



A project of The Shluchim Office

CONNECTING TZEIREI HASHLUCHIM AROUND THE WORLD!

פרשת כי תשא, י"ט אדר תשס"ג
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A project of CHINUCH YALDEI HASHLUCHIM a division of The Shluchim Office
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PARSHAS KI SISA



This week's parshah begins with the mitzvah of machatzis hashekel. Hashem tells Moshe to count the Jewish people, but not to count them one by one. Instead, everyone over the age of twenty had to bring a half-shekel. Then all the shekalim would be counted and in that way, Moshe would know the number of the people. Later, the money was used to purchase the animals offered as korbanos.

But giving the machatzis hashekel was not just to figure out the number of the Jewish people. Hashem tells Moshe that the machatzis hashekel was kofer nefesh. Kofer is the shoresh of the word kapporah. When we do kapporos on Erev Yom Kippur, we are telling Hashem that we are truly sorry for what we have done. We know that we ourselves should be punished for the things we did wrong. But we take a chicken instead and it is our kapporah - our atonement for our avairos.

The machatzis hashekel which the Jewish people were commanded to give was also like kapporos. The pasuk says: "This is what they should give." The Midrash tells us that the word "this" teaches us that Hashem actually showed Moshe a half-shekel formed of fire and said: "Here, this is what I mean by a half-shekel."

The Midrash tells us that Moshe found it hard to understand the mitzvah of machatzis hashekel, so Hashem showed him the fiery coin.

We have other examples where Moshe Rabbeinu was

shown things by Hashem so he would know exactly what Hashem meant. Hashem showed him the menorah, because it was a very complicated keili to build. And Hashem showed him the shape of the moon as it appears on the night of Rosh Chodesh, so that the Jews would know how to fix the calendar.

But what's so hard to understand about a half-shekel? It's a simple coin. Couldn't Moshe Rabbeinu have known what a half-shekel looked like without Hashem showing him?

And if Hashem had to show him, why did He show him a fiery coin and not a regular one?

The answer is that surely Moshe Rabbeinu knew what a half-shekel was. But he could not understand how this coin, a small amount of money, could be kofer nefesh - an atonement for wrongdoing - even for such deeds that a person deserved to have his nefesh taken away.

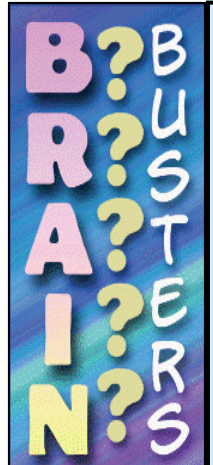
So Hashem showed him a fiery coin. Hashem taught Moshe that when a Jew takes his money and gives it for a holy purpose - to bring the korbanos, support Torah study, or help a poor person - and he gives it wholeheartedly with joy and excitement, a simple coin becomes a coin of fire. Then that fiery enthusiasm connects the money to the fire he has in his neshamah. Giving the money for tzedakah now becomes so powerful that it can be kofer nefesh - an atonement for his avairos.

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

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



RED AND UNEMPLOYED

Please send your answers to connections@shluchim.org

Last weeks' brain buster: Without my head, I'm my father's son,
Without my tail, I'm my son's father.

Answer: יצח

Congratulations to Shea Kaltmann, age 9 from Columbus, Ohio
for solving the brain buster.



FROM THE DESK OF DR. GETZEL...

KIDS SPEAK

Where Young Shluchim talk about their Shlichus

Hi there little ones,
Well, as (sometimes) happens, I was running a bit late with my column this week, and the Shluchim Office was not too happy. I was sure that by now they would understand that Dr Getzel's column is always ready on time, even if it is a few days late. I tried telling them that getting upset that the column is late doesn't help, but for some reason they still got upset! Go figure! It is a good thing there is no other Dr Getzel to write the column for them, otherwise I might be out of a job. And then I'd miss all those yummy mishloach monos fruit baskets that I got this Purim. Thank you to everyone who sent them in through the Shluchim Office!

