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פרשת שמות, כ' טבת תשס"ו  
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816 Eastern Parkway, Brooklyn, NY 11213 ~ (718) 221-0500 x317 ~ cyh@shluchim.org

### PARSHAS SHEMOS



"Hello, Yankie," his mother called as he came home from school.

"Hi, Mommy," replied Yankie as he fumbled with his tzitzis.

Yankie's mother looked at him in surprise. He was busy taking out his tzitzis strands which had been tucked inside his pants.

"Why are your tzitzis tucked in?" she asked him gently. "You normally wear them out like a proud Jewish child!"

Yankie swallowed hard. He was clearly upset. "Mommy," he blurted out unhappily, "you know Eddie, the bully who lives up the street?"

Yankie's mother nodded with a sigh. Everyone knew Eddie. He always bullied the younger kids on the block, especially the Jewish children.

"Well, every day I have to pass his house on my way home. He always teases me and pulls at my tzitzis, so I decided to tuck them in until I get home. Maybe he'll stop bothering me."

"Yankie," his mother said taking him gently by the arm. "Let's go get a drink and a snack, and we'll talk about this in the kitchen."

As Yankie was munching on some roasted nuts, his mother began to explain: "In this week's parshah, we read about how Bnei Yisrael were slaves in Mitzrayim. But Rashi tells us that the shevet of Levi were not slaves."

"How come?" asked Yankie.

"Because they wouldn't give in when they were bullied. You see, the Torah tells us that

at first, the Egyptians didn't make the Jewish people work hard; they just bothered them. It says, 'Viyimarraru es chayaihem' - 'And they made their lives bitter.' What is a Jewish person's life? Torah and mitzvos, of course! At first, the Egyptians pestered and bothered the Jewish people about the Torah they were learning and the mitzvos they were keeping.

"Nobody likes to be bothered and bullied. There were some Jews who thought, 'If we give in a little and hide our Yiddishkeit a bit, maybe these troublemaking Egyptians will leave us alone.' Actually, the exact opposite happened. Once they gave in, the Egyptians bullied them even more, making them work 'with hard labor, with bricks and mortar.' Because the Jewish people gave in a bit in the service of Hashem, they ended up having to serve the Egyptians with hard labor.

"Yet, Shevet Levi was different. They never gave in even a tiny bit. That's why they were left alone and were not made to be slaves. Pharaoh told Moshe and Aaron, 'lechu lisivlosaychem' - 'Go to your work.' Pharaoh couldn't make them do his work, and they were left to do their own work - serving Hashem as a Jew should."

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

**WITH MANY THANKS TO OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS:**

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**NAME OF ONE, NAME OF MANY**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Please send your answers to [connections@shluchim.org](mailto:connections@shluchim.org)**

**Last weeks' brain buster: Right on me, Even though I am younger.**

**Answer: אנפנים**

**Congratulations to Tzvi Alperowitz from Bournemouth, England for solving the brain buster.**



# FROM THE DESK OF DR. GETZEL...

Hey Kids,

Beeb – blip – bloop - beep. Hmmm. That's not it. Maybe I should sprinkle it with a pinch of this funny smelling green powder. Or maybe I should turn the gnopfle toward the combobulator. Oy, vey . . . Do I have a problem. The light switch in my office is stuck. It's so dark in here that I can't even see my own glasses. I've been trying to un-stick the light switch all morning but it won't budge no matter what I do. I tried tickling it. I tried talking to it. I even tried singing a nigun to it! I have one last idea. It's my super-powerful, hi-tech, automatic MM Flashlight. This flashlight is a 'vonderful' invention (as my Alte Bubbe Baila used to say!) and it might finally solve the problem. Let's test it out together.

First go into a room and pull down all the window shades. Next, close the door and turn off the lights. Now we're going to start by looking. Look as hard as you can. Do you see what I see? I can't see a thing! It's so dark in here that I'm tripping over my own shoelaces (And I don't even have shoelaces. My shoes are Velcro!) Maybe we'll be able to see if we take some of the darkness and throw it out the window. Or maybe we can stuff the darkness into a closet. Oh! I forgot all about my MM Flashlight. Let me turn it on . . . WOW! It worked! I can see! It's so light in here that I can count the freckles on my nose.

My MM Flashlight really is 'vonderful'. As soon as I turned on my flashlight the whole room brightened. By adding just a little bit of light we were able to get rid of a whole lot of darkness.

As Junior-Shluchim, each one of you is like a flashlight. Each time you look in your siddur when you daven, or listen to your parents, or share with your younger sister, it's like turning on a little light. All of your little lights shine away a lot of darkness and make the world a brighter place that's ready for Moshiach.

*Bye-bye  
Dr. Getzel*

## KIDS SPEAK

Where Young Shluchim talk about their Shlichus



**MENDEL VORST, AGE 9  
ROTTERDAM, HOLLAND**

Hi my name is Mendel Vorst, I am 9 years old. We are on Shlichus in Rotterdam, Holland.

