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כ"ט טבת תש"ע

## פרשת וארא

Candle Lighting 5:34 PM

Rabbi Binyomin Luban  
Rabbi Yisroel Y. Niman  
Rabbi Mordechai Palgon

ראשי הישיבה

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### Dvar Torah - The Influence of Materialism by Rabbi Yehuda Bergida



“שהיא מדה טובה מכל המדות – טובות – It is the best of all virtuous character traits.” The Ramban in his *Igeres*, extols the benefits of humility, and warns of the dangers

of haughtiness. A person who lacks modesty and humility can remain impervious to even the most compelling motivating factors to do *teshuva*. Many factors can influence a person’s pride, not the least of which is one’s surroundings.

We see an example of how one’s environment can affect his humility in our *Parsha*. After *Paroh* is subjected to the plague of *dam*, we are told that he returned to his palace and his heart did not heed the message of the plague. *Rabbeinu Bachya*, at the beginning of *Parshas Bo*, comments on the fact that the Torah tells us *Paroh* first returned to his palace, and only

then did he ignore the plague. *Rabbeinu Bachya* attributes *Paroh’s* ability to tune out the call to repent, due the pride and arrogance he felt upon entering his palatial home.

When one analyzes this, it is truly astonishing. All of Egypt was in turmoil; there was no water to drink. The *Medrash* tells us that even the walls of *Paroh’s* palace were dripping blood! *Paroh*, however, when surrounded by his royal trappings, was impervious to the message of the devastating plague.

We see how far one’s being in comfortable, materialistic surroundings can dampen the effects of a call to *teshuva*. Let us recognize that when we are in our own “castles” and feeling quite comfortable with our worldly successes, there is a danger that we too could come to ignore the call to *teshuva*.

### Thank You!

25th  
Annual Dinner

We would like to thank everyone who participated in this year’s Annual Dinner and for making this year’s campaign such a success!

### Dvar Halacha – מדבר שקר תרחק

by Meir Palgon, Grade 11

“מדבר שקר תרחק - Distance yourself from a lie.” Our sages tell us that this *halacha* applies even if the falsehood will not hurt another person. This *halacha* not only prohibits outright verbal lying, but a number of other types of deceptions as well. If two people are whispering amongst themselves, one should not approach them and ask what they are talking about. Since they will likely lie

about the content of their conversation, you will be causing them to lie. Additionally, one should not make a statement that has a dual meaning in a situation where the listener will be led to misinterpret the statement. Even using simple body language in a way that misleads others is considered a violation of this *halacha*.

## 5 Tips for Hatzlocha on Mid-Terms



By School Counselor  
Eli Feldman,  
LMHC

### 1. Know Yourself!

Discover your personal learning style. If you are a visual learner, make flashcards & charts; an auditory learner - record your voice. Perhaps mnemonics, rhymes or song work for you.

### 2. Brain Foods

like almonds, salmon and other omega 3's, as well as lots of water, have been showing up in research studies to increase focus, concentration and memory.

### 3. Cheer Up!

Test-takers that were happier, & getting along with friends and family, did slightly better than their hostile, depressed peers.

### 4. Have a Positive Attitude!

Believing (even if it seems slightly delusional) that you will do well, has been associated with increased test scores.

### 5. Be

**Realistic!** Nobody knows ALL the answers. Don't let a wrong answer depress you. Know yourself and have realistic expectations.

## YTC Spotlight

### Gedolei Roshei Yeshiva Visit YTC



Learning Torah in South Florida has many advantages, not the least of which is the benefit that so many *Gedolei Torah* visit our area as part of their *avoda* for *K'lal Yisroel*. This week, the Agudas Yisroel convention in South Florida brought HaGaon HaRav Shmuel Kamenetsky, Rosh HaYeshiva of the Philadelphia Yeshiva, to North Miami Beach.

The Rosh HaYeshiva was *mechazek* the Yeshiva in regards to the *koach ha'tefila*.

The Torah Umesorah President's Conference brought HaGaon HaRav Dovid Harris, Rosh HaYeshiva of Yeshivas Chofetz Chaim in Queens, NY to YTC as well. The Rosh HaYeshiva shared with the *bachurim* Torah insights into how to attain true