



A project of
The Shluchim Office

פרשת שמות, כ"ב טבת תשס"ז
Volume 3, Issue 13

A project of CHINUCH YALDEI HASHLUCHIM a division of The Shluchim Office
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PARSHAS SHEMOS



Many children like to sing the song Ani Ma'amin. Yidden all over the world sing this song often, because believing in Hashem comes naturally to us. Our Chachomim call the Jewish people "believers - the children of believers."

So doesn't it seem strange that at the end of this week's parshah we read how Moshe Rabbeinu cries out to Hashem: "Why have You made things worse for this people?" When Moshe demanded that Pharaoh free the Jews, Pharaoh didn't listen. Instead, he made them work even harder, and ordered his officers to beat them. Moshe was troubled. Hashem had promised to bring the geulah, but things got worse instead of getting better. And so he asked Hashem this question.

But Jewish people believe in Hashem. Especially Moshe Rabbeinu. Hashem Himself describes Moshe as being the "most trusting of all." Moshe was certainly not asking this question out of a lack of Emunah and Bitachon.

Then how can we understand Moshe's question? Moshe Rabbeinu was chosen by Hashem to give the Torah to the Yidden. Torah is the chochma of Hashem. Hashem wants us not only to believe in Him, but also to know and to understand. This was Moshe's mission: to bring this chochma down to the Jewish people so that they could study and through their study, they would understand.

Moshe Rabbeinu was not missing in his emunah when he asked Hashem why things had gotten worse. Of

course, he believed and trusted in Hashem, but he couldn't understand why things got worse. He knew that this was his mission: to teach the people to understand what they believed in. So he asked Hashem to explain. And indeed, in the next parshah, Hashem gives him an answer, promising to take the Jewish people out of Egypt. Hashem said He would perform many miracles so that the people would see how right it is to trust Him.

It is no coincidence that the Alter Rebbe, founder of Chassidus Chabad, passed away on Motzoei Shabbos, Parshas Shemos. The Alter Rebbe's mission was to explain Chassidus so that people could understand. That is why he wrote the Tanya.

When Rebbe Levi Yitzchak of Berditchev first saw the Tanya, he marveled and exclaimed: "The Alter Rebbe has taken a big G-d and put Him into a small book!" Rebbe Levi Yitzchak was amazed at how the Alter Rebbe could explain the deep secrets of Chassidus in words that ordinary people could understand.

Hashem answered Moshe by promising to bring the geulah from galus Mitzrayim. So too, the spreading of chassidus will bring the geulah today. As the Baal Shem Tov was promised:

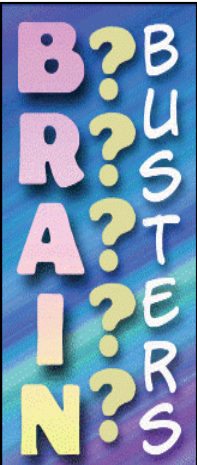
"אמתי קאתי מר, לבשיפוצו מעינתך חוצה" - "When will Moshiach come? When the wellsprings of your teachings will spread outward."

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

WITH MANY THANKS TO OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS:

Chinuch Yaldei Hashluchim:
Rabbi Kasriel and Mrs. Chana E. Shemtov

Connections:
Mr. Yochanan and Mrs. Peri Brook
Mr. Zalman and Mrs. Raizy Cousin



FROM 40 TO 40 IS A TIGHT SQUEEZE.

Please send your answers to connections@shluchim.org

Last weeks' brain buster: later but earlier. Who was my famous 'son'?

