



פרשת בשלח, י"ד שבט תשס"ז
Volume 3, Issue 16

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PARSHAS BESHALACH



The Jewish people huddled in groups trying to decide what to do. The Egyptian chariots were coming up quickly from behind, and miles of water stretched out ahead. To either side was a barren desert. Some people were very confused and afraid, thinking there was no choice but to return to Mitzrayim. Some people vowed never to return as slaves. "The only way we will face the Egyptians again is in battle. Let's fight them," they cried. Still others argued that they would not stand a chance in war. "We could never win," they moaned. "Let's daven and call to Hashem." The last group of people had a different idea. "Maybe we should throw ourselves into the water. It would be better to give up our lives rather than fall into the hands of the Egyptians." There was one man who was not part of any of these groups. He didn't think this was a time for debating. His name was Nachshon Ben Aminodov. He just went ahead and did what he knew was the right thing. He jumped right into the water. He wasn't thinking of giving up his life. There was something completely different on his mind. "Hashem said we came out of Mitzrayim to receive the Torah on Har Sinai - then that is exactly where we are supposed to go," thought Nachshon. "Going back to Mitzrayim or even davening to Hashem will not bring us closer to Har Sinai. Forward towards Har Sinai is the right direction, and that's where I'm going.

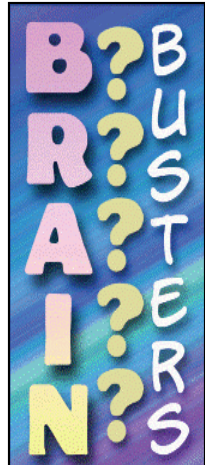
There is water in the way? It doesn't matter - it's the right direction and will bring me one step closer to Har Sinai, where Hashem wants me to be." Now Nachshon didn't know that a miracle would occur. And it didn't happen right away. The water was knee deep, but he went on. The water reached his thighs, but he kept moving. The water came right up to his neck, but he didn't turn back. Then, all at once, the waters split and he found himself on dry land. How could he have been sure that it was right to plunge into the sea? Nachshon knew about mesirus nefesh, giving up your life. But not every situation demands that a person give up his or her life. How did Nachshon know that he was right? He didn't! Neither did those who were trying to decide the proper thing to do. That's why they were debating. But Nachshon didn't debate. He was not thinking about mesirus nefesh at all! He was thinking about one thing: what Hashem had told the Jewish people. We have been given the promise: *הגיע זמן גאולתכם*. "The time of your Redemption has arrived." We know where we're going and we are pushing on in that direction. Even if it seems that some things are blocking our way, we're following Nachshon's example and heading straight towards Geulah, regardless of the obstacles.

(Adapted from Likkutei Sichos, Vol. I & Vol. III)
 'Please Tell Me What the Rebbe Said'

WITH MANY THANKS TO OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS:

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 Mr. Yochanan and Mrs. Peri Brook
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**I START SECOND,
 I END WET.**

Please send your answers to connections@shluchim.org

Last weeks' brain buster: I made a lot of damage, that's 4 sure!

Answer: ארבה

Congratulations to Chaya Mushka Weiss, age 11 from Miami Lakes, Florida for solving the brain buster.



FROM THE DESK OF DR. GETZEL...

Hi there my favourite young Shluchim!

BANG, SQUISH, CRUNCH! SPLASH, SMASH, CRASH!

Yup, I'm back to work again, doing what I do best. Well, what I am supposed to do best anyway. I mean what other people think I do best. Sometimes I wonder if that means that this is the best thing I do, or the thing I do best. Either way I don't really agree, because if we are talking about the thing I do best, then I would definitely be happier if it was something really important like writing my weekly column for Connections, or making potato latkes for Chanukah. And if we are talking about the best thing that I do, I would be much happier if people talked about the mitvzoyim I do or the shiurim I give.

But of course that is neither here nor there, because whenever anyone mentions the name 'Dr Getzel' they straight away think of the Expert Lens-Making and Seeing Professor Dr Getzel. And so that is what I have been busy doing this past week - making a new lens.

It has been quite a while since I have made any new lenses, and I think the University where I work had been starting to worry why they pay me so much money. Not that they pay me very much, but they thought they paid me a lot, and they wanted to see some value for their money.

So as I do whenever it is time to make a new lens, I sat down and opened a Chitas for some inspiration. It wasn't long before it hit me! This week is Parshas Beshalach! Kriyas Yam Suf! Did you know that at Kriyas Yam Suf the Yidden actually got to see Hashem! Yup they could actually point with their fingers and say 'This is my G-d!' In fact we are told that even the Nevi'im who Hashem spoke to, did not get to see Hashem in the same way that the lowest person at Kriyas Yam Suf did!

