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פרשת אמור, ט"ז אייר תשס"ז
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PARSHAS EMOR



The Weinstein family was discussing Parshas Emor at the Shabbos table. Shimi was describing many of the dinim which the kohanim had to follow. "You know," interrupted Chaim, Shimi's younger brother. "It must be hard to be a kohen. He has to be careful all the time not to become tameh."

Mr. Weinstein looked at Chaim thoughtfully. He wanted to help Chaim understand that being a kohen was a privilege, not a difficulty.

"Think of your Uncle Aron, the scientist," he told him. Chaim remembered the last time Uncle Aron had come to visit. It was a while ago, because Uncle Aron was a very busy man, spending most of his time experimenting in his laboratory.

During his last visit, Uncle Aron had told Chaim about his work. He had to wear a white uniform every day, and put on a face mask most of the time. He always had to wash his hands with special soap before and after his work.

"Uncle Aron works very hard," Mr. Weinstein said. "He is doing important research in his laboratory, trying to discover which germs make people sick. He has to be very careful in his job, because any new germs which he brings in could spoil his experiments. And any germs which he takes home could make other people sick.

"Although he must obey many rules, Uncle Aron is happy, because he knows that his work helps doc-

tors cure sick people.

"We can compare this to the work of the kohanim in the Beis Hamikdosh. They had the special job of representing the entire Jewish people before Hashem.

"A kohen cannot serve in the Beis Hamikdosh when he is tameh. And so, the kohanim always had to be careful not to become tameh. They didn't see these dinim as a burden. They knew that keeping these rules makes it possible for them to carry out their special job in the Beis Hamikdosh."

The Torah calls Jews "a nation of kohanim." We should all try do the things that the kohanim had to do.

For example, the kohanim offered korbanos in the Beis Hamikdosh. We don't have a Beis Hamikdosh today, but nowadays, our tefillos take the place of these korbanos.

The kohanim also taught Torah to the people. Like them, we should study and teach others what we know.

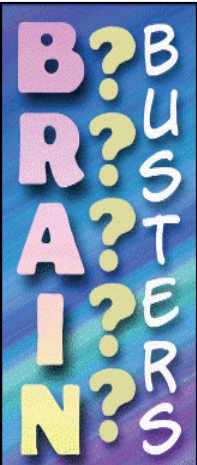
And the kohanim bless the people. They say, "Who has commanded us to bless His nation, Israel, with love." When we do our best to love our fellow Jew, then it won't be long before we see the kohanim serving Hashem in the Beis Hamikdosh again.

(Adapted from Likkutei Sichos, Vol. IX and Vol. XIII)
'The Rebbe Speaks to Children'

WITH MANY THANKS TO OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS:

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NOACH'S PROMISE OR A ל"ג בעומר TOY.

— — —

Please send your answers to connections@shluchim.org

Last weeks' brain buster: I start alone. But I'm second or eighth.

Answer: אי"ך

— — —

Congratulations to Yankel Bergstein, age 10 from Buffalo Grove, IL for solving the brain buster.



FROM THE DESK OF DR. GETZEL...

So kinderlach, Have you been polishing up on your Peruvian and Spanish since last week? Have you figured out what the SOL lens is? Well, in actual fact the SOL lens gets its name not from one word, but from three, and of course those words are all in Loshon Hakodesh. Yup, you guessed it, it is none other than the brand new, super duper, out of this world, Sefiras HaOmer Lens!

So how does this lens work? Well it is quite complicated, but really very simple. Actually, I find that things are always like that (at least with me anyway). Lots of times I think that something I need to do is very complicated, and I'm worried about how I'm ever going to manage to do it, but as soon as I start, Hashem gives me the kocho's I need to do the job, and it actually becomes a lot easier than I thought it would be.

Take the other day for example. I was out late at night putting up some mezuzos for my good friend, Dr Greenbaum, in his new house. As it happens I had lost my hammer - or as I prefer to say, I hadn't actually lost it, I just couldn't remember where I'd put it. Now if you ever plan to put up mezuzos, you should know that a hammer is quite an important thing to have with you. And because Dr Greenbaum was only just moving into the house, he didn't have a hammer either, and of course I was also running a bit late, so all the stores were closed and there wasn't even anywhere to buy a hammer.

Like it says 'yeshuas Hashem keheref ayin,' Hashem saves us in the blink of an eye. And sure enough, before I could even think about blinking my eye, Dr Greenbaum had an idea.