Answer: ידושע

~~~~~

Congratulations to Levi Yitzchok Pevzner, Age 10 Geneva, Switzerland  
for solving the brain buster.



# FROM THE DESK OF DR. GETZEL...

Hey there kinderlach!

Wow, what a busy start of a week this has been. And Boruch Hashem, only simchas! The phone hasn't stopped ringing with good news! At last count, I had two new einaklach, a new cousin and the Judge had cancelled the speeding ticket that I got on the way to mitvzoyim. You see I promised him I'd never speed again, because I realise how dangerous it is, and as even Judge Thompson knows, a chossid always tells the truth!

But all that means is, that it is already Thursday and I haven't invented any new lenses, and more importantly, I haven't written my column for next weeks' Connections newsletter. 'Next week,' I hear you ask, 'doesn't that mean there is still a whole week for it to get done?' Well actually not. You see on some special occasions like the Kinus Hashluchim, or things like that, the Connection's Editor agrees to wait a bit so I can tell everyone what I've been up to, but normally, my column has to be in very early, because there is still so much that needs to be done till the Connections gets sent out to you. It needs to be edited and formatted, and emailed to the proofreaders, and proofread, and emailed back to the editor and corrected, and emailed to the Shluchim Office and uploaded on shluchimkids.org and emailed out to all the Shluchim around the world. Now that may not sound like a lot to you, but it sure takes a long time to do. In fact normally the Chinuch Yaldei Hashluchim division of the Shluchim Office starts working on a Connections two weeks (!) before it gets sent out to you.

I know all this you see, because if I am ever more than a couple of days late sending in my column I get a call from Head Office. It always sounds the same – it goes something like this:

'Hi there Dr Getzel, this is Mrs..... calling from the Shluchim Office.'

'Oh hi there, don't tell me I forgot again!' I answer.

'Well, I don't know if you forgot or not Dr Getzel, but it is already Tuesday afternoon, and the Connections still needs to be needs to be edited and formatted, and emailed to the proofreaders, and proofread, and emailed back to the editor and corrected, and emailed to the Shluchim Office and uploaded on shluchimkids.org and emailed out to all the Shluchim around the world. Now that may not sound like a lot to you, but it sure takes a long time to do, and it all needs to be done by next Wednesday night so please send in your column as soon as you can.' Mrs..... tells me.

'Sure, Mrs ..... I'll get straight down to it, as soon as I clear some stuff of my desk so I have some space to work.' I reply.

And I get straight down to work. Which just goes to show, like I just said before, a chossid always tells the truth.

Anyway kinderlach, have a good Shabbos,

## KIDS SPEAK

Where Young Shluchim talk about their Shlichus



**MENDEL FISCHER, AGE 9  
AUGUSTA, GEORGIA**

There are five kids in my family. Lieba is 11, I am 9, Pessi is 7, Chaya Mushka is 4 and Yossi is 1 and a half.

I am Home-schooled and I also go to the Shluchim Office Online School.

