



CONNECTING TZEIREI HASHLUCHIM AROUND THE WORLD!

פרשת בלק, י"ג תמוז תשס"ז
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PARSHAS BALAK



The king was waiting anxiously with a crowd of people. From afar they were able to see a man walking slowly. The man looked strange: he could see with only one eye, and that eye had come out of its socket.

As he began to speak to the king, the crowd of people turned away from him. Some were disappointed, and others were angry. But the man ignored them and continued speaking.

This story repeated itself twice more, soon after. Each time, fewer people came out to see and listen to the strange man, while others even began to mock and laugh at him. The king finally became upset with the man and sent him home in disgrace.

Who was this king and why was he so disappointed?

The king was Balak. He ruled in ancient times, when people believed in magicians and wizards. Balak called the master wizard of his time, Bilaam, to try to curse the Jewish people.

But Bilaam did not curse the Jewish people. Instead, he blessed them with words Hashem put in his mouth. His prophecies contain great blessings for the Jewish people and for the entire world.

Bilaam prophesied about the coming of Moshiach: "I see it, but not now. I can gaze upon it, but it will not be in the near future. A star shall go forth from Yaakov and a staff shall arise in Israel."

The Rambam explains, " 'I see it, but not now,' is

Dovid Hamelech. 'I can gaze upon it, but it will not be in the near future,' is the Melech HaMoshiach. 'A star shall go forth from Yaakov,' is Dovid Hamelech, and 'A staff shall arise in Israel,' is the Melech HaMoshiach."

Why does the prophecy mention Dovid Hamelech together with the Melech HaMoshiach? First of all, to strengthen our faith that Moshiach will come. Dovid Hamelech was born many hundreds of years after Bilaam's prophecy. We have been waiting even longer for Moshiach. However, we can be sure that the second part of the prophecy will be fulfilled, just as the first part happened.

There is also another lesson. Putting the two kings together in the same prophecy shows us that they will do similar things. Dovid Hamelech spread the study of the Torah and the observance of the mitzvos among all the Jewish people. He defeated all their enemies and brought peace to the land. He brought the Aron HaKodesh to Yerushalayim and prepared for the Beis Hamikdosh to be built.

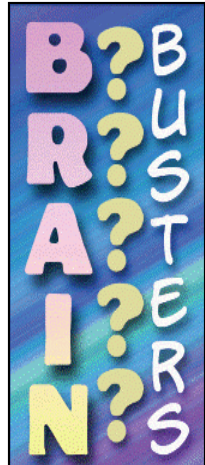
These are the type of things Moshiach will do. Moshiach will bring all the Jewish people to keep the Torah. He will lead them to Eretz Yisrael where they will live in peace. And he will build the Beis Hamikdosh.

(Adapted from Chidushim UBiurim B'shas, Vol. II)
 'The Rebbe Speaks to Children'

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



I END THIS ONE, AND START THE NEXT.

— — — — —

Please send your answers to connections@shluchim.org

Last weeks' brain buster: We begin the same and end 4 apart. To help Yidden I worked hard.

Answer: יוסף יצחק

Congratulations to Elimelech Lasker, age 7.5 from Brussels, Belgium for solving the brain buster.



FROM THE DESK OF DR. GETZEL...

Hi there Young Shluchim!
Well it is that time of year again. The time of year where the sun shines (unless you live in England) and the sky is blue (unless you live in Australia, but I've heard that the sky is blue there even in the winter), and you need to turn your air-conditioner on full blast - if you have an air-conditioner of course.

You see, many, many years ago, before air-conditioners were created, I decided to make my office in the basement of my house out here in the cornfield state of Iowa. I thought it would be quiet, and out of the way, and I'd be able to work in peace. You see I used to have my office upstairs right near the kitchen, but my work was more in pieces than in peace. All the little Getzel'ites and Getzel'niks who were roaming around the house used to love to see what I was doing. And as they would always tell me, 'you look with your hands, not with your eyes!' So we made the big 'move'. Have you ever moved anywhere? I remember moving house as a kid, and boy was that fun. All the boxes to hide in, all the packing paper and tape to play with. I might have only been two and a half years old at the time but I remember it like yesterday. Actually I remember it better than yesterday because I don't even remember what I ate for lunch yesterday!

