוך I have in mind for her. I personally know that this young man is a תלמוד חכם and ירא שמים, comes from a very special family, and is himself a very nice and kind man..."

"I shall gladly accept whomever you recommend, Rebbe," said the innkeeper, who had the greatest respect for the מגיד.

"There is only one thing wrong with the new חתן," continued the מגיד. "He was very poor, and so he looked quite weak. But now that, too, has been fixed. You see, he has just gotten a thousand silver rubles, which he will bring into the marriage. This way you will lose nothing at all..."

"You see," concluded ר' דובער, "there's no need for a גט and another marriage. I promise you: it is a match made in heaven. May you both journey home happily."

The innkeeper took the Rebbe's advice to heart, went home happily with his son-in-law, and the newly married couple lived their life together happily.

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

ברשת 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 1:

“ט כסלו” WORD FIND

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

ראש השנה

ברוך

רבקה

חג הגאולה

שניאור

זלמן

פדה ושלים

חסידות

תניא

אלטער רבי

“ט כסלו”

באתי לגני

הצלחה רבה

Name: _____ Age: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Country: _____ E-mail: _____

Last Week's Winners:

Devorah Hodakov, age 6 from New Haven CT &
Esti Vogel, age 7 from Wilmington, Delaware

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

ברשת וישלח

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Level 2:

Unscramble the tiles to reveal the answer.

1. What was the אלטער רבי שנים קטרוג against the

D	U	S	L	A	C	R	E	S	S	I	T	H	T	H	E	M	A	C	H	A
T	E	A	A	S	E	T	T	H	A	N	G	U	P	S	H	I	M	C	H	I
W	E	E	W																	

2. On which of the פסוקים is the תניא based?

B	E	F	O	V	E	C	H	I	C	H	K	I	A	D	A	E	C	H	V	I	L
O	S	O	A	A	S	V	A	R	O	D	A	L	M	E	A	H	K	A	R		
V	A	V	A	U	A	I	L														

הצלחה רבה

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

Last Week's Winners:

Brochie Matusof, age 11 from Calgary Alberta & Yisrolik Kievman, age 11 from Liverpool, England