In Augusta, we have nice weather, except in the summer it gets very hot. Augusta is where they play a famous golf game - the Masters Golf Tournament around Pesach time every year. Thousands and thousands of people come to Augusta for that week. Otherwise it is a pretty city with nice people.

I help with the Shlichus work by helping with davening on Shabbos morning. I am the chazan for pesukei dizimra. I teach other kids to be good Jews. I try to be a dugma chaya for the children in our community. Sometimes I help out in Sunday School with teaching Hebrew to other kids.

We have a Chabad Center. It's nice, but we would like to have a another one in a different area. We do a lot of programs in our Chabad Center. We also learn every day in our Chabad House on the Online School on the computers in Chabad Center. I am very proud of being a shliach of the Rebbe in Augusta.

In my free time I enjoy playing games, drawing and reading books. Sometimes I like to do homework.

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](mailto:connections@shluchim.org)

Please include your name, age and location of shlichus.

## כ"ד טבת



The founder of חב"ד חסידות, אלתער רבי, passed away on the night of כ"ד טבת, at approximately 10:30 pm, shortly after saying the *הבדלה* at the end of שבת. The Rebbe was in the village of Piena, fleeing from Napoleon's army, which had passed through the Rebbe's hometown of Liadi three months earlier as they were pushing towards Moscow. The אלתער רבי was 68 when he passed away and his son, ר' דובער, became Rebbe after him. The אלתער רבי is buried in Haditch.

ה' blessed the Jewish people in מצרים that they should multiply miraculously. Women would give birth to six babies at a time, and the children were all strong and healthy.

ר' יוחנן says that in the days of משיח, the Jewish people will have many children just as they did in מצרים. This is hinted to in the double phrase, "very, very" much - "מאוד מאוד." One "מאוד" refers to the many children they had in מצרים and the other "מאוד" is for the many children to be born in the days of משיח.



When ה' gave משה רבינו the mission of taking the Jewish people out of מצרים, משה did not want to accept. First he said, "They won't believe me." Then he claimed, "I'm not able to speak well." Finally he answered, "I'm anyway not going to be the one to bring the final גאולה; you're going to send משיח for that. Therefore, you should bring משיח now to redeem them from מצרים."



## שבת מברכים חודש שבט

- morning I made sure to say תהילים. (Remember to say your quota for the World-Wide Tehillim club)
- I went to Shul and made the special ברכה for the new month of שבט. (The ברכה can be found in the סידור after שחרית for שבת)

# DID YOU KNOW?



כ"ד טבת is the birthday of חנה רביצין Schneerson, the Rebbe's mother. She was born on כ"ד טבת in the year תר"מ (1880). Her parents were ר' מאיר שלמה ינובסקי and רחל of Nikolayev and רביצין. She was their oldest child and had 2 younger sisters - גיטל and עטל and a younger brother - ליב.

When חנה רביצין was a teenager, she would write out and copy the מאמרים for the חסידים of Nikolayev. Whenever there was a new מאמר, either heard from a חסיד who heard the Rebbe saying the מאמר, or from notes that were sent to her father's house, חנה רביצין would copy it out and make it available for the חסידים.

She married ר' לוי יצחק Schneerson on סיון in 1900. ר' לוי יצחק became the Rav of Yeketrinoslav. ר' לוי יצחק had three sons: מנחם מענדל (the Rebbe), ר' דובער, and ר' ליב.

