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PARSHAS TZAV



Hashem commands the Jewish people: pure. "אש תמיד תוקד על המזבח לא תכבה." The fire on the mizbe'ach where the korbanos were offered should always continue to burn. In the Beis Hamikdosh, there was a special chamber where hot coals were kept burning, so that the fire on the mizbe'ach could be relit whenever necessary.

This mitzvah has an especially deep meaning today, as we prepare for the Third Beis Hamikdosh.

When Hashem commanded the Jewish people to build the mishkan, He said: "ושכנתי בתוכם." - "And I will dwell within them." Shouldn't the possuk have said "ושכנתי בתוכו" - "I will dwell within it"? It says "them" to teach us that every Jewish person is like a miniature Beis Hamikdosh. Every Jew must always have a fiery love for Hashem in his heart, just like the fire which burns all the time on the mizbe'ach.

In the Gemara, our Chachomim teach us more details about this mitzvah: The fire on the mizbe'ach was to be kept burning even on Shabbos and even b'tumah, when we were im-

pure. In the same way, we Jews should always feel a deep love for Hashem, whether we are on a level of Shabbos or on a level of tumah. What do we mean by "a level of Shabbos"? On Shabbos, we wish each other Shabbat Shalom. The Hebrew word Shalom comes from the shorsh shaleim, meaning whole and complete. We feel complete on Shabbos. We relax and we do not worry about our weekday work, acting as if it were completed.

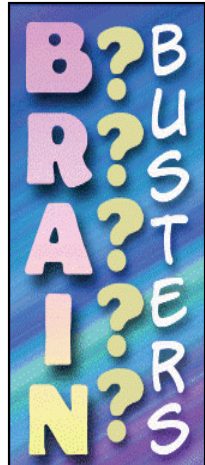
On Shabbos, we are also given an extra Shabbos neshamah that helps us daven better, learn better, and understand Hashem's holiness better. But a Jew on the level of Shabbos might only pay attention to his learning and understanding, and he might ignore his feelings. So Hashem reminds him of the "ner tamid... even on Shabbos." The burning love for Hashem in our hearts should never relax. Then our Chachamim add, "even when impure." Even if a Jew is impure, he should dig deep into his heart and bring out the love for Hashem which is always there.

(Adapted from Likkutei Sichos, Vol. 1) '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



I END IN 8 AND I HAVE 8.

Please send your answers to connections@shluchim.org

Last weeks' brain buster: One or twenty four, Followed by 30 more.

Answer: ויקרא



FROM THE DESK OF DR. GETZ...

Hey there Junior Shluchim,
Well, like I promised you last week – and Mrs Getzel too – I've been getting down to some serious Pesach cleaning in my office this week. Not that I've finished Pesach cleaning all the chometz inside myself yet, but Pesach isn't going to hang around while I do that, so it's been gloves and mask on, vacuum cleaner and commercial size spray bottles of VIM spray out, and on with the work.

To be honest, I actually enjoy Pesach cleaning. Mrs Getzel appreciates that my main avodah in life is not scrubbing floors or refrigerators and only asks me to clean my office. Actually she used to help me do my office too, but that is a whole different story for a whole different time. And cleaning my office is really fun! I'm never short of volunteers who want to come help me clean. The little Getzel'niks and Getzel'ites are calling me for weeks to try to convince me to let them come and help. But cleaning my office is not only fun, it is dangerous too. You can never be sure what will jump out at you next. After all, my office only gets cleaned once a year, and so there are some really scary things in it.

One year, as I was bending down to clean under my desk, I felt something on my neck, and then on my back, and then further down my back. . . Boy I jumped so high that I banged my head on the ceiling fan - and that is after I banged it on my desk and sent the whole thing flying! I never found what it was that landed on my back, it must have gotten scared off by all the noise, but I'm sure it was something really dangerous like a huge ball of dust or something like that.

Well, as sometimes happens when I get down to Pesach cleaning, or to any type of job, I got distracted. You see I just cleared a huge mountain of papers off my desk, when I saw it. Yup, it was my long lost album of Rebbe pictures! Boy was I excited! I'd not seen my album for years! We'd been such good friends, but then the Rebbe Album disappeared without trace. I missed it so much. Gone were the special moments that I used to spend every morning and every night looking at different pictures of the Rebbe. I used to have different favorite pictures for different time of the year. In Tishrei my 'Rebbe bentching the Temimim' picture was my favorite, and in Nissan it was my 'Rebbe taking the Mayim Shelonu' picture. I had so many favorites!