Well for adults, moving is not so much fun. First of all they have to chase all the children out of the boxes that they are hiding in. Then they need to find all the packing paper and tape that the children were playing with. And then finally they can begin the hard work of packing. And moving. And unpacking. But still, if it wasn't worth it, we wouldn't do it, would we? And so it was, that for a good few years I was finally able to work in peace - and not pieces - in my basement.

The problem with the basement is that there are no windows in it. And so no air-conditioning. And so it would get very hot and stuffy in the summer. In fact it would get so hot and stuffy that I would have had to open the window - if there would have been one! As the years went by, I got more and more stuffy. Not because it was getting hotter outside, but more because my office was getting more and more full! So, with no choice, I decided this week, that it was time to move again! Yup my move downstairs had been a yerida letzorech aliya, because I was now moving all the way upstairs to the very top floor of our house.

As I was busy repacking and unpacking my office, I was thinking about the different places that my work had taken me to, and how the Rebbe teaches us that everywhere we go in this world is by hashgocho protis. The place of shlichus we go to, the house we live in, the street our Beis Chabad is on, is all by hashgocho protis. I guess that the Aibeshter decided that it was time for me to move on from my basement and go onto higher things - to the very top floor of my house.

Anyway kinderlach, that's all for this week. Good luck in your mokom hash-

lichus!
Have a Good Shabbos,

Dr Getzel

KIDS SPEAK

Where Young Shluchim talk about their Shlichus



**SHOLEM SAFO, AGE 11
WESTLAKE VILLAGE, CA**

In my family we have 9 children ka'h. Avremi - 4, Yossi - 6, Shneur - 7, Sholem - 11, Eliyohu - 12, Mendy - 14, Mushka - 16, Lieba - 18, Eli - 19.

I go to Cheder Menachem. I live in Westlake Village, CA. The weather is pretty hot and it is a clean, nice place to live. What I like about my community is that everybody is friendly whether you know them or not.

I help my parents in many ways. When they are not at the Shul, I take care of the Shul together with my siblings.

We have a very nice, big Chabad House. It has a nice size patio that we use on different occasions.

In my free time I like to bike, juggle, play on the computer and use my scooter.

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

Hey kids!

Send us a report about your shlichus and we will 1Y"H publish it in our future connections!

E-mail us at connections@shluchim.org

Please include your name, age and location of shlichus.



י"ב וי"ג תמוז – תג הגאולה

י"ב תמוז



On this day the פריערדיקער רבי was told that his גלות in Kostrama was at an end. On ג' תמוז the פריערדיקער רבי had been sent to Kostrama for three years. When he arrived there, he was ordered to come to the government office every Tuesday. So, on Tuesday, י"ב תמוז the Rebbe, together with the חסיד ר' אליהו חיים, Althaus, came to the office. The officer there greeted the פריערדיקער רבי warmly and told him that he won't have to come to the office any longer because they have received instructions to release the Rebbe.

י"ג תמוז

י"ג תמוז was a public holiday in Kostrama so the פריערדיקער רבי only received his release papers on י"ג תמוז. After the פריערדיקער רבי received his release papers, he held a farbrengen and said a מאמר.

י"ד תמוז

On Thursday, י"ד תמוז the פריערדיקער רבי left Kostrama at ten in the morning.

ט"ו תמוז

The פריערדיקער רבי arrived at his home in Leningrad. The next day, שבת פרשת פנחס he was called to the תורה and benched גומל.

מואב of בלק we read about how King בלק hired the magician בלעם to curse the Jewish people so that מואב would be able to defeat them in battle. Our חכמים tell us that בלעם was also a נביא and used to get messages from ה'. But he used to get his messages from ה' in dreams, at night. They explain that since בלעם did not have a ברית מילה, he was unable to bear the holiness of ה' like the Jewish נביאים. This point is illustrated by the following story:

The Queen of Sheba had heard about the great wisdom of שלמה המלך and decided that she wanted to test his wisdom in a few different ways. She thought up a few different tests and then travelled to ירושלים to meet with the king.

