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פרשת תזריע-מצורע, ב' אייר תשס"ז
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PARSHAS TAZRIA-METZORAH



Everyone was shaking Uncle Shmuel's hand and wishing him: "Mazel Tov! Mazel Tov!" Avromie was also excited about his new cousin's bris, but he kept thinking about the tiny baby's crying.

"Don't worry about little Meir," Avromie's father calmed him. "He's fine. Just look at him, he's sleeping peacefully now. He even looks like he's smiling in his sleep!"

"I'm not worried, Tatty," replied Avromie. "I was just wondering why Hashem commanded us to have a bris when we're so tiny - only eight days old."

"There is something very special about the number eight....," his father began to explain.

"I know!" interrupted Avromie. "We learned about eight last week in Parshas Shmini. The number seven is a symbol of natural things - like the seven days in a week. The number eight is a symbol of things which are higher than nature."

"Good for you, my little Talmid Chochom," his father complimented him. "And by the way, speaking about the parshah, isn't it interesting that your cousin Meir's bris is taking place during the week in which we read: 'And on the eighth day you shall circumcise....' "

"But still, Tatty, why do we have to have the bris when the baby is so tiny? He doesn't even understand anything. Couldn't we have it when he's eight years old? It would still be connected with the special number eight."

"Actually, Avromie, being eight days old and not understanding much is exactly what the bris is all about."

"What do you mean, Tatty?"

"The bris between Hashem and the Jewish people involves a very deep connection. Our link to Hashem does not depend on what we understand or feel. It comes from our neshamah, which is far above our understanding. Even though there are many things about Hashem that we don't understand, we trust in Him and follow His laws.

"And our connection to Hashem is not just something spiritual; it is a real part of our everyday lives. And so we make a bris with Hashem in our actual flesh. Do you know who was the first Jew to have a bris when he was eight days old?"

"Yitzchak," Avromie answered.

"Good," his father replied. "But Yishmael claimed that he was greater than Yitzchak because he had a bris when he was 13 years old. 'I understood what I was doing and I still agreed to have a bris, while you were only a baby,' Yishmael bragged to Yitzchak.

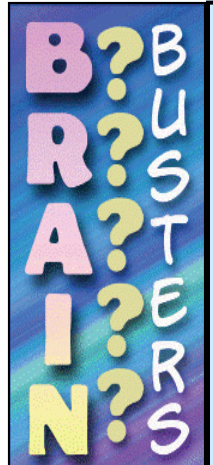
"Yishmael was wrong. Our connection with Hashem is far above understanding, and that is why Yitzchak's bris - and little Meir's and every Jew's - should be performed when he's eight days old."

(Adapted from Likkutei Sichos, Vol. 1)
'The Rebbe Speaks to Children'

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**FOURTH OF SEVEN,
SIXTH OF NINE.**

Please send your answers to connections@shluchim.org

Last weeks' brain buster: The power of miracles

Answer: כ"ח ניסן

Congratulations to Mendel Labkowski, age 9 from London, England
for solving the brain buster.



FROM THE DESK OF DR. GETZEL...

Hey there kinderlach!

This week I tried to do something I've never done before. Not only have I never done it before, I've never even thought of doing this, and if I had thought of doing it, I would haven't even known what I should do. Have I lost you yet?

Maybe I should start from the very beginning. You see the other week I was out on mitzvoyim and I kinda got carried away. You know it happens sometimes that you don't know what the time is and you were busy doing something, and before you know it, it is time to do something else, but since you are so busy doing the first thing you were doing you don't realize that it is already time to be doing the second thing? I mean I'm sure that must have happened to you once or twice. The thing is that it has happened to me one hundred or two hundred times. And that is in a week!

Since Mrs Getzel has been married to me more years than I can remember, she is already used to this small problem I have, and she never lets it bother her. She always has a Plan B ready in case things don't go according to plan. According to Plan A that is. So when Mrs Getzel saw that it was already half an hour after I was supposed to have come home to take her for an appointment and I still hadn't arrived, she called a car service and went herself.

