

Family TORAH JOURNAL

ST. LOUIS

KOLLEL

MUSSAR MESSAGE

THIS MONTH'S SPECIAL MUSSAR MESSAGE IS BROUGHT TO YOU BY RABBI YERACHMIEL FRANK, ST. LOUIS KOLLEL CHAIR OF TALMUDIC LAW AND TRADITION, ESTABLISHED IN LOVING MEMORY OF MR. RUBIN FELDMAN BY MRS. GLORIA FELDMAN AND FAMILY



This week's *Parsha* speaks about a major *machlokes*, or dispute, that *Korach* and his assembly initiated, and sustained until *Korach* and his followers suffered a terrible fate. In a miraculous way, the earth swallowed *Korach*, his family, and even his possessions. After this disastrous incident, the Torah follows with a negative commandment to not follow or emulate the wicked ways of *Korach*, and this is where we find the source that getting involved in *machlokes* is forbidden.

What drives a person to be involved in strife, even in situations where the conflict causes more harm to the individual than good? People are willing to suffer and even fight to the bitter end in order to continue the quarrel. The *Chofetz Chaim* (Rabbi Yisrael Meir Kagan 1839-1933) offers two reasons why a person can become involved with *machlokes*. Either the person has the attribute of anger or the trait of always needing to be right.

How does one avoid getting involved in *machlokes*? If G-d forbid one does get involved, how does one separate himself from the dispute? King David in the book of *Tehillim* (Psalm 34:15) writes "*bakesh shalom v'rodfeh*, seek out peace and preserve it". Our Rabbis interpret this phrase to mean:

Seek peace with your friend and preserve it with your enemy.
Seek peace locally and preserve peace in distant places.
Seek peace with your physical body and preserve peace with your money.
Seek peace for yourself and preserve it for others.
Seek peace for today and preserve it for tomorrow.
Seek peace constantly and never give up on making peace.

(continued on next page)

MOMENTS OF GREATNESS

RABBI SHLOMO EISENBERG



Jacob was checking into COOLVIDEO videography company to make his son's Bar Mitzvah party as memorable as possible. He heard only good things about the company and was impressed, but just to be sure, he asked his friend Daniel if he had any experiences with them. When asked, Daniel replied, "Are you crazy?! COOLVIDEO is the worst videography company in town. They literally destroyed Sam's son's Bar Mitzvah, only arriving toward the end of the night. Even traffic is not a valid excuse to come late; they should have left with enough time, keeping in mind potential traffic issues." Jacob didn't understand how this fit with all the good information that he heard about the company, but he felt he had no choice and therefore hired the competition. A few days later, Jacob happened to meet Sam while exercising at the gym. He asked Sam why COOLVIDEO came so late to his son's Bar Mitzvah party. Sam countered, "COOLVIDEO actually saved the day. I had hired a different company and after they failed to show up, I desperately contacted COOLVIDEO and they dropped everything to rush over. They came in the nick of time to at least give us some memory of the special occasion." With a sinking feeling, Jacob realized the power of judging favorably, and learned a valuable lesson.*

*Name has been changed.



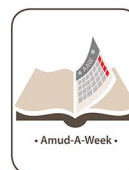
UPCOMING WEEK'S SCHEDULE: YEAR 3, WEEK 10—BRACHOS 53A

Rabbi Daniel Freund

Rabbi Mendy Rosner

Maggid shiur of the week for the Amud: **R' Daniel Anton**

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



Sponsored by Rabbi Shlomo & Mrs. Liba Eisenberg in honor of Rabbi Shaya Mintz who has gone above and beyond for us as we became part of the Kollel family.

ZMANIM: CANDLELIGHTING: 8:09 PM SOF ZMAN KRIAS SHEMA: M.A. 8:43 AM GRA": 9:19 AM

SHABBOS ENDS: 9:13 PM (RABBEINU TAM: 9:40 PM)

ALEF TO TAV: INSIGHTS INTO THE ALEF-BEIS

**Letter:** Zayin**Numerical value:** 7**Spelling:** Zayin, yud, nun

When a Jew thinks about the number 7 they naturally think of Shabbos, the 7th day of the week, when we mimic G-d. Just as He rested from creation, we rest from our work. The *Vilna Gaon* (R' Eliyahu of Vilna 1720-1797) noted that we see the number 7 in each of the special Shabbos items (highlighted in the Shabbos songs).

Item	Item	Letter Gematria	Gematria Sum	Digit Sum
Candle	נר	50+200	= 250	2+5+0=7
Wine	יין	10+10+50	= 70	7+0=7
Challah	חלה	8+30+5	= 43	4+3=7
Fish	דג	4+3	= 7	=7
Meat	בשר	200+300+2	502	5+0+2=7
Ice Cream*	גלידה	3+3[0]+1[0]+4+5	= 16	1+6=7

Credits: The Wisdom in the Hebrew Alphabet * Ice cream addition credit - Rabbi Ze'ev Smason

MUSSAR MESSAGE (CONT.)