'Hey Dr,' he said to me.
'Yes Dr,' I said back to him.
'Dr, do you have any keys on you?'
'Actually Dr, I do. Why do you ask?'
'Well Dr, he said, why don't you try to push the nails in with the end of your key.'

What a great idea, I thought to myself, but I think Dr Greenbaum forgot that my first name (and last name) is Getzel and not Shimshon. Still, it was worth a try, so I pulled out my car keys (Boruch Hashem I had found them again), and I tried! And sure enough, with a push and a shove, and a huff and a puff, the mezuzah was up!

So you see kinderlach, Hashem gives us the strength we need, to do the things we need to do - although it was a pity that he didn't give the strength to my car keys too, because they snapped and I had to walk home!

So while you kinderlach may think that counting Sefiras Haomer, and

improving yourself in forty nine different ways, is way too much to even think about, make sure to use the SOL lens. It will help you take each day as it comes, and make sure that you don't lose hope on this big job. Happy counting!

Dr Getzel

KIDS SPEAK

Where Young Shlichim talk about their Shlichus



LEVI YITZCHOK DANOW, AGE 9
GOTHENBURG, SWEDEN

In my family we have 8 kids. Their names are: Menachem Mendel - 12, Chaya Mushka - 10, Me, Rochel - 7, Dovber - 6, Yisroel Arye Leib - 4, Sheina - 3, Meir Shlomo - 1. I go to Beis Sefer Beis Menachem and my cousins started the school.

In Gothenburg, in the Winter it's very cold and in the Summer it's very hot.

I help my father go shopping for Shabbos.

My cousins live in the Chabad House.

In my free time I like to go swimming and biking.

In my house, the CYH Chassidische calendar hangs in the kitchen.

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.



ל"ג בעומר – ח"י אייר

ל"ג בעומר, the 33rd day of the עומר, is a special day for the אידן, which we celebrate with outings, bonfires, and other happy activities. It is the יאהרצייט of רבי שמעון בר יוחאי. Many people visit his קבר in מירון, ארץ ישראל.

זוהר wrote the רבי שמעון בר יוחאי, and was one of the greatest teachers of קבלה. On the day that he passed away רבי שמעון told his תלמידים not to be sad on his יאהרצייט, but they should celebrate this day with joy. Until today, ל"ג בעומר is celebrated with much joy.

ל"ג בעומר is also the day another happy event happened. The גמרא tells us that in the weeks between פסח and שבועות there was a plague amongst the students of the great רבי עקיבא "because they did not act respectfully towards each other", 24,000 students passed away. That is why during the עומר, we don't listen to music, have חתונות or take haircuts. On ל"ג בעומר the plague stopped and no more students died. Therefore ל"ג בעומר is a day that teaches the importance of אהבת ישראל.

The beginning of פרשת אמור tells us that a כהן is not allowed to become טמא by coming close to a dead body. But for a close relative of the כהן, such as his sister, he is allowed to become טמא. Even more so he is commanded to become טמא - למה יטמא - למה יטמא.

The גמרא says that ה' is compared to a כהן. We are therefore left with the question - since we are still טמא in גלות, and ה' is like a כהן, how will He be allowed to take us out of גלות?!

But the זוהר explains that בני ישראל are like ה' sister. In this way ה' has no problem taking us out of גלות - right away!!



On (1949), the כ"א אייר תש"ט, the פריערדיקער רבי established the village of כפר חב"ד. The first people living there were חסידים who had managed to leave Russia and escape from communism. כפר חב"ד is near Tel-Aviv. It has farmlands as well as many מוסדות of חינוך, like schools and ישיבות. It is also the headquarters for חב"ד in ארץ ישראל.

DID YOU KNOW?

רבי שמעון בר יוחאי, ל"ג בעומר revealed the deepest secrets of the תורה and taught them to his תלמידים. They, in turn, taught them to all the אידן.

רבי שמעון בר יוחאי said that the same thing would happen in the days of משיח. In the last generation of גלות, not only would adults learn the deepest ideas of the תורה, but young children would as well. In this way they would bring the גאולה האמיתית והשלימה.

This is the special lesson for ל"ג בעומר אידישע children. Children should realise that the גאולה of the entire Jewish people depends on them. When אידישע children learn תורה and do מצוות as they should, when they obey their parents and teachers and become living examples to their friends, they will bring the גאולה for themselves and for all אידן.

