



Family TORAH JOURNAL

PARSHA PERSPECTIVES RABBI AVI BIN-NUN



“And Moshe went out to the nation...and they stood at the bottom of the mountain” (19:17)

The Gemara in Shabbos (88a) explains that this *pasuk* comes to teach us that Hashem held the mountain over the Jewish people’s heads and told them, “If you accept the Torah, good, however, if not, [you will be buried under the mountain].” The Talmud continues, “R’ Acha bar Yaakov says, ‘Here is an excuse the Jews can use for not keeping the Torah [as they can say they were forced into it]’. Rava says, ‘Even so, they reaccepted the Torah at the time of the Purim miracle [because of the love of the miracle that transpired (Rashi)].”

The commentators ask if the Jews were forced to keep the Torah until the reacceptance during the Purim story, and consequently had an excuse *not* to keep the Torah, how was Hashem able to punish them up until that point? How could they be punished in the desert or with the destruction of the Beis Hamikdash? Furthermore, what exactly was unique about the miracle of Purim that we reaccepted the Torah without coercion, more so than any of the other miracles experienced up until this point? Additionally, hadn’t we already accepted the Torah willingly when we said *na’aseh venishma*, we will do and we will hear?

Rav Shimon Schwab suggests a novel approach to explain this enigmatic Gemara. He suggests that indeed the Jewish nation accepted the Torah willingly when they said *na’aseh venishma*. However, it’s possible we could have claimed that we accepted the Torah only during times of open miracles and prophecy, i.e. when we are “forced” into believing Hashem by what our eyes see. Only in such a world did we accept the Torah willingly, as it is infinitely easier to serve Hashem when we see and feel Hashem’s presence openly. But regarding times of darkness and turmoil, when Hashem’s “face is hidden” and we don’t see Him clearly, for those moments we were hesitant. We did not feel ready to overcome the trials and tribulations of such a world, a world that we aren’t “forced” to serve Hashem. This is why we were punished in the desert and during the time period of the Beis

(continued on page 3)

Food For Thought

RABBI ZEVI FARKAS



Yisro arrives at the Jewish encampment in the desert, and instantly notices something bizarre: Jews are lined up for hours waiting to speak to Moshe, the Jewish leader. He figures out a plan to alleviate the time the Jews need to wait to speak to someone and frees Moshe from being the only person able to answer everyone’s questions. Moshe approves of his suggestion and institutes it.

Rav Yerucham Levovitz zt”l, the Mashgiach of the Mir Yeshiva in prewar Europe, uses this story to laud Yisro for his novel idea and expound on a topic he calls the “Power (or strength) of criticism.” To most of us, this praise and positivity of criticism seem strange. How can criticism be viewed as a good thing?

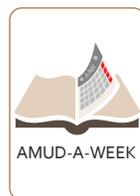
The answer lies in the fundamental mistake most of us make when criticizing others. We seem to have no problem pointing out another person’s faults. When viewing ourselves, however, we somehow seem not to notice any deficiencies. We tend to use a different measuring stick for others than the one we use for ourselves. Yisro was not like this. He tried out all the religions of the time, and worshiped all the idols in the world, before recognizing Hashem and joining the Jewish people. He knew quite well how to criticize himself and realize when there was something that needed correcting. Such a person can share keen advice when he sees something needing to be fixed. Only such a person, who looks at others with the same lens as he views himself, can correctly and constructively criticize someone else.

AMUD-A-WEEK SCHEDULE TAANIS 31A

Short & Sweet - Rabbi Yitzchok Shimon Hess

Maggid shiur of the Amud - Rabbi Yosef Gottesman

MAZEL TOV!



YOUR DEDICATION MESSAGE CAN GO HERE
 CONTACT THE KOLLEL OFFICE AT 314-726-6047
 OR OFFICE@STLKOLLEL.COM

ZMANIM CANDLELIGHTING: 5:15 SOF ZMAN KRIAS SHEMA MA: 8:56 GRA: 9:36 AM
 SHABBOS ENDS 6:19 PM RABBEINU TAM: 6:47 PM

Harmonious Home

RABBI GIDON NITSUN STAN JACOBS CHAIR OF SENIOR KOLLEL LEARNING



Thought is not a natural and mechanical discharge of the brain; it is not automatic. A person has the power to rule over their thoughts and direct them to the desired channels. An accumulation of negative thoughts and feelings, stemming from an unfavorable outlook on the world, can pollute and poison a person from the inside, while favorable thoughts and positive words serve to cleanse and purify a person's personality, transforming him into a happy, goodhearted person.

