

Family TORAH JOURNAL

ST. LOUIS

KOLLEL

PARSHA PERCEPTIONS



RABBI GIDON NITSUN

The Ralbag provides us with an amazing insight into the juxtaposition of three different topics in our parsha: 1) unlawfully withholding a loan, engaging in theft or not paying wages on time 2) the parsha of the Sotah (the wayward wife) and 3) the parsha of the Nazir.

The first topic highlights the greatest attainment of shalom - a "global peace" within the nation as expressed through integrity in our interpersonal relationships. The parsha continues with a "lesser" form of peace - the topic of the Sotah representing shalom bayis (peace within the home), and ends with the topic of the Nazir which represents an internal peace.

However, in practice, we shall see the "flip side" - that internal peace is essential for peace in the home, and that harmony in the home is essential for attaining a more global sense of peace and harmony among the Jewish nation.

The sefer *Chidushe Lev* elaborates on this, emphasizing that the relationship of a person to his fellow man is dependent upon the quality of shalom bayis in his home. If there is a lack of harmony with one's spouse, one will naturally have machlokes with his acquaintances. As Chazal tell us, if a person does not have a wife, he lives without joy and without bracha. When there is an absence of shalom in the home, it is as if he doesn't have a wife. He lacks the requisite simcha and blessing, and therefore is not able to have harmonious relationships with others.

(Continued on next page)

MOMENTS OF GREATNESS

RABBI SHLOMO EISENBERG



Rabbi Aharon Leib Shteinman (1913-2017) was well-known for his great Torah knowledge and diligence, but his care and compassion for others might be less familiar to many.

A nine year old boy, Yaakov, lived in Israel and went with his class to be tested on their learning by the great leader, Rabbi Shteinman. Yaakov was a good boy, but he struggled with his studies and didn't perform well in school.

Each boy was asked a question individually and it was finally Yaakov's turn. R' Aharon Leib asked him a simple question but Yaakov answered incorrectly. Rav Shteinman then asked him an easier question. Again, Yaakov did not know the answer. Finally, he was asked a third question, but sadly he still missed the mark. After the test was officially over, all the boys were handed a candy by the Rabbi's helper, but Yaakov did not take one as he felt that he was undeserving.

Rabbi Shteinman called Yaakov over and said "According to the Torah we reward based on effort and toil, not based on the outcome. All the other kids were only asked one question so they get one candy. You, however, put in the effort for three questions so you deserve three candies." This is what makes someone a Gadol!



UPCOMING WEEK'S SCHEDULE: YEAR 3, WEEK 7—BRACHOS 51B

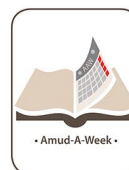
(Thank you to R' Alan Kandel and Rabbi Daniel Freund for giving shiurim last week)

Rabbi Shlomo Eisenberg

R' Alex Lyss, son of Ed & Jane Lyss

Maggid shiur of the week for the Amud: **Akiva Brown**, son of **Dr. Larry & Beth Brown**

For more info, or to sign up to get the weekly video shiurim please contact Rabbi Yaakov Berkowitz



Sponsored by Rabbi Yaakov and Rivka Berkowitz for a refuah shelaima for Mordechai Dovid ben Leah—a 42-year old father of nine diagnosed with a brain tumor

ZMANIM: CANDLELIGHTING: 7:56 PM SOF ZMAN KRIAS SHEMA: M.A. 8:44 AM GRA": 9:20 AM

SHABBOS ENDS: 9:01 PM (RABBEINU TAM: 9:28 PM)

ALEF TO TAV: INSIGHTS INTO THE ALEF-BEIS

**Letter:** Dalet**Numerical value:** 4**Spelling:** Dalet, lamed, tav

RABBI YAAKOV BERKOWITZ



The *dalet*, unlike its predecessors, has only one leg to stand on. This is because, as mentioned last week, it is alluding to the *dal*, pauper, who has nothing to depend on and must come onto the *gimmel*, the *gomel chessed* for support. An interesting point to consider is that it would seem strange that the “back” of the *dalet*, and not the front, is facing the *gimmel* who is doing kindness for him. The Talmud (Tractate *Shabbos* 104a) notes that this is no coincidence, as the optimum way of giving charity is when the recipient doesn’t know who he is receiving charity from. The *Midrash* notes that the protrusion on the top of the *dalet*, toward the *gimmel*, indicates that at the same time that we are supposed to give charity anonymously, the pauper is keenly aware of who is “behind him” and is secretly hoping he will receive a donation.

PARSHA PERCEPTIONS (CONT.)