So, there I was, having just hung up the phone with Ms Plonis Almonis from the Shluchim Office for the third time this week, and I knew that I really needed to come up with something quick otherwise I may be out of a job whether there was another Dr Getzel or not! Of course I hadn't told Ms Almonis the real reason that I hadn't sent in my column yet (I hope she isn't reading this!) - I didn't have any ideas about what to write about. My mind was a blank. Empty! Totally and absolutely bare! I mean if Ms Almonis would have known that, I'd be out of a job quicker than you can say, 'next week's column is going to be written by Dr Pretzel!' Which actually takes a few seconds to say, but still, it is a lot shorter than the three years that I've been writing for Connections.

It was at this moment that my Super-duper Extra-large Automatically Updating Yiddishe Sun/Moon Calendar caught my eye. I think I've told you about my calendar before. I invented it a few years ago in the Chassidische Scientist Summer Camp. You see, as you might remember, I've always had problems remembering things. I think it is partly because I am a scientist, partly because the name Getzel rhymes with forgetful (although of course there are plenty of non-forgetful Getzels too), and partly just because that's the way the Aibeshter made me. So after forgetting some really important things, which I'm not going to tell you because I don't want to embarrass myself, I came up with the idea of making a Super-duper Extra-large Automatically Updating Yiddishe Sun/Moon Calendar. So now instead of remembering lots of different things, all I need to do is remember this calendar.

Anyway, like I was saying, my calendar caught my eye. And a light went on in my head. It was that special flash that I get before I start my column every week. My good, reliable friend Chochmah was back! This week is the Rebbetzin's birthday! But I am out of time already. I promised Ms Almonis to have the column in within an hour. Never mind, knowing the great job that the Shluchim Office do, they for sure wrote lots of interesting things about the Rebbetzin in this weeks Connections anyway.

Have a great Shabbos and see you next week!



CHANA PIEKARSKI, AGE 7
HAMDEN, CONNECTICUT

I was born on Vav Tishrei and that's why my name is Chana. There are 5 kids Ka"n in my family. I have 1 older sister named Chaya Mushka, two older brothers named Yechiel Michel and Moshe Yitzchok and a younger sister named Breindel. I go to Southern Connecticut Hebrew Academy. I live in Hamden, CT and our Chabad House is in our house. The Friediker Rebbe sent my great-grandfather Rabbi Moshe Yitzchok Hecht to New Haven to build the school that I go to. Rebbetzin Chaya Mushka even came to visit the school when they were building it!

I like to bake cakes for the kiddush and I help serve the food to our guests. I also play games with the children that come to our Minyan so their parents can daven.

Right now the Chabad House is in our house, but I'm very excited that we just rented a store for our Chabad House. We have lots of shiurim, a minyan and my mother has fun programs. I especially love when she gives a baking class, and I get the leftovers!

In my free time, I love to read!!! I also like to cook and bake. In my house, the CYH Chassidische calendar hangs in my room.

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

כ"ה אדר



was born on תרס"א in the year כ"ה אדר, שבת (1901). She was born in the town of Babinovitch which is near the town of Lubavitch.

In a שיחה that the Rebbe said on

on the 87th birthday of רביצין, כ"ה אדר תשמ"ח which was just about one month after she passed away, the Rebbe began מבצע יום מצוה. The Rebbe asked that people should celebrate their birthdays and use the day to make a חשבון הנפש and make מצוות to add in החלטות.



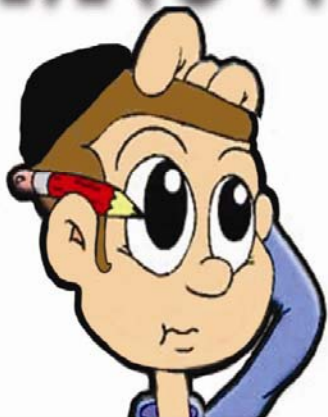
The שמן המשחה, the special oil that was used to anoint the כהנים גדולים and the Kings of the House of דוד was prepared in this week's פרשה. משה רבינו prepared only 12 Lug (about 2 gallons - equivalent to about 8 bottles of soda) of this oil. Miraculously it was enough for all past generations and all future generations. It was still used in the second בית המקדש, and was hidden when the בית המקדש was destroyed. When משיח is revealed, it will be returned to us.