Now imagine if I could make a lens that would make me able to see Hashem in such an amazing way. It would be the best lens that I had ever made. Millions of people would start to believe in Hashem, the non-Jews would start to keep the Sheva Mitzvos Bnei Noach. Because right now unfortunately lots of people don't believe in Hashem yet. Actually that reminds me of a really funny story that my Feter Shmuel used to tell me from back when he used to live in Communist Russia.

My Feter Shmuel had to spend a few weeks in a Communist school until his parents managed to find a way to hide him from the Russians. One day when he was sitting in class, the teacher was trying to convince the children that they really were wasting their time believing in Hashem, and he didn't really exist. 'After all', said the teacher, 'can you see Hashem? If you can't see Him, he can't exist.'

Well my Feter Shmuel was quite a clever boy, and a bit chutzpadik too, and before you could say 'Moshiach Now!' he jumped up and said, 'Can anyone see the teachers' brain? Must be it doesn't exist!' I'll leave you to imagine what happened next...

Now just imagine if I could make a lens that everyone could see Hashem! It would be amazing! Moshiach Tzeiten!

Tune in next week to see how my lens turned out!



**RAIZEL SCHAPIRO, AGE 10
SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA**

In my family there are 7 kids KA"H. Their names are: Peretz who is 16, Yossi who is 15, Mendy who is 12, Raizel (me), Chaya who is 7, Rivka who is 4 and Chana who is 1.

The school I go to is called Kesser Torah College and I really like it there because of my friends, teachers and how I learn.

Now in Australia it's summer. The weather here is usually warm but sometimes it gets windy. I like living here because of its nature and the people around me. The people have Ahavas Yisroel and they are very good friends to be with.

I like to help girls my age learn Parsha and many other things. One of the girls I like to help is very close to me and she has become a good friend of mine. I don't do this because anyone wants me to but I do this to help, be a proper Shliach and teach younger kids how to serve Hashem how He wants them to.

The Chabad House we have here is not so big. It has a cheder that teaches young children how to read the aleph bais and things like that. They get their own little siddur when they reach a certain stage of reading. When I have free time I like to read, review Chumash and play with my sisters. Sometimes I read stories to them or teach them the week's parsha.

Hey kids!

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



POCKET CALENDAR



Moshiach in the PARSHA

שבת שירה

If you go to shul on שבת, you can watch the תורה being taken out. You would probably have a chance to go up to the תורה and give it a kiss. Every שבת, the תורה is taken out, and a part of it is read. Throughout the course of the year, the entire תורה is read.

After ה' took the Jewish people out of מצרים, פרעה regretted letting them go. He gathered his men and chased after them. The Jewish people reached the ים סוף, and they had nowhere to go; the water was in front of them and פרעה's army was behind them. ה' made a miracle and split the waters, giving them dry land to walk on. As soon as the Jews got across, ה' made the waters go back, drowning the מצריים.

When the Jewish people got across and were safe, they sang a song to ה' thanking and praising Him for the miracles. The song is written in the פרשה of בשלח, in the ספר of שמות. The שבת on which this פרשה is read always falls out during the month of שבט. This שבת is called שבת שירה - the שבת of song.



After קריאת ים סוף, and משה and the men finished singing praises to ה', מרים and the women also sang praises. But the women added something over the men; they accompanied their singing with musical instruments. But where did they get musical instruments from in the middle of the desert?

רש"י explains that even before they left מצרים the women were sure that ה' would make miracles for them in the desert. They therefore brought the instruments with them. This is done by the truly righteous: their faith in ה' is so complete that they praise Him for His ניסים even before He does them!

From this we see the greatness of the Jewish women in מצרים, and can understand why it was, "בזכות נשים" - "In the merit of the righteous women our fathers were redeemed from מצרים." So too when we are told that משיח is coming any minute, we should praise ה' for the ניסים He will make!

This שבת is בשבט ט"ו, the ראש השנה for the trees. What is the connection between us and trees. The תורה compares a person to a tree. It says "כי האדם עץ השדה". How is a person like a tree? A tree does not walk or talk, and a person is not planted in the ground.

A tree has three parts - roots, trunk, and fruit. Each of these parts has a job. People also have these jobs to do, and we can learn how to do them from the tree.

1. Roots-Nobody can see the roots of a tree. They grow underground, and are not very pretty. But the way the entire tree grows depends on the roots. A tree can only survive if it has strong roots; if the roots are not strong enough, the tree cannot stand.

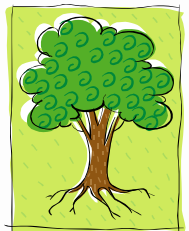
Our belief in ה' is our roots. If we believe in ה', then we will do what ה' wants. Everything that we do will be a result of this belief, and we will only want to do good things.

2. Trunk-The trunk of a tree holds the entire tree up. A tree with a healthy trunk stands up straight and tall. People from all over can see and admire this beautiful tree.