Without wasting any more time, I quickly sat down on the floor, which turned out to be the huge pile of papers that I had just cleared off my desk, which even more quickly slid out from underneath me and deposited me on the floor with a big bump! Then I opened the album and started to look through it. Such hash-gocho protis I thought, that I should find this album right before Yud Alef Nissan! How I wish we could have another Yud Alef Nissan Farbrengen with the Rebbe again.

Well kinderlach, it's up to us. We have a few more days left – let's use them out in the best way possible to make sure that this year we celebrate Yud Alef Nissan with the Rebbe in Yerushalayim!!!

See you there,

Dr Getz

KIDS SPEAK

Where Young Shluchim talk about their Shlichus



MOSHE, CHANA & ROCHEL CUNIN, AGE 7
RENO, NEVADA

In our family we are the oldest of six kids, B"H. Actually we are triplets and have the same exact birthday! It is on yud tes Teves. This year we were seven.

Since there is no Jewish school in Reno, Nevada, where we are on shlichus, we are home-schooled. Moshe goes to CYH Online School in the middle of the day and then comes back into our class for English studies.

Moshe says: I like to help my Tatty when he helps others put on tefillin.

Chana says: I like to help my mommy cook for shabbos. I bake cakes and braid challah.

Rochel says: I lead a children's program every Shabbos morning. We daven and make a bracha on a snack while the men daven in shul.

We are doing as many mitzvos as we can to bring Moshiach now! We can't wait to meet all our fellow shluchim in Yerushalayim!

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.

POCKET CALENDAR



Moshiach in the PARSHA

י"ג ניסן



The צמח צדק was born on 1789) ערב ראש השנה תקמ"ט. His mother was רביצין דבורה לאה - the daughter of the אלטער רבי. She gave up her life for חסידות and passed away a few days after young מענדל's 3rd birthday. From then on, the צמח צדק was raised by his אלטער רבי, זיידע.

The צמח צדק married מושקא חיה רביצין, his cousin, the daughter of the מיטעלער רבי and after the מיטעלער רבי was נסתלק, the נשיאות חסידים asked him to take on the נשיאות.

The צמח צדק was נסתלק on י"ג ניסן תרכ"ו and is buried in the town of Lubavitch.

ספירת העומר

On ט"ו ניסן, the second day of פסח, קרבן עומר was brought in בית המקדש. This included baked מצות from the new crop of barley that had been harvested that day. No grain from the new harvest was allowed to be eaten before the קרבן עומר was brought.

On this day we also begin counting the עומר, ספירת העומר. We count for 49 days, remembering the בני ישראל's journey from הר סיני to מצרים. Every evening, we say a special תפילה and count the days and weeks that have passed since the second day of פסח, when the קרבן עומר was brought. The 50th day is שבועות, celebrating יום טוב מתן תורה at הר סיני.

זאת תורת העלה היא העלה על מוקדה על המזבח כל הלילה עד הבקר ואש המזבח תוקד בו

In the time of the בית המקדש, a איד was able to actually bring a live animal as a קרבן to be offered on the מזבח. We are also taught that whoever studies the דינים from the תורה about the קרבן עולה is considered to actually have brought a קרבן עולה. We see this from the words "תורת העלה."

The darkest time in Jewish history is גלות — being in גלות without the בית המקדש. This time is compared to "לילה" — night. When the אידן have a בית המקדש, their lives are lit up, and such a time is referred to as "בקר" — morning. The תורה is teaching us that "זאת תורת העלה" — "this is the דינים of the קרבן עולה." When one studies these דינים — "היא העלה" — it is as though one is actually making a קרבן on the מזבח.

It is important, however, to remember that this is only enough "כל הלילה עד הבקר" — the entire time of גלות until the break of dawn. When dawn breaks and the light of the אידן begins to shine for the בית המקדש, it will not be enough to simply study about קרבנות but "אש המזבח תוקד בו" — one must actually bring קרבנות to be burnt on the מזבח.

(Adapted from 'Vedibarta Bam')

DID YOU KNOW?



The שבת before פסח is called שבת הגדול, the Great Shabbos. There are also many special מנהגים connected with this שבת. In מצרים, בני ישראל celebrated the very first שבת הגדול five days before their גאולה from מצרים. On that day, בני ישראל were given their first מצוה which applied only to that שבת, but not to future generations: That on י"ג ניסן "each household should prepare a lamb that will be used for the קרבן פסח."