Then, משיח צדקינו will come and take us all out of גלות, to our holy land, very, very soon.





Stories of the Rabbeim

(Continued from last week)

Suddenly in a spirit of chutzpah, ר' שמואל looked the young man in the eyes, smiled slightly and said, "I want YOU to call. It is very important."

Like magic, the young man nodded his head yes, went to the phone and returned just moments later announcing that his father would see him at his office in two hours.

Two hours later ר' שמואל was standing opposite the elderly official explaining his terrible dilemma; in two weeks he was to be evicted, and his one hundred talmidim would be on the street. He was hoping that maybe the old man would give him a few rooms in a different building until he could arrange something else.

"Sit down please" said the official. "Do you mind if I ask you a question, Rabbi?"

ר' שמואל was a bit nervous but he sat down and said he would be glad to answer to the best of his ability.

"Tell me, Rabbi, what you think about your Israeli Prime Minister Begin giving the סיני desert back to the Arabs?"

Now ר' שמואל really didn't know what to do. The French were famous for being pro-Arab and against the Israelis. One wrong word and he could say good-bye to his school. But on the other hand the Rebbe was very opposed to returning the סיני.

It crossed his mind to try to be diplomatic and avoid the question, but he shuddered at the thought and just blurted out. "Mr. Blan, I am a חסיד of the Lubavitcher Rebbe and he said that returning the סיני is a big mistake and will lead only to tragedy."

The old man looked at him deeply and said. "I just returned from Israel last month, I was there for a week. I'm even a representative here in France for the Weitzman Institute. I want to tell you that the returning of the סיני is the most insane thing in the

world....Completely insane!"

He then took out a translation of the חומש from a drawer, put it on his desk and continued. "In this book it says that Israel belongs to the Jewish people. If G-d said it, that is good enough for me. No one has the right to give that land back! No one in the world!"

He paused again and said, "Rabbi, I'm going to write a letter about your school to the Building Minister in Paris. He is the one that makes the decisions, not me, but I think everything will be all right. Please give me a call in a week."

A week later the שליח was again sitting opposite Mr Blan waiting to hear the answer. The official just spread a set of blueprints (building plans) on his desk and said. "Do you understand blueprints? This, Rabbi, is your new building! It's yours. See? It's two stories high, and about three thousand meters square. Here I will call my driver and we will drive down to see it. You can move in whenever you want."

The שליח was dumbfounded! A huge building! Completely his! He was expecting only a few rooms. Even more amazing, in France there is a very strict separation of Religion and State. This was probably the first building ever given by the French government to a religious institution!

When the official saw the joy in ר' שמואל's eyes he said, "Rabbi, I want to tell you something. You know why I am doing this? You told me that you were a חסיד, right? Well, I asked one of my friends what a חסיד is and he told me that חסידים are Jews that are always happy. That made me feel good. You know, I know several other religious Jews, but they aren't like you, they always have angry faces, and I hate an angry face!"

ר' שמואל now understood what the Rebbe meant with those exact same words over two years ago.

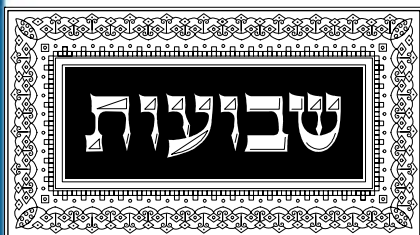
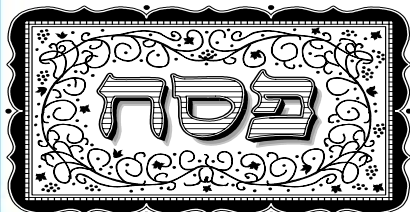
TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

פרשת אמור

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:

Match the name of the יום טוב to the חודש that it's in.



תשרי

ניסן

סיון

הצלחה רבה

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

Last Week's Winners:

Shalom Ferris, age 8 from Berkeley, California

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE















פרשת אמור

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:

Sudoku

Place one of the six pictures connected to ל"ג בעומר into each box so that each row across and each column down and each of the six small six-box squares will contain all six pictures. Remember that each picture may appear only once in any row, column or six-box square.

					
					
					
					
			ל"ג		
					

הצלחה רבה

Name: _____ Age: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Country: _____ E-mail: _____

Last Week's Winners:

Mushka Muller, age 10 from Ilford, Essex UK