For one of her tests she took along a group of boys some of whom had had a ברית and some hadn't. She asked שלמה המלך to tell her which were circumcised and which were not. שלמה signalled to the כהן to open the doors to the ארון, and half of the boys immediately fell on their faces. שלמה pointed to the boys who had fallen and told the Queen of Sheba 'those boys are not circumcised - they are not able to bear the holiness of ה'.'

(Adapted from 'Days in Chabad')

שבעה עשר בתמוז

שבעה עשר בתמוז is a fast day, when we remember the sad things that happened on this day. We don't eat from 'daybreak' (about an hour before sunrise) until nightfall. We add special תפילות during davening and lein a special part of the תורה.

שבעה עשר בתמוז is also the beginning of The Three Weeks which ends on תשעה באב. We don't make חתונות, take haircuts or do other happy things.

We fast on שבעה עשר בתמוז, to remember five sad things in Jewish history:

1. לוחות משה רבינו broke the first set of.
2. An idol was put in the בית המקדש.
3. The קרבן תמיד was stopped in the Second בית המקדש.
4. The Romans broke the walls of ירושלים leading to the destruction of the Second בית המקדש.
5. Apostomus, a captain in the Roman army, publicly burned a ספר תורה.



DID YOU KNOW?





Stories of the Rabbeim

In Russia there was a small town called 'Sroelov', and the waters of the spring in that town were supposed to have special powers.

רבי ישראל of Ruzhin (who lived about two hundred years ago) once happened to pass through this town, and wondered about its unusual name and its spring.

He asked, but no one knew anything, until finally someone suggested that he ask 'Old Sasha'. Old Sasha was over a hundred years old, and if anyone knew it would be him.

The צדיק found the old man's dilapidated house, knocked on the door, and when he heard a weak answer he entered.

The room was empty except for an extremely old man dressed in a strange fur garment, resting in an old bed in the corner. He was lying on his side facing the entrance, but at the sight of his visitor, his eyes widened in surprise.

He propped himself up on one elbow, squinted to get a better look, and said "Eehh? Oh my!! Your face is like his!!" He was trying to sit up. "Yes, Yes! Just like Sroel's!!"

"Hello my friend! May ה' bless you!" The צדיק said, "Please, you don't have to get up." He pulled up a chair next to the bed. "What can you tell me about the name of this town, and about...."

Sasha was sitting up now, back against the wall "Ahhh! I have waited for this day!!" he said. "Of course I'll tell you everything."

And Old Sasha began his story:

"Over eighty years ago, there were only a

few families here and I used to take care of their sheep. Nothing unusual ever happened, until early one morning the sheep were grazing in a new field, when suddenly I heard this strange splashing sound from the other side of a hill. I climbed to the top of the hill, got down on my stomach, peeked through some bushes, and saw a man bobbing up and down over and over again in a spring. I didn't even know that spring existed, and I certainly had no idea what he was doing in there. But when he came out and got dressed, I got a glimpse of his face and....well it was shining, just like yours.

A little later I saw him sitting far away on a high rock wrapped in some sort of white robe, just his face sticking out, with a small black box tied on his head, swaying, talking and swaying and singing to the sky for hours.

And the next day he did the exact same thing.

The next time I brought the sheep home I asked my uncle Ivan about it, and he told me that this man must be a "Sroel". The priest said they are a lazy and cursed people that refuse to believe in our god, and we should pray for their salvation and keep away from them.

I understood what my uncle said, but it didn't make much sense. This "Sroel" didn't look so lazy or evil to me. In fact he looked like he was working pretty hard, and some times I felt so good when I saw him, that I took out my flute and played a song.

(To be continued next week)