This mitzvah of preparing a lamb for the קרבן פסח four days before it was to be brought, was only for that first פסח in מצרים, and the תורה does not tell us that we should do this every פסח. Nevertheless, the people continued to do this to make sure that their lambs had no מום which would mean that they could not be brought as a קרבן.

Many ניסים happened for בני ישראל on this first שבת הגדול. The תורה commanded them to take their lambs and tie them to the bedpost. When they did so, their מצרי neighbors saw this and asked them what they were doing with the lamb.

בני ישראל answered: "We are going to shecht it as a קרבן פסח as ה' has commanded us." The מצריים, who worship lambs as their gods, wanted to scream and shout but they could not say a word. Many other ניסים as well happened in connection with the קרבן פסח, so we call this day שבת הגדול.

On שבת הגדול, after מנחה, we say part of the הגדה, from "עבדים היינו" until "לכפר על כל עונותינו": because that day was the beginning of the גאולה and all its miracles.

Stories of the Rebbeim

In honor of the Rebbe's birthday on י"א ניסן, we have two stories that show the Rebbe's care and concern for every single person.

This story took place about 50 years ago, about 10 years after the Rebbe accepted the נשיאות. Mrs. Bassie Garelik, שלוחה of the Rebbe in Milan, Italy had a יחידות with the Rebbe. During the יחידות, she mentioned the name of a man from Milan who supported them in their שליחות, אברהם, ר' Tzipel.

The Rebbe interrupted and said: "He is a very straight-forward man."

When Mrs. Garelik returned home, she told over her יחידות to her husband, הרב גרשון מענדל, ר' Garelik. He thought there was something unusual in the Rebbe's mention of אברהם, ר', and decided to look into it.

He went to visit אברהם, ר' and asked him about his health and that of his family. How was his business going?

אברהם, ר' was puzzled by Rabbi Garelik's questions, and asked the reason for them. Rabbi Garelik told him of his wife's יחידות.

"When did the יחידות take place?" אברהם, ר' wanted to know.

When Rabbi Garelik told him the date, אברהם, ר' explained the meaning of the Rebbe's words.

אברהם, ר' was a furrier. He dealt with all kinds of fur and had wide spread business dealings in Russia while it was still ruled by the Communists. He would use his trips there to bring in תפילין, סידורים, and other תשמישי קדושה, and bring out old ספרים for the Rebbe. These activities were carried out in absolute secrecy.

Generally, אברהם, ר' 's trips had progressed without interference from the authorities. During his most recent visit, however, the authorities had placed him under house arrest for several hours. And then they had freed him, without any explanation for either his arrest or his release.

His release had come shortly after Mrs. Garelik's יחידות.

This second story happened about 40 years ago. During the '60s, the Rebbe sent several חסידים to Russia as tourists. In some cities, they would have secret meetings with members of the חסידישע underground. In other places, however, such meetings were too dangerous. Nevertheless, the Rebbe instructed his שלוחים to still pass through these cities and stop at the Shuls and places of Jewish interest.

Years later, after being able to leave Russia, one of the members of the Lubavitch community explained how important those visits were.

"In our city," he explained, "none of us had a chance to speak to the Rebbe's שלוחים. Nevertheless, their visits had a tremendous effect on us.

"The Russian government had begun a campaign to discourage us. They would call in members of the חסידישע community and show them headlines from American Jewish newspapers and magazines which spoke of assimilation and intermarriage. 'אידישקייט is fading away,' they told us. 'In Europe, your brethren have been wiped out and in America, they have forgotten their heritage. Soon there will be no frum Jews left. Why must you be so stubborn about keeping מצוות?'

"Their words had an effect, even though we didn't totally believe them. But still, when you read an American Yiddish newspaper that speaks of 'the vanishing American Jew,' you become sad.

"And suddenly we saw evidence that it was not all that bad in America at all. These were young Americans wearing yarmulkas, ציצית and full beards. It strengthened our faith that we will get out and in the future we will be free to learn תורה and keep מצוות."