In 1939 ר' לוי יצחק was arrested and sent into גלות in Kazakhstan for the "crime" of spreading אידישקייט. Even though it was very dangerous, חנה רביצין chose to go with him to far-away Chili, Kazakhstan and suffered along with him. חנה רביצין had great נפש מסירת to make ink from grass for ר' לוי יצחק. The Rebbe wrote a lot about the נפש מסירת of his mother, and this נפש מסירת made it possible us to have the great works of ר' לוי יצחק.

ר' תשרי תשכ"ה חנה רביצין passed away.





# Stories of the Rebbeim

In 1812, about 200 years ago, Napoleon invaded Russia. and the route his army took led through White Russia (what is now known as the Ukraine). The אלתער רבי, who was the leader of the חסידים living in White Russia, had been accused twice of disloyalty to the Czar but now showed his loyalty to the Russians. Many אידן thought that Napoleon would be good for the אידן and would let them live in freedom but the אלתער רבי saw that the French conqueror was a threat to רווחניות and אידישקייט.

The אלתער רבי didn't like Napoleon. He was arrogant and had an endless desire for power. To the אלתער רבי, Napoleon represented the opposite of what חסידות teaches us to be: humble and holy. The Rebbe encouraged his many חסידים to support the Russian war effort against the invaders in every possible way. With the help of his followers behind the enemy lines, some of whom were employed by the French Military Command, the אלתער רבי was also able to give Russian army valuable intelligence and advice.

When the French armies approached Liadi, the Russian generals advised the אלתער רבי to flee. That summer the Rebbe hurriedly left Liadi, leaving everything behind, and fled with his family towards Smolensk. For about five months the אלתער רבי and his family suffered the hardships and dangers of the road and of an unusually terrible and cold winter, until they reached a village in the district of Kursk. Here the אלתער רבי fell ill and passed away at the age of sixty-eight.

The אלתער רבי's family kept records about those days and they have some interesting details about them. From the writings of ר' נחום, the grandson of the Rebbe, relating his personal experiences, we learn the following details:

It was on Friday, כ"ט מנחם אב, that the Rebbe fled from Liadi on the advice of the generals in charge of the Russian armies in that area. He was given sixty wagons to use, but they were not enough, and many had to walk on foot. A number of armed troops were assigned to accompany and protect the caravan. Since the French army was moving so quickly, the generals suggested that the best route for the flight of the Rebbe would be through the town of Bayev. But the Rebbe decided to head for Krasna, urging the caravan to move as fast as possible, in order to cross the river Dnieper at the earliest possible time.

After covering a distance of about two miles, the Rebbe suddenly requested the accompanying troops to let him go back to Liadi. Arriving at his deserted house, he ordered his