Now that, dear kinderlach is where the problem started. You see I hadn't managed to tell Mrs Getzel yet (I'd forgotten you see) that I'd lost my keys to the house. I had also not managed to find my cell phone since the last time I had lost it (which is why Mrs Getzel hadn't managed to call me to remind me about the appointment). So when I finally remembered that Mrs Getzel was waiting for me (or actually she wasn't), and I went home, I was locked out the house.

As hashgocho protis would have it, I'd never got around to fixing the latch on my office window. Well, I thought to myself, the Omer is supposed to be all about climbing to new levels, so with a bang and a bash and a tumble and a mumble, instead of being locked out of the house, I was locked in my office. Which set me thinking, if it was so easy for me to get into my office, it would be even easier for someone else. After discussing the problem with my good friend, the local Police Chief, I decided to buy, and fit, some locks on the windows. Which may sound easy to you, but let me tell you it wasn't easy for me. Especially since I didn't even know that window locks existed a week ago.

So why did I try it kinderlach? Well as I said, coming as we are from Pesach, and climbing as we are to Shavuot, it is time to try to climb to new levels. Of course mainly in ruchnius, but in other ways too.

Good luck with your climbing, kinderlach!

Dr Getzel

KIDS SPEAK

Where Young Shlichim talk about their Shlichus



**FRAIDY LEVIN, AGE 11
PALO ALTO, CALIFORNIA**

There are 13 children in my family ka'h. Nine are older than me and three are younger than me. My four oldest siblings are married and I have five nieces and nephews ka'h.

I go to Beis Menachem in San Francisco.

Here in Palo Alto it's really nice. The weather is especially nice. It never really gets too cold or too hot.

I go on Mitzvot with my brother almost every Yom Tov. For example, two years ago on Sukkos, I walked about two and a half miles with my brother to shake Lulav and Esrog with people.

We have a Chabad House but it's really small. We have quite a small community and that's probably why I only have one friend here in Palo Alto, although there's no girls my age. Our Chabad House is about 10-15 minutes walk from our house. The Shul also has a really small kitchen and a bathroom.

In my free time, I like to draw and paint. I also like to write stories and poems.

Hey kids!

Send us a report about your shlichus and we will 100% publish it in our future connections!

E-mail us at connections@shluchim.org

Please include your name, age and location of shlichus.

ב' אייר

The fourth Rebbe, ר' שמואל Schneersohn, known as the רבי מהר"ש, was born in the town of Lubavitch on ב' אייר תקצ"ד (1834). His father, the ר' once remarked that צמח צדק's birthday, which falls on the 17th day of the עומר, is described by תפארת שבתפארת as קבלה

the Beauty).

Even though ר' שמואל was the youngest of ר' מנחם's seven sons, he was chosen to become Rebbe after his father passed away. He lived in the town of Lubavitch. Besides leading his חסידים, guiding them and giving them advice in both their lives and גשמיות and רוחניות, רבי מהר"ש travelled a great deal around Europe, meeting with government and business leaders to put pressure on the Czar and the government to stop bringing about pogroms against the Jews of Russia.

The רבי מהר"ש passed away at age 47 on י"ג תשרי (1882). תרמ"ג

תזריע

Having children, which is discussed in this week's פרשה, is one of three very special things. These things are special because they are the only three things which man needs. That ה' Himself looks after and has not given to מלאכים to take care of.

The other two things are rain and תחיית המתים which will happen in the days of גאולה.

מצורע

The מצורע (one who has צרעת) is compared to בני ישראל and the גלות. When he is sent outside the camp, it is compared to בני ישראל being sent into גלות. When he is healed and he returns, it is like תשובה.

The טהור who announces that the מצורע is טהור, is like ה' Who tells us that the time for גאולה has come. He then takes two birds - which stand for משיח בן יוסף and משיח בן דוד, the final משיח. The three species (עץ ארז, and red wool) stand for the אבות. The purification is done with the bird together with the three species - משיח with the אבות. The bird is then set free to fly all over the world, which stands for משיח ruling over the entire world. And the return of the מצורע to the camp stands for the return of בני ישראל to ירושלים and the בית המקדש - may we merit this right NOW!