In this week's פרשה, משה asked to see ה' full glory. But ה' answered, "No human can see me and still live!" But in תהילים, דוד המלך said he will be able to see ה'! How could this be?

The answer is that until the גאולה comes, people can not see ה' and still live. But later, when there is תחיית המתים and the dead come back to life, we will see ה', so to speak. We are told that we will see ה' with our eyes (although now we don't know what this means) and we will say, "This is our G-d".

DID YOU KNOW?



The special מצוה of פרשת פרה is connected to the מצוה for every Jew to become טהור. On פרשת פרה a second ספר תורה is taken out and פסוקים talking about the אדומה and the מצוה to become טהור are read. פרשת פרה is always on the שבת before החודש. פרשת פרה is read at this time to remind people to become טהור in time to be able to bring the קרבן פסח before פסח.

A טמא is someone who touched or was under the same roof as the dead body of an איד. A טמא remains טמא until he is מטהר himself following the instructions in the תורה. A טמא may not enter the area of the המקדש and may not eat or touch קרבנות. So, a טמא cannot fulfill the מצוה of פסח קרבן פסח.

A טמא becomes טהור by being sprinkled with ashes of the אדומה. He also must טובל himself in a kosher מקוה.

A אדומה must be a perfectly red cow with no more than one hair of another color. In addition the אדומה is only kosher if it has never done any work. The ashes of the אדומה were mixed with מים חיים - spring water and used to sprinkle on the טמא.

Sprinkling the אדומה water on the טמא made the טמא become טהור. The מצוה of אדומה is considered a חוק - a מצוה we don't understand.

There were only 9 אדומות made from the time of רבינו משה until after the 2nd בית המקדש. The 10th אדומה will be brought by משיח.

Today we fulfill the מצוה of אדומה by reading the פסוקים in the תורה that deal with אדומה and by learning the הלכות of אדומה.





Stories of Olde

In the small town of Tschortkow in Poland there lived a **ר' הרשלע Tchortkover** and **תלמיד חכם** called צדיק.

He was busy night and day, for he never refused to help those who needed him. Some people asked for his advice; others his **ברכה**. And then there were the poor widows, orphans, sick people, and old people who needed money for their daily bread. He was always collecting money for those who were unable to help themselves.

One day **ר' הרשלע Tchortkover** decided that he needed an assistant, for there was too much work for him to do alone. So he hired a **שמש** to help him with his responsibilities. **אנשל משה Rothschild**, who was then a poor young man, was happy to accept this job. The Rabbi and the **שמש** became very close friends.

But, after a few years, **אנשל משה** decided to get married. He went to live in the nearby town of Sniatyn, where his father-in-law opened a store for him. The Rabbi was happy about the marriage, but he was sad to see his **שמש** leave, for he had been a good and devoted assistant.

Several months later, on the night before **פסח** when **בדיקת חמץ** is done in all Jewish homes, a terrible thing happened. **ר' הרשלע Tchortkover** was checking the drawers in his desk, when he discovered that his purse with five hundred gold coins was missing! That was money that had been collected to help orphans, widows and others in need.

The Rabbi pulled out the entire drawer and checked the desk more carefully. Then he pulled out the rest of the drawers to search them again. He looked under the desk and behind the desk, but the purse was not to be found. The Rabbi's heart was filled with pain. It took a long time to collect all that money, and now he had no way of helping unfortunate, helpless poor people.

Then he began to feel even more sad, for he suddenly realized that the only one who had known about the purse was **אנשל משה**. The Rabbi had always trusted him; but who else could have taken the money? There was no other explanation.

Yet the Rabbi found it hard to believe that **אנשל משה** might be a thief. Perhaps, thought the Rabbi, there was an explanation for the whole thing. Maybe **אנשל משה** had

borrowed the money when he went to Sniatyn to get married. Maybe he was already planning to return it? The Rabbi decided not to tell anyone about the missing money. He did not want to embarrass **אנשל משה**, or let people know that he even suspected him. He decided to travel to Sniatyn to discuss the matter with **אנשל משה** and give him an opportunity to explain what happened.