men to search the house carefully to make sure that nothing at all, however unimportant it might seem, had been left behind. The only things found were a pair of worn-out slippers, a rolling pin and a sieve, which had been left in the attic. He ordered these to be taken along, and to set the house on fire before the enemy arrived, first removing the holy ספרי תורה from the Shul next door. Then he blessed the townspeople who remained in the town, and quickly left again.

Very soon after he left the town on the road leading to the Dnieper, then the advance-guard of Napoleon's army reached the town from the opposite end. Not long later, Napoleon himself with his important officers entered the town on their galloping horses. Napoleon asked where the house of the Rebbe was, but when he reached it, he found it ablaze, the fire burning beyond control. Napoleon wished to have something which belonged to the Rebbe and offered a rich reward to anyone who could bring him anything. But nothing was there. [It seems that Napoleon practiced some sort of sorcery for which such an object was required.]

During all his long and hard journey the אלתער רבי kept in touch with the situation of the Russian Jewry who were caught in the gigantic Franco-Russian war. The retreating Russian armies burned the towns they went through in order to leave nothing for their enemies to conquer. At the same time the invading armies stole and looted everything they could lay their hands on. Throughout the land people were starving and had their source of פרנסה ruined and the Rebbe's heart went out to his suffering brethren, who were the most affected by the invasion.

The Rebbe had predicted Napoleon's invasion of Moscow as well as the fact that he would be defeated there. At the same time he knew that the retreating French armies, starving and desperate, would raid and rob the Jewish communities which lay in their path. Arriving in Piena, the Rebbe began a relief campaign to help the Jewish victims of the war, including plans to help them resettle in other towns, fund raising, and plans for distributing the help they would need to start their lives again. For ten days after his arrival in Piena the Rebbe worked very hard on his plans and projects to lessen the plight of his brethren. Then, he fell ill, getting worse from day to day. At the end of שבת he wrote a letter full of mystical allusions, and a few minutes later he returned his נשמה ה'.

(Adapted from 'Rabbi Shneur Zalman of Liadi')

# TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

## פרשת שמות

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](mailto:connections@shluchim.org) by Wednesday

### Level 1:

Circle the odd one out.

דתן

צפורה

מרים

אהרן

משה

ארץ כנען

מדין

אמעריקא

ארץ ישראל

מצרים

נפתלי

בנימין

גד

ראובן

מנשה

בתי'ה

אדם

צפורה

יתרו

פרעה

ויגדלו

ויעצמו

וירבו

וישרצו

פרו

חובב

כהן מדין

יתרו

רעואל

יתר

## הצלחה רבה

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

Country: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Last Week's Winners:

Mendel Haskelevich, age 6 from Philadelphia, PA

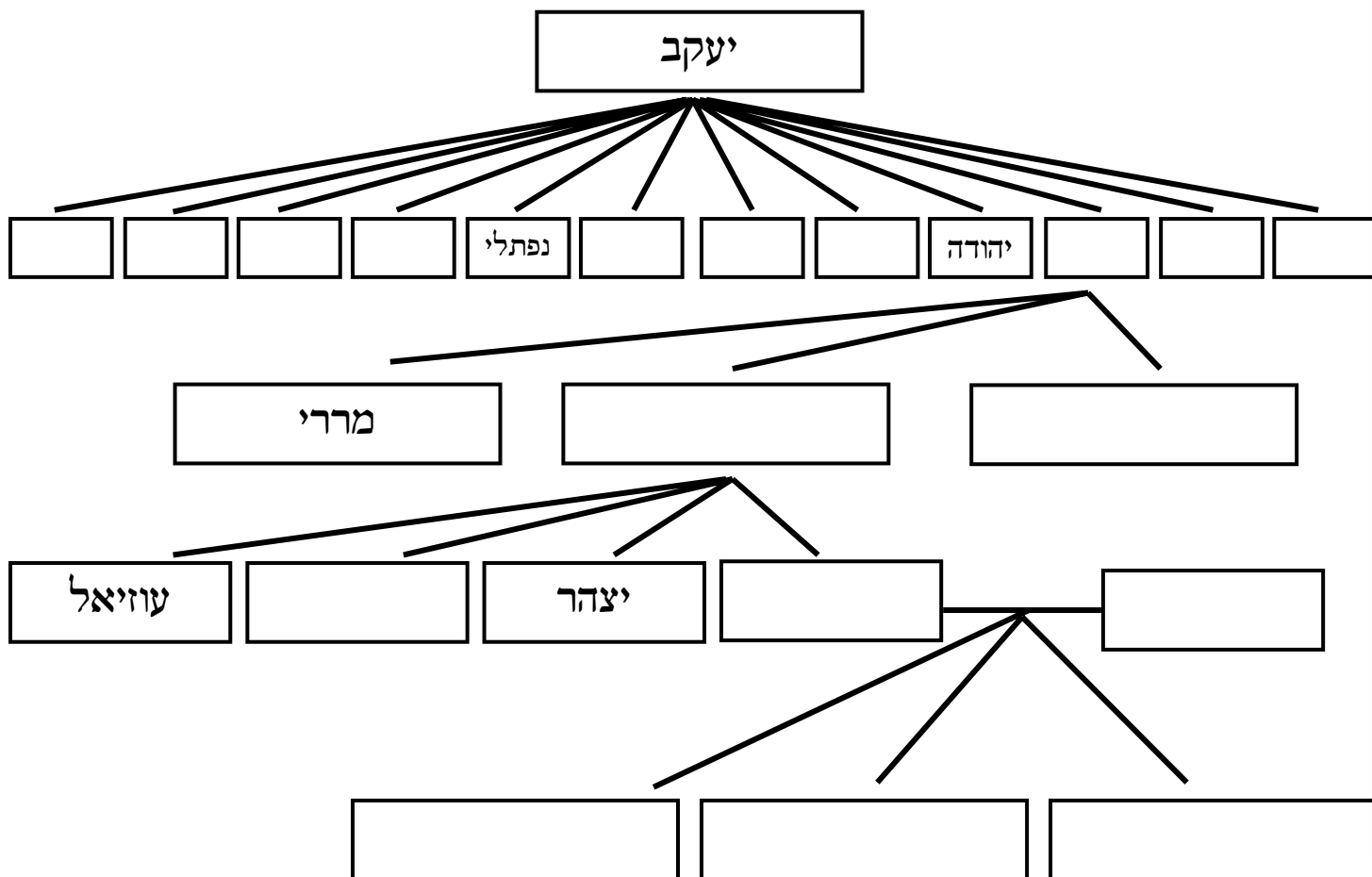
# TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

## פרשת שמות

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Level 2:

Can you fill in משה רבינו's family tree.



## הצלחה רבה

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_  
Country: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Last Week's Winners:

Avi Cunin, age 9 from Pacific Palisades, CA