One who allows their thoughts to center on the negative aspects of their spouse is slowly poisoning themselves, while one who trains themselves to see the good in their spouse, will enjoy a happy life, which will reflect upon their entire family as well.

Try the following to acquire a positive outlook toward those around you, especially toward your spouse:

First, make a list of all your spouse's good qualities, leaving space between each entry. When you are finished, make brief notes underneath each entry with examples and proofs exemplifying that trait. This addition will do wonders in convincing you and reinforcing awareness of the good traits you listed.

Next, choose those traits where you feel your spouse excels and is even stronger than you. This will help you realize that not only does your spouse have wonderful traits that you may have been taking for granted, but they are even greater than you in several areas, and there is room for improvement in the way you treat them.

Finally, draw up a list specifying the positive side of the faults your spouse has. For example, if one's husband is too apathetic towards her and the children, the positive side is that he doesn't lose his temper or get angry like many other husbands and fathers do when there is tension in the house. If he is more aggressive at certain times, this can be put to good use in his role as protector of the home. Continue this process for all the traits you listed.

Choosing to focus on your spouse's positive characteristics, as well as the positive aspects of their negative characteristics, will help ensure our continued happiness with our spouse.



The Stan Jacobs Chair of Senior Kollel Learning is dedicated in loving memory of Mr. Stan Jacobs a"h

What Would You Say?

RABBI ELIYAHU CHAIM GOLDSTONE



Q. Forget Cancun, Dubai, and the Islands of Fiji! Join Platinum Tours for an out-of-this-world experience at The Extraterrestrial Hotel in Outer Space! With uplifting speeches (no pun intended) and only the 'highest' level of Glatt Kosher food, this promises to be a wholesome vacation for the body and soul.

Here are some questions you may want to ponder before reserving your hotel room: When should you keep Shabbos? Should it be observed every seventh orbit around the globe? Or maybe it need not be kept at all? What do you say?

Have an answer? Email egoldstone@stlkollel.com

New at the Kollel Bookstore!

The Kollel Bookstore now carries a limited supply of "Leaders Cards"

\$1 a pack!

*Leaders Cards are the new collectors cards from the popular Circle Magazine



SOLVING SERIOUS
BUSINESS PROBLEMS BE'H



FRANKEL, RUBIN, KLEIN,
PAYNE & PUDLOWSKI, P.C.
Attorneys & Counselors At Law

MAYER S. KLEIN 314-725-8000 ext. 108 mklein@frankelrubin.com
www.frankelrubin.com

Kasha Korner

RABBI CHEZKY FREUND



Where are swords mentioned in this week's Parsha?

LAST WEEK'S KASHA:

Q. Where in this week's parsha do we see a small way that the Egyptians were similar to the Bnei Yisroel at Har Sinai?

A: Rashi tells us that the Egyptians acted "with one heart and like one person" when chasing after Bnei Yisroel. This is similar to Bnei Yisroel when they accepted the Torah, as Rashi says they were "like one person with one heart."

Congratulations: Akiva Glazer, Joshua Vorobeychik, Shmuli Kula, the Anton brothers, and Jonathan Witten.

Got an answer? Email cfreund@stlkollel.com

Learning Dedication

פרנס היום

The learning & שיעורים on Monday were dedicated by

The Davidovits Family

as a זכות for a רפואה שלימה for

עטרה מלכה בת שרה חסידה

Atara Malka bas Sarah Chasida

The learning & שיעורים on Tuesday were dedicated by

Friends of the Davidovits Family

as a זכות for a רפואה שלימה for

עטרה מלכה בת שרה חסידה

Atara Malka bas Sarah Chasida

The learning & שיעורים on Wednesday were dedicated

לע"נ אלי מוטל בן שמואל ע"ה

on his yahrtzeit

By his daughter, Mrs. Shifra Nueman



PARSHA PERSPECTIVES CONTINUED

Hamikdash, as those were times of open miracles and there was no excuse not to serve Him.

The uniqueness of the Purim miracle, over all the other miracles experienced previously, was that it was the first miracle that happened in a time when Hashem's presence was hidden. That miracle demonstrated for us that Hashem's presence was always working behind the scenes, even while in exile. We were then ready to accept the Torah, even in a "non-miracle" world, as we now understood that Hashem is always with us, even at the darkest times.