A few months ago my ear was bothering me so my mother took me to doctor. The doctor could not find anything but wanted me to be checked in the hospital. The doctor in the hospital could not find anything either but suggested we have a x-ray taken by the dental surgeon. My mother was sure it has nothing to do with that but followed the advice of the doctor. When we came to the dental surgeon, the nurse said shalom to us. My mother started speaking to her and it turned out she is Jewish and has a 3 year old child. My mother took her phone number and contacted her a few weeks later but nothing came of it.

Last week my mother had to have a small surgery done on her jaw. When she called to make an appointment it was the same nurse on the phone. My mother did not recognize her voice but the nurse recognized my mother's voice. The nurse was very happy to speak to my mother and wants to make contact with us and perhaps send her child to Talmud Torah next year. When my mother came to the hospital for her surgery the nurse was not there but left a present for our new baby brother with the surgeon. My mother was happy, not because of the present but because it showed that the nurse really wants a connection with us.

I now know why my ear was bothering me... to bring this lady and her child closer to Yidishkeit.

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.

# Are you a Parsha Expert?

In this week's פרשה - פרשת שמות - פרעה decreed that all Jewish boys should be thrown into the Nile River. פרעה made this decree because he realized that the number of בני ישראל was growing very fast, and פרעה and his advisers were worried that בני ישראל would get together with his enemies and destroy מצרים. He hoped that if he threw the baby boys into the Nile river, this wouldn't happen.

מרם, who was the father of אהרן and מרים, was the leader of בני ישראל during this time. מרם decided that the בני ישראל shouldn't have any more children and so he decided to leave his wife, יוכבד. All the בני ישראל did the same thing.

Then מרים spoke up. She was only five years old at the time, and she knew that her father was a צדיק and the leader of the nation. She bravely said: "Your decree is worse than פרעה's! פרעה only decreed that the boys should die, but your decree is against the boys and the girls. פרעה wants to kill their body—גוף, but their נשמות will live on in עולם הבא. Your decree stops נשמות from even being brought into this world! פרעה is an evil man, so his decree may or may not work out. But you are a צדיק and your decree will work out."

מרם realized that his little daughter's words were true. He immediately remarried יוכבד, and all the בני ישראל did the same.

Then what happened? משה was born and as soon as his mother placed him in the river, פרעה's astrologers said, "Their leader has already been thrown into the water." The decree to drown all baby boys was stopped. And this little משה grew up to be מצרים and took the בני ישראל out of מצרים.

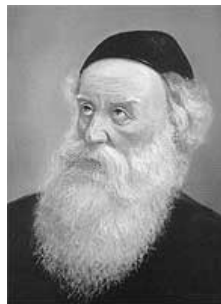
מרם's behavior can be an example for us. She teaches us the power of children. Every Jewish child can accomplish much more than we could imagine!

(Adapted from the L'Chaim)



## כ"ד טבת

אלטער רבי of the יאהרצייט



The founder of חב"ד חסידות, the אלטער רבי, passed away on the night of the כ"ד טבת, at approximately 10:30 pm, shortly after saying הַבְדֵּלָה at the end of שבת. The אלטער רבי was in the village of Pienna, fleeing from Napoleon's army, which had passed through the

his hometown of Liadi three months earlier as they were pushing towards Moscow. The אלטער רבי was 68 when he passed away and his son, ר' דובער, became Rebbe after him. The אלטער רבי is buried in Haditch.

# DID YOU KNOW?



## כ' טבת

רמב"ם of the יאהרצייט is the כ' טבת

The רמב"ם was the first one to write down all the מצוות that are in the Torah in an organized way, so that אידן could see clearly what we are and are not allowed to do. First the רמב"ם wrote the ספר המצוות, organizing the positive and negative מצוות and then he wrote the משנה תורה, writing down all the דינים, laws that are connected to each מצוה in an organized way. He started this 839 years ago, in the year ד'תתקכ"ח (1167) while he was living in Alexandria, Egypt.

The Rebbe introduced the cycle of learning the משנה תורה every year. This project was started by the Rebbe to unite all אידן, and for the benefit of studying all the דינים of all the מצוות, as compiled by the רמב"ם. The Rebbe wanted all אידן to learn רמב"ם every day, either פרקים 3, or 1 פרק, or even the ספר המצוות of the day. The first סיום הרמב"ם was in 1985 - תשמ"ה, The רמב"ם is accepted by ALL אידן, as it says on his מצבה, which is engraved with the words "From Moshe (Rabeinu) to Moshe (the רמב"ם) there was none like Moshe."

ממשה עד משה לא קם כמשה!!

# Stories of the Rabbeim

Prince Sheksinski owned many acres of land. He had a large palace, forest, rivers and beautiful gardens. In the courtyard of his palace was a sundial. A sundial was an instrument that used the sun and shadows to show the time. It was used before clocks were invented. For two years Prince Sheksinski's sundial had not been working properly. Between the hours of two and five in the afternoon it would not tell the correct time. The prince had already spoken to many experts, scientists, and professors about this problem, but no one could figure it out. Then the Prince found out that there was a very wise Jew who was well known for his problem-solving, so he sent for the אלטער רבי to come to his property and help him discover why the sundial was not working.