The Ralbag continues that one cannot have shalom in the home if one does not have peace within oneself. Becoming a Nazir accomplishes this goal- bringing a person to shalom within himself. We know that a person is comprised of a body and a soul, each one pulling him in a different direction creating an internal struggle. When one becomes a Nazir, he has taken a tremendous stand against this struggle by subduing the body, creating an internal peace and thereby enabling him to reach a higher level of shalom bayis.

The Torah is therefore coming to teach us that all levels of peace begin with an internal peace, and therefore it is all up to us.

Rabbi Nitsun joined the Kollel in 1993. He teaches gemara, chumash, mussar and philosophy and serves as Director of the Senior Kollel. He was a beloved Rebbe at Block Yeshiva High School for 20 years and currently serves as shoal and meishev at Missouri Torah Institute. He is also a practicing mohel and sofer.

KOLLEL KASHA KORNER

RABBI YAAKOV SILVERMAN



What two grandfather and grandson combinations are mentioned in Shemoneh Esrei?

Last weeks question: Which tragedy mentioned in the Torah, resulted in the annihilation of exactly one quarter of mankind? (The murder of Hevel lowered the world population from four to three)

Send in your answer to ysilverman@stlkollel.com

I DIDN'T
KNOW THAT!

RABBI YITZCHAK KOWALSKY



Q. I am familiar with the halacha (Shulchan Aruch YD 116:5) that one may not put food under their bed. Is the halacha the same with food under a stroller in which a baby sleeps in?

A. The Gemara in Pesachim (112a) which is the source for the ruling of the Shulchan Aruch says one may not put food under their bed. The commentators explain that this halacha is exclusively for food and beverages placed under a bed, as is the text in the Gemara. Therefore underneath a stroller would not be a problem. For a shiur covering many aspects of this halachah see: <https://tinyurl.com/Foodunderbed>.

Q. I borrowed two medium eggs from my neighbor. Can I return two large eggs to them or is that a violation of ribbis?

A. If one has eggs in their home of the same size, it is appropriate to pay back as they borrowed. If that is not typically what you buy, HaRav N. Karelitz shlit"a (Leket Sheilos Mitzuyos Vol. 2 pg. 86) rules you can return any size egg. The rationale given is that it is not typical for neighbors to be exact on this matter.

Q. I was in middle of pesukei d'zimrah when the chazzan said barchu. After which I started saying birchas krias shema by mistake. Can I still say yishtabach?

A. HaRav Moshe Feinstein zt"l (Mesoras Moshe Vol.3) and HaRav Shlomo Zalman Auerbach zt"l (Ishei Yisroel 16:35) both ruled that in such an instance one can no longer say yishtabach and one should continue with birchas krias shema.

Please consult your Rav for a final ruling.

SPOTLIGHT ON



"Every morning I get up with the excitement and enthusiasm of knowing there will be another opportunity to learn and share wisdom with the other participants...Rabbi Nitsun's warm personality and vast knowledge makes for a wonderful day at the Kollel...." (Y.G.)

"By attending the classes and wellness programs, my life changed in a dramatic and meaningful way - Senior Kollel is one of the best things that's ever happened to me..." (L.N.)

TOP 10 THINGS YOU DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT SENIOR KOLLEL

10. GEMARA/HALACHA/MACHSHAVA FOR MEN EVERY MON-THURS MORNING
9. WOMEN'S TOMER DEVORAH CLASS EVERY OTHER MONDAY AT U CITY SHUL
8. MONTHLY WELLNESS PROGRAMS BY TOP TIER MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS
7. "WHAT IF?" EVERY TUESDAY AFTERNOON EXPLORES LATEST ETHICAL ISSUES
6. MAH JONGG FOR MEMORY STRENGTHENING GOING STRONG
5. PHILOSOPHICAL FRIDAYS FOR MEN MEETS EVERY FRIDAY MORNING
4. BALANCE FOR BALABUSTES WITH JILL ABRAMS MONTHLY AT NUSACH HARI
3. FUN, FOOD AND FRIENDSHIP AT EVERY EVENT WITH NO DUES OR FEES
2. RABBI GIDON NITSUN IS THE INCOMPARABLE INSTRUCTOR AND DIRECTOR
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SHABBOS!**

שבת פרשת בהעלותך
SHABBOS JUNE 2
Shacharis at 8:50 am



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Shacharis led by

Rabbi Shaya Mintz

Pre-Mussaf Drasha delivered by

HaRav Menachem Greenblatt

Mussaf led by

Rabbi Moshe Glazer

Following a lavish hot Kiddush, there will be classes delivered by Rabbi Yaakov Berkowitz, Rabbi Yitzi Kowalsky, Mrs. Shoshana Kowalsky, and Rabbi Yaakov Silverman. Dvar Torah at Shabbos luncheon by Rabbi Shlomo Eisenberg and Rabbi Menachem Tendler.



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