Perhaps there is no better time in history to remind ourselves of such a concept. We live in a time that we are under a *memsheles zaton*, a rulership of iniquity. Hashem's presence is very much hidden. We need to constantly remind ourselves that this is a façade, and Hashem is truly with each one of us and cares for us, just as He was during the Purim story. Though it is not yet Purim, let us heed its message and engrain in ourselves the reality of Hashem's presence in our daily lives.



It's a great time to buy your husband life insurance

If you've been thinking about buying life insurance, now is the time. Due to the current situation, carriers are offering incredible rates *without a medical exam!* Grab this opportunity while it's still there.

A 40 year old man can now get a ten year **\$1,000,000** policy for just \$23 a month!

Call Spetner and we'll get you a deal

314-442-0001

Get more quotes at
<https://www.spetner.com/quotes.asp>

COMMUNITY SIYUM & SHABBOS OF INSPIRATION

FOR PARTICIPANTS AND ALL COMMUNITY MEMBERS

PARSHAS MISHPATIM
FEB 17 - FEB 18

- ▶ **Post Kabbalas Shabbos D'var Torah**
YOUNG ISRAEL DEDICATED BY MARK & TAMMY FRIEDMAN IN HONOR OF RABBI SHULMAN AND THE THURSDAY EVENING AMUD CHABURAH
- ▶ **Oneg Shabbos for Men** DEDICATED BY A DEAR FRIEND IN HONOR OF RABBI & MRS. CHEZKY FREUND FOR THEIR DEVOTION TO SPREADING TORAH & ACHDUS THROUGHOUT THE COMMUNITY
YECHIEL & KARLA DEL CASTILLO 8227 BALSON
- ▶ **Shabbos Morning Drasha**
U. CITY SHUL DEDICATION AVAILABLE
- ▶ **Shabbos afternoon Shiur for Women**
3:30 PM MAYER & ESTHER KLEIN 7947 STANFORD DEDICATION AVAILABLE
- ▶ **Parsha Shiur**
AGUDAS ISRAEL DEDICATED IN HONOR OF RABBI CHEZKY FREUND BY AN APPRECIATIVE PARTICIPANT
- ▶ **Community Siyum | February 16** NOTE NEW DATE!!
FOR MEN & WOMEN 8:00PM NUSACH HARI B'NAI ZION
PARTIALLY DEDICATED BY THE LYSS FAMILY IN LOVING MEMORY OF THEIR FATHER VITZCHAK CHAIM BEN AARON YAAKOV A"H
\$18 SUGGESTED DONATION PER PERSON - RSVP TO CFREUND@STLKOLLEL.COM

SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE

GOLD
\$500

SILVER
\$360

BRONZE
\$180

Your Amud. Your Community. Your Siyum.

Short Story

The Purchasing Power of Prayer

One Erev Sukkos, there was a long line at a supermarket in Yerushalayim. As Reuven's groceries were being rung up, he kept running out of line, for another item, and yet another item, thus holding everyone up. Shimon who was waiting in this line, ready to check out, became upset and said to Reuven, "Don't you realize it's erev Yom Tov? We are all in a rush, how could you have the audacity to keep running out of the line, and causing others to wait longer?" It was obvious to everyone that Reuven was very hurt by these words. Shimon immediately apologized, and to show he was sincere, he paid for Reuven's groceries, totaling \$600.

When Shimon left the store, he saw Reuven standing outside the store, crying. Shimon went up to him and said, "I am truly sorry. Please forgive me!"

Reuven replied, "I am not crying about that. I am crying from happiness. We have not bought groceries for a few weeks, because we simply can not afford them. This morning my wife asked me to go to the store and buy groceries for Sukkos. She said, 'I and the children will sit here and say *Tehillim* until you return, and hopefully things will turn out alright.' That is why I am crying." Seeing Shimon's disbelief, Reuven called his wife, who picked up the phone and asked, "What is happening? We are still saying *Tehillim*."

When the story made the rounds of Yerushalayim, someone said in jest, "Tell me who Shimon was, maybe he will pay for my groceries as well." Obviously, the question is foolish. It wasn't Shimon who paid for the groceries, it was the power of the *Tehillim* said by Reuven's wife and children!