This is King David's winning formula in any terrible situation of strife. The more one preserves peace, the happier Hashem, our Father, will be. There is nothing that makes a father happier than peace among his children, and each and every Jew is considered the child of Hashem. Let us all become winners.

Rabbi Frank joined the St. Louis Kollel in 1991, and currently serves as the Kollel's Rosh Chabura as well as its Rubin Feldman Chair of Talmudic Law and Tradition. He also serves as the Vice President of Education for Agudas Israel of St. Louis.

KOLLEL KASHA KORNER

RABBI YAAKOV SILVERMAN



Which passuk in the Torah has five two-letter words appearing consecutively?

Last week's riddle: Which passuk in this (Shelach) week's parsha starts and ends with the same three words? (Answer: The last passuk. "Ani Hashem Elokeichem asher hotsaisee eschem...Ani Hashem Elokeichem")

I DIDN'T
KNOW THAT!

RABBI YITZCHAK KOWALSKY

Q. We recently moved into a new home. When we packed up our boxes in our old apartment my wife was certain that she put her *kesuba* into one of the moving boxes. We are in the midst of unpacking (it's taking longer than we anticipated) and have yet to find the *kesuba*. Should we have another one written up?

A. The *halacha* is (S.A. EH 66:3) that it's forbidden for a couple to live together without a *kesuba*. Therefore, if the original *kesuba* was lost a new one must be written up immediately. It should be noted, however, that the *kesuba* doesn't necessarily need to be physically in the house. As long as the wife knows where it is, they are permitted to dwell together. Therefore, a couple may choose to deposit the *kesuba* in a safe-deposit box, and that is perfectly fine. In your case, if your wife is certain that the *kesuba* was packed in one of the moving boxes and it has yet to be discovered, an additional *kesuba* does not need to be written up. However, it would be preferable to lead an expedited search to ensure that the *kesuba* is intact.

Q. We recently celebrated our 40th wedding anniversary B"H. As a "walk down memory lane" we took out many old photos and memorabilia from our early days. When we took out our *kesuba* we noticed that the witness's signatures seemed to have faded over time to a point where they are barely legible. Is our *kesuba* still kosher?

A. Mazal Tov on reaching such a milestone! The signatures of the witnesses are an integral part of the *kesuba*; without them the *kesuba* is not valid. Although when the witnesses originally signed, the *kesuba* was kosher, there might be some concern if the ink has faded so much that they are now not recognizable. I recommend bringing your *kesuba* to your Rav to look at, who will then determine what should be done.

Please consult your Rav for a final ruling.

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SPOTLIGHT ON

As you probably have noticed by now...We have given the FTJ a "facelift" with an all "New & Improved" look. We hope you are enjoying it as much as we are enjoying putting it together for you. We asked some of our loyal readers to weigh in on what their favorite column is and why. We would love to hear from you. Send your comments, compliments :) and critiques to yberkowitz@stlkollel.com

I Didn't Know That! "Because I always learn interesting things regarding questions that I would never think to ask or didn't know that I should be asking!" Danny Solomon

Parsha Perspectives "Because we get to continue to learn from, connect and reap the fruits of our great St. Louis Kollel Alumni!" J.S.

"I like the 'Alef to Tav' section best...A really nice quick "bite size" read that provides insights into topics we often overlook or never stop to think about..." Ellie Weisz

'Moments of Greatness' because I like reading stories and **'I Didn't Know That'** because I like learning new things." Shlomo Dov Berkowitz

"Kasha Korner is my favorite because I always find the question to be challenging and the answer is always a surprise... Never what I would have guessed! And I especially like the suspense of waiting till the next week to find out the answer." M.M.

...(Family Torah Journal) is a marvelous resource for the St. Louis Jewish community... The scholarly articles and columns on topics of hashkafa (Jewish outlook/philosophy) and halacha (Jewish law) are insightful and relevant. Thank you!" Rabbi Ze'ev Smason* (Editor's Note: See previous page regarding Rabbi Smason's contribution to our appreciation of the joy and beauty of Shabbos.)



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Yashar Koach to the more than 300 people that participated in making this past Sunday night's dinner a huge Kiddush Hashem!

Thank you to the honorees and the Dinner Chairmen for your dedication to MTI! It is to your credit that we had such a large journal with well wishes. We appreciate everyone in the community's ongoing chizuk and support. In the merit of your Hachzakas HaTorah, Hashem should grant you Bracha and Hatzlacha!

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