(Adapted from 'To Know and To Care')

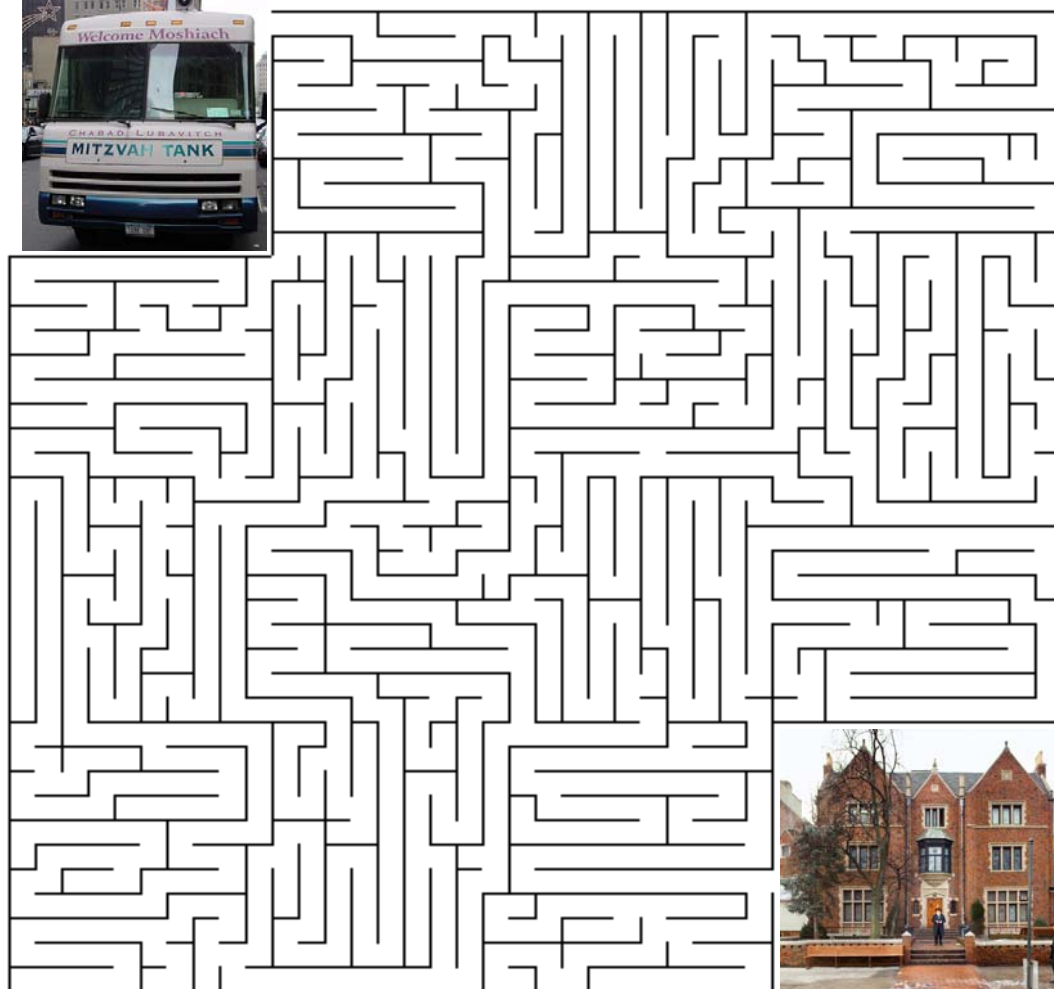
TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

פרשת צו

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:

The bochrim went out on **מבצעים** in honor of **א ניסן** but now they are lost. Help them get back to 770.



הצלחה רבה

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

Last Week's Winners:

Rochele Swed, age 7 from Barranquilla, Colombia

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

פרשת צו

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:

Put the tiles in order so they make up a sentence about ת"א ניסן.

'S	B	B	E	O	N	Y	U	D	I	S	N	I	K	D	A	Y	W	H			
S	W	Y	E	V	E	N	T	R	E	E	F	E	B	B	R	E	B	I	S		
N	C	Z	C	H	L	E	A	.	Y	I	T	T	Z	I	E	R	S	A			
E	'	S	'	S	A	S	T	H	R	E	H	E	N	I	S	I	S				
R	E	B	V	I	A	L	R	E	B	D	H	Y	U	D	O	K	A	N	D		
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S	A	N	B	I	R	E	E	S	I	N											

Now answer this question:
What two special things happened on ת"א ניסן?

1. _____
2. _____

הצלחה רבה

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

Last Week's Winners:

Shmuel Chanowitz, age 11.5 from Monticello, New York