Even though the אלטער רבי spoke Polish well, he preferred to speak אידיש, and so, his father-in-law came with to translate for him. After examining the sundial several times during the hours when it wasn't working, he said, "It is written in the תלמוד that the sun is directly overhead in the middle of the day, and that nothing can block between the sun and the earth during this time except for clouds. However, after noon, when the sun starts to go down, it is possible for various objects to block the sun. I think that there is a mountain to the south of us, at a distance of 12 to 15 parasangs (a measurement used in those times). It seems as if the trees growing on the top of the mountain have grown too tall and are blocking the sun between the hours of 2 and 5, stopping it from reaching the sundial. When the sun moves a little lower, the trees are not in the way anymore, and the sundial works properly after this time."

The prince was amazed at the אלטער רבי's

reasoning, and sent a special messenger to find the area described to see if this was really true.

When one of the experts that the Prince had consulted, a leading engineer by the name of Professor Marseilles, heard this he made fun of the opinion of the אלטער רבי. He laughingly said, "The Jews think that all wisdom is found in their Talmud. Zelig the doctor learns his medicine from it, Boruch the gardener learns how to prepare the soil for planting, and Zanvil the merchant learns how to cheat the Poritz from this Talmud... Now, this person imagines that the sun's rays only reach the earth according to the Talmud!"

People found out about the אלטער רבי's opinion of the problem, and before the prince could find the exact spot, a group of troublemakers found the trees which were blocking the light and chopped them down without telling anyone. In this way they hoped that the Prince wouldn't believe the אלטער רבי when his messengers came to chop

down the trees and found nothing there.

A few days later, when one of the workers on the prince's property reported that the sundial was working perfectly, the prince was very surprised, but it was simply thought that the clock had fixed itself.

Eventually, the אלטער רבי's father-in-law heard the rumor that the trees had been chopped down in secret, and he found those who had done it and brought them before the prince, demanding that they tell him what they had done. They admitted that they were guilty and the truth of the אלטער רבי's wisdom was confirmed, and soon all the scientists and professors in Poland had heard about how clever he was.



# 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:

Match these sentences about the רמב"ם to their correct answers.



The רמב"ם's name

ר' משה בן מימון

The רמב"ם's father's name

Spain

On the מצבה רמב"ם's is written

משה

The רמב"ם was born in

י"ד ניסן

The רמב"ם of ראשי תיבות stands for

A Doctor

The רמב"ם's most famous ספר is

אני מאמין

The רמב"ם's birthday

כ' טבת

The רמב"ם's יאהרצייט

מימון

The רמב"ם's job

משנה תורה

What is the 12th of the רמב"ם's י"ג עיקרי אמונה

ממשה עד משה לא קם כמשה

## הצלחה רבה

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

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

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

### Last Week's Winners:

Chaya Mushka Reiter, age 5 from Roslyn Heights, New York

# TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

## פרשת שמות

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### Level 2:



Find the answers to the questions about the רמב"ם in the word search.

V C T Y E M E N S S E N P S T H T C A L  
 E E E E Y D C C F U I P E I Z E P O C G  
 M I Y J V R Q E T M D F H A I Q Y R A Z  
 F I U N I E B B A R E H S O M H G D U I  
 H Y H X D B R A G R V R C B B A E O X E  
 M G Z C E O M I H B W E G A J R U V K A  
 E J T R U I V A A T U I N U Y O C A Q G  
 H I P X N V M I D N A S O C E T F P L Y  
 O U O A W I E J D Y O S G C V E W H X A  
 N U C R T N M N O C U X D H Y N O F D H  
 D U R Z I E Z X H N O M I A M H L T Y G  
 G A V S J P Q X T E P J U F Z S B G K V  
 J O S Y S D E U O O R C O D T I G J J H  
 S A V G W R E B H D Q O B I O M I J N W  
 N A Y C H K Z Q A P N B M A V R A H A M

1. What city was the רמב"ם born in?
2. What month was the רמב"ם born in?
3. What was the רמב"ם's father's name?
4. What was the רמב"ם's brother's name?
5. Which country was the רמב"ם a Doctor in?
6. What was the רמב"ם's sons name?
7. What has all the מצוות organised in it?
8. What has all the דינים of the מצוות organised in it?
9. Which country did the רמב"ם write a special letter to, to guide the אידן with their problems?
10. What is the 12th of the רמב"ם's אמונה?
11. What is the last ספר that the רמב"ם wrote?
12. Which city is the רמב"ם buried in?
13. Who is the רמב"ם compared to on his מצבה?
14. Who encouraged people to learn רמב"ם?
15. What does learning רמב"ם cause?

## הצלחה רבה

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

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

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

### Last Week's Winners:

Yossi Lasker, age 10 from Brussels, Belgium