We must stand up straight and tall and proud just like this tree. We are proud to be אידן; we are so lucky to have been chosen by ה'. We should let everyone know about this. They will all realize how beautiful our way of life truly is.

3. Fruit-What use would a tree be if nobody else could benefit from it? The tree wants to help others, to give to others. So the tree grows delicious fruits which people can eat. There are seeds in these fruits. These seeds are used to plant new trees, making sure that we will always have trees and fruits to eat.

Our good deeds are our fruits. When we help another person or do a מצוה, we are sharing what we have. We can even influence another person to start acting better. This way we are planting our seeds and growing new, strong trees.



DID YOU KNOW?



Stories of the Rabbeim

This story begins with a פארברענגען of the חסידים of the פריערדיקער רבי in France shortly before WWII. The פריערדיקער רבי's son-in-law (who in another ten years would become the next Rebbe) was also there and he was the main speaker, but some of the other חסידים also spoke.

One of them told of an amazing נס that happened to him two years earlier. After almost being killed the פריערדיקער רבי had to leave Russia and move to Poland and many חסידים moved there to be with him. But while he was there the פריערדיקער רבי told many of them to leave Poland and settle in other countries, for instance the חסיד telling the story was one of a group of five people that the פריערדיקער רבי told to go to France.

Now back in those days this was not easy at all; they had several borders to cross through, including Germany which was already known to be evil, and to make matters worse one of them had an non-valid passport and there was no time to get a new one; the פריערדיקער רבי told them to leave immediately.

On the trains, one of them would lie on the bench and the other four would sit on him, covering him with their long winter coats to avoid the passport checks. And they even managed somehow to pass all the other borders. But the check post at the German border was especially dangerous, especially for אידן, and for אידן with no passports it was almost suicide.

They decided on a plan, but as they got near to the front of the line they heard shouting and screaming from inside the inspection center, then a pistol shot followed by a moan and silence. They tried to look as confident as possible but were really trembling inside, if it wasn't for the פריערדיקער רבי's ברכה they would all have turned back and returned to Poland on the spot.

But to their amazement when the first חסיד got to the window, the official snatched his passport from his hand and stamped it without asking questions! And so he did to the second. Then he began talking on the phone and stamped the remaining three passports

without even looking at them! But their problems were far from over; the place was full of mean policemen and soldiers checking and rechecking everything and everyone that moved but strangely the police paid no attention to them! They walked through the station unnoticed, as though they were invisible, caught a taxi, and left. Half an hour later they were in a telegraph office sending a message back to the פריערדיקער רבי ... they were free! It was a נס!!

The פריערדיקער רבי's son-in-law listened carefully to the story. When it was finished he asked for the exact date and time of the נס and when he heard the answer he smiled and said, "Now I understand something that was a mystery to me these last two years.

"The Rebbe, my father-in-law, had to have a nurse come in every day and give him an injection because of his health.

"One day the nurse came in and saw a frightening sight: the Rebbe was sitting rigidly in his chair, eyes slightly open and completely unresponsive. She was sure that he was having an attack of some sort, and immediately called someone from the Rebbe's family and then before they called a doctor they called for me.

"When I entered I also was shocked at first, but then I noticed something that made me realize that there was nothing to worry about; it was almost unnoticeable but the Rebbe's lips were moving, he was saying or reciting something!

"I bent down and listened and then straightened up and announced that there was, in fact, nothing to worry about ...the Rebbe was saying "אזו ישיר משה." After ten minutes the Rebbe opened his eyes and returned to normal.

"I never asked the Rebbe for an explanation but now I have it. It was the exact same time that your נס was occurring. The Rebbe was passing you all through the German inspection like משה passed the אידן through the ים סוף!

That is the job of a Rebbe; to help free אידן.

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE


















פרשת בשלח

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 I:

Figure out the code and write out the פסוקים.

They are connected to ט"ו בשבט.

כ/ך	י	ט	ח	ז	ו	ה	ד	ג	ב	א
										
ת	ש	ר	ק	צ/ץ	פ/ף	ע	ס	נ/ן	מ/ם	ל
										



הצלחה רבה

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

Last Week's Winners:

Mushky Kivman, age 7 from Milford, Massachusetts &
 Mendel Benjaminson, age 6 from Glenview, IL

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

פרשת בשלח

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:

All the words below are connected to food. Find a word that will complete the first word and start the second word.

Pearl Barley Soup

Wild _____ Sauce

Dough _____ Shell

Cooking _____ Pie

Grape _____ Salad

Sweet _____ Peel

Red _____ Pit

Jaffa _____ Juice

Olive _____ Field

Date _____ Tree

הצלחה רבה

Name: _____ Age: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Country: _____ E-mail: _____