PIRKEI AVOS POINTERS

פרק שני

In משנה ב' we are told: "עשה רצונו כרצונך" - Fulfil His (ה'') will as you would your own. Why couldn't the משנה just tell us to do ה'') will?

There was once a wealthy father who had an only son whom he loved very much. When he got older he appointed someone to take care of his money and instructed him, "When I die, give my son as much as you want and keep the rest for yourself. When the wealthy father passed away, the greedy man kept 95% for himself and gave 5% to the son. The son was very upset. He couldn't believe that this was really what his father wanted so he took the greedy man to a דין תורה. The רב listened carefully and decided that the man should give 95% to the son and keep only 5% for himself. He ex-

plained, "The father was a very wise man. He said, 'Give my son whatever you want and keep the rest for yourself.' Since you showed that you would really like 95%, that must be the amount that the father wanted you to give to his son."

The משנה is showing us the proper way to behave and tells us that what we actually do for ה' should be the same amount as we would like to do for ourselves. Since we would really like to spend the most money on things that we need and want, we should spend less on ourselves and more on תורה and מצוות. And just like we would work very hard to get something we want, we should put a lot of effort into our רוחניות.

(Adapted from 'Vedibarta Bam')

Stories of the Rabbeim

There was once a rich חסיד of the בעל שם טוב. We will call him ר' יעקב. One day, ר' יעקב was standing before the בעל שם טוב almost in tears.

"I can't understand it" he moaned "Everything I do is failing. I used to have such business sense. It's as though I've been cursed! Has someone cursed me?"

The בעל שם טוב said nothing. ר' יעקב tried to wait but the silence was unbearable. "Every time I make an investment, it fails. Every guess is wrong. I'm losing money left and right! What should I do?!"

The בעל שם טוב looked up at him sadly and said. "Do you have a snuff box?"

"Of course!" he replied as he nervously fumbled in his jacket pocket producing a small, finely decorated, golden box that he proceeded to open.

But the בעל שם טוב paid no attention and continued. "About a half year ago you were sitting in shul with some of your friends. You took that box out and offered them snuff. Do you remember?"

"I... I don't.. that is...almost every day some of us we sit together after שחרית and..."

"Do you remember about a half a year ago that you took out your snuff box and offered everyone to take a bit of snuff but when you saw the Isaac the shul beggar stand up from his seat in the corner and approach to take some, you closed it and put it back in your pocket. Do you remember?"

ר' יעקב was deep in thought. He tried not to remember but suddenly it was clear as day. He didn't want that dirty man to get too close. He looked disgusting.

"Well", concluded the בעל שם טוב "Maybe it meant nothing to you at the time because your success and wealth hardened your heart! But you really shamed that man. So it was decided in heaven that all your money will be taken from you and be given to him!"

ר' יעקב was stunned, he couldn't believe his ears! But it was happening, it was true! He was losing everything so quickly and now that he thought about it, Isaac the beggar seemed to have disappeared. It was a curse all right; but it was he that had cursed himself!!

As if in a dream he looked at the בעל שם טוב and stammered. "Is there any way I can.."

"There is only one way you can get your money back" the בעל שם טוב said. "You have to reverse the process. If you ask him for a pinch of snuff and he refuses you... then he will lose it all, just as you did, and your wealth will return. But if not, everything is lost."

ר' יעקב returned home and within a few weeks he had lost

everything including his house and belongings just as the בעל שם טוב said he would.

He also discovered that that shul beggar had, in fact, miraculously become a rich businessman 'overnight'. He was now making huge investments and was surrounded by some of the wealthiest men in the country.

Several times ר' יעקב considered just going up to him when he left his house in the morning and asking him for snuff, but decided against it. He would wait for a better opportunity.. a time when he was busy.

And finally it came. One morning, on the shul bulletin board was pinned an open invitation to everyone in the city to the wedding of...Mr. Isaac's daughter! It would be in two weeks in the massive town square. This would be the perfect opportunity, ר' יעקב thought.

Two weeks later ר' יעקב was there with a plan that he thought couldn't fail.

The wedding ceremony was just about to begin, the band played serious music and then stopped as the couple stood under the wedding canopy with hundreds of people gathered around. The Rabbi finished all the blessings, the groom broke the glass cup, the band broke into joyous playing and everyone began dancing, shaking the hand of the groom and the father of the bride, slapping them on the shoulders and yelling מזל טוב.

And at that very moment, at the height of the festivities, ר' יעקב ran up to Mr Isaac, tapped him on the shoulder and said "please give me a pinch of snuff!"

Mr. Isaac looked at him strangely, hesitated.. turned back to the person that he had been speaking to. (aha! He was ignoring ר' יעקב!) said 'excuse me' .. turned around, snuff box in hand and offered it!

ר' יעקב fainted. A doctor was called. He was carried to a side room and after a few minutes, Mr. Isaac appeared.

"He'll be alright" said the doctor. "Maybe it was too warm or something."

"But why is he crying?" Mr. Isaac asked.

"I'll tell you why" ר' יעקב replied. "Remember me? I'm the rich man that refused to give you a pinch of snuff months ago in shul and because of that I lost all my riches and you gained them. Well, just now when you didn't act selfishly as I did back then, I lost my only chance to regain my wealth." And he continued crying.

But the story has a happy ending.

When Mr. Isaac heard the story, he calmed ר' יעקב down, invited him to the wedding feast and assured him that he had nothing to cry about. He would provide him with a home and a job for the rest of his life.

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

פרשת תזריע-מצורה

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 up the information about the רבי מהר"ש.

The רבי מהר"ש's name	צמח צדק
The רבי מהר"ש's father	ב' אייר
The רבי מהר"ש's mother	ר' שמואל
The רבי מהר"ש's birthday	י"ג תשרי
The רבי מהר"ש's wife	רביצין רבקה
The רבי מהר"ש's sons	4
The רבי מהר"ש's daughters	רביצין חי'ה מושקא
The יאהרצייט's רבי מהר"ש	2

הצלחה רבה

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

Last Week's Winners:

Yisroel Slonim, age 9 from Vestal, New York









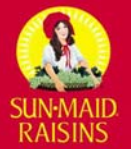



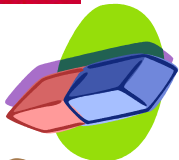
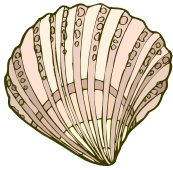



TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

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Level 2:

Using the pictures, figure out the sentence.

	-IMBL		-D		-UMLBEE		-ID
	-I		-CREGISTER		-HMACHINE		
	-W		-AISIS		-MO		-E
	-BUARY		-RAER		-LL		-L
	-CLF		-A+ES				

הצלחה רבה

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

Last Week's Winners:
 Levi Kazilsky, age 11 from Johannesburg, South Africa

Happy Birthday!

חודש אייר

א' אייר

menucha mindel Raskin - Burlington, VT
Chana Wolff - Springfield, MA
Chaya Mushka Hodakov - New Haven, CT
Faiga Chein - Cheadle, Cheshire ENGLAND

ב' אייר

Yisroel Posner - Boston, MA
Avrohom Noach Goldstein - Houston, TX
Leah Katzman - Den Haag, NETHERLANDS
Devora Lea Heintz - Utrecht, NETHERLANDS

ג' אייר

Toby Wilansky - Portland, ME
Aaron Leib Greene - Rochester, MN
Sara Feiga Ehrenreich - Chestnut Ridge, NY
Israel Gerenstadt - S. Paulo, SP BRAZIL

ד' אייר

Sholom Dovber Rivkin - New Orleans, LA
Sheina Mattel Kievman - Liverpool, ENGLAND
Menachem Mendel Karpilovsky - Toronto, ONT CANADA
Beila Feigy Begun - S. Paulo, SP BRAZIL

ה' אייר

Levi Greenberg - Solon, OH
Yosef Katz - Buffalo Grove, IL

ו' אייר

Menachem Mendel Hayman - Phoenix, AZ
Shmuel Dovid Raichik - Gaithersburg, MD
Yisroel Gordon - Charlotte, NC
Schneur Zalman Lifshitz - Boise, ID
Sara Malka Fox - Pretoria, SOUTH AFRICA

ז' אייר

Levi Yitzchok Rosenfeld - Miami Beach, FL
Devora Fogelman - Natick, MA
Mendel Zajac - Auckland, NEW ZEALAND
Shaina Pelman - Guatemala City, GUATEMALA
Yaakov Shmuel Simon - London, ENGLAND
Menuje Migdal - Capital, BS AS ARGENTINA

ח' אייר

Chaya Gurkov - Oceanside, NY
Menachem Mendel Hurwitz - Temecula, CA

ט' אייר

Yosef Yitzchok Fischer - Augusta, GA
Meir Eli Gurevitch - Offenbach, GERMANY

י' אייר

Eliyohu Boruch Simon - London, ENGLAND

יא' אייר

Malky Scheiner - Boulder, CO
Breindel Piekarski - Hamden, CT
Dov Ber Backman - College Park, MD
Rivka Dubov - Princeton, NJ

יב' אייר

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Devorah Leah Greenwald - Duluth, MN
Yehuda Leib Wilansky - Portland, ME
Akiva Mendel Levin - London, ENGLAND

יג' אייר

Sarah Rosenfeld - Zurich, SWITZERLAND
Zelda Yehudis Amar - Pontault Combault, FRANCE

יד' אייר

Geula Benayon - Panama City, PANAMA PANAMA

טו' אייר

Chaya Mushka Green Green - Westborough, MA
Avremie Rapoport - Mequon, WI

טז' אייר

Mendel Richter - Howard Beach, NY

יז' אייר

Menachem Mendel Lipskier - Atlanta, GA
Hillel Kohen - Swampscott, MA

יח' אייר

Chava Eilfort - Carlsbad, CA
Menachem Mendel Ciment - Little Rock, AR
Shraga Feldman - Hurstville, NSW AUSTRALIA

כ"א אייר

Shmaya Hecht - Orange, CT
Yehudis Liba Wilansky - Portland, ME
Doba Gita Alperowitz - Bournemouth, ENGLAND

כ"ג אייר

Mordechai Schusterman - Atlanta, GA
Mordechai Schusterman - Peabody, MA
Mirel Deitsch - Ambler, PA
Chaya Mushka Amar - Pontault Combault, FRANCE

כ"ד אייר

Rochel Leah Schusterman - Peabody, MA
Chaya Mushka Nogradi - Budapest, HUNGARY
Shmuel Yosef Heidingsfeld - Winnipeg, MB CAN-ADA

כ"ה אייר

Reuven Yehuda Mayer - Charlottesville, VA
Fraida Rosenblum - West Orange, NJ
Mushky Kivman - Mansfield, MA
Avraham Heber - Tacoma, WA
Yisroel Fox - Pretoria, SOUTH AFRICA

כ"ז אייר

Breindy Gniwisch - Montreal, QUE CANADA

כ"ז אייר

Levi Teitelbaum - Buenos Aires, CAP. FED ARGENTINA

כ"ז אייר

Sara Schusterman - Atlanta, GA
Shmuel Fried - New York, NY
Michal Meira Bechor - Randolph, NJ
Chaya Mushka Hurwitz - Temecula, CA
Schejna Beila Wilhelm - Oslo, NORWAY

כ"ח אייר

Chana Rochel Gerber - Wynnewood, PA
Mendel Sternberg - New London, CT
Chana Frankforter - Miami Beach, FL
Bluma Esther Rosenfeld - Zurich, SWITZERLAND
Sholom Dovber Glazman - Riga, LATVIA

כ"ט אייר

Sheina Bracha Litvin - Louisville, KY
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