Immediately after the **יום טוב**, the Rabbi hired a wagon and went to visit **אנשל משה**. **אנשל משה** was very pleased to have such an honored visitor. Then the Rabbi told him the reason for his visit. The Rabbi said that he was sure **אנשל משה** had only meant to borrow the money, and he was sure would return it now. **ה'** would forgive him for his **עבירה**, and no one would ever know about it. If it had been his own money, the Rabbi said, he would not have been so concerned, but this was money collected for people who otherwise might starve **חס ושלום**. And he himself had little money, so the stolen money had to be found immediately.

As the Rabbi spoke, **אנשל משה** grew pale and frightened, and his eyes filled with tears. He went to his money-box, emptied it, and without a word gave all the money to the Rabbi. The money was counted, but it was only half of the total sum. With deep regret, **אנשל משה** promised to give the rest of the money to the Rabbi as quickly as possible.

The Rabbi was both relieved and saddened. **אנשל משה** had not said word about why he had done such a thing. He had offered no excuses for his behaviour. The tears in his eyes were proof of his shame and guilt. That made the Rabbi sad. He was happy, however, that **אנשל משה** had realized his mistake and was returning the money.

The Rabbi thanked **אנשל משה**. They shook hands and embraced, and the Rabbi said that everything was forgiven and forgotten.

During the next few months, **אנשל משה** worked longer hours than ever and saved his money carefully to repay the Rabbi. The Rabbi realized that **אנשל משה** was an honest and fine young man who had indeed deserved his trust and respect. **אנשל משה** had made a mistake, but he was eager to fix it.

(To be continued)

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

פרשת כי תשא

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:

Hidden in the word search are ten מנהגי יום הולדת. Can you find them?

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

חשבון הנפש

החלטה

שהחיינו

מאמר

עלייה

צדקה

כוונה

תהלים

תורה

אהבת ישראל

הצלחה רבה

Name: _____ Age: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Country: _____ E-mail: _____

Last Week's Winners:

Yisrolik Baumgarten, age 6 from Rockaway, New Jersey



HAPPY BIRTHDAY REBBE! NACHAS FROM AROUND THE WORLD!

In honor of this upcoming Yud Alef Nissan, we are putting together a special video presentation that will I"YH be featured on the YUD ALEF NISSAN RALLY!

The video is called: **"HAPPY BIRTHDAY REBBE- NACHAS FROM AROUND THE WORLD"** and it will be featuring Young Shluchim from all over the world in action - making the Rebbe proud!

*Please note: most digital cameras have a video option. You can take a video with your digital camera and e-mail the video clip.

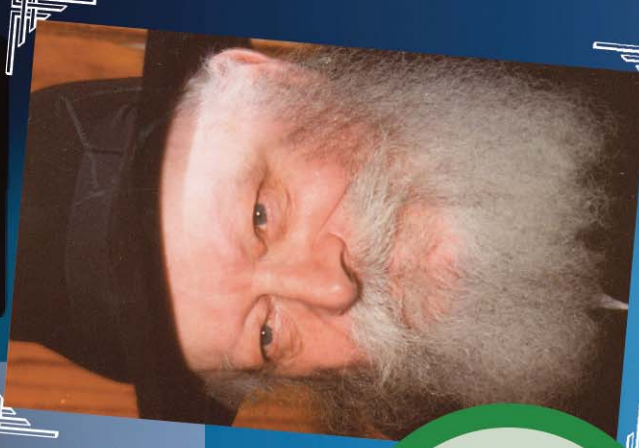
Take a video of the following:

1. How I participate in my Shlichus

2. My Yud Alef Nissan Hachlata

3. What I do to make the Rebbe proud

4. About my family's Shlichus



Make sure that the video (3 min max.) is e-mailed to us by Tuesday, Rosh Chodesh Nissan, March 20 - the latest.

You can also mail the footage to The Shluchim Office:
816 Eastern Parkway, Brooklyn, NY 11213