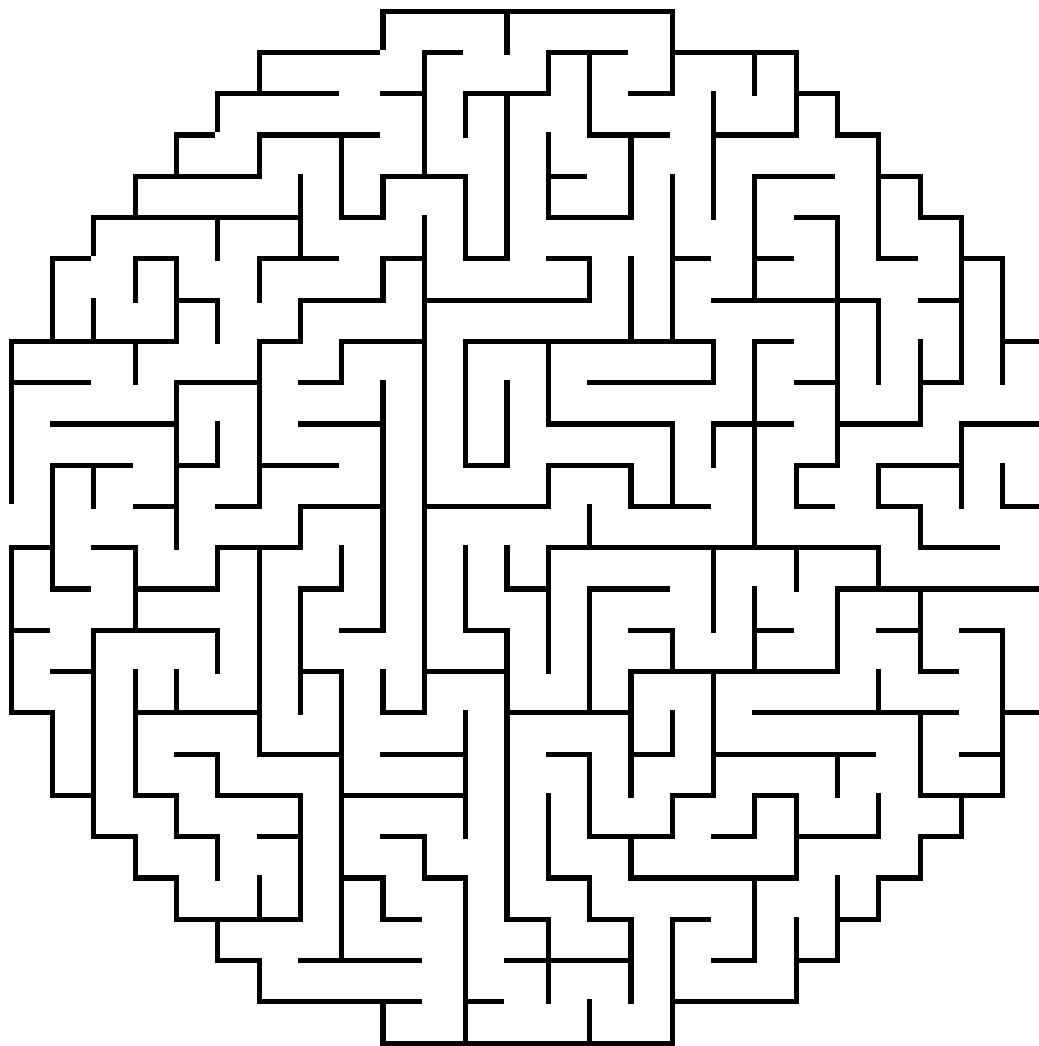
TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

פרישת בלק

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:

Help the פריערדיקער רבי return to his family and חסידים from Kostrama.



הצלחה רבה

Name: _____ Age: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Country: _____ E-mail: _____

Last Week's Winners:

Michal Tenenbaum, age 8 from Caulfield North, Victoria, Australia

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

פרישת בלק

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:

Look at the information about the פריערדיקער רבי and circle the odd one out.

י" שבט

י"ג תמוז

י"ג אלול

ח"י אלול

י"ב תמוז

רביצין חנה

רביצין חי"ה מושקא

רביצין שיינא

רביצין שטערנא שרה

רביצין רבקה

Lubavitch

Malachovka

Riga

Otwock

Odessa

New York

Chicago

Los Angeles

Washington

Lakewood

כפר חב"ד

משרד השלוחים

ניחוח

קהת

מחנה ישראל

קובץ מכתבים

סדר הסליחות

ליקוטי דיבורים

היום יום

ספר הזכרונות

הצלחה רבה

Name: _____ Age: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Country: _____ E-mail: _____

Last Week's Winners:

Chaya Mushka & Sheina Amar, ages 7 & 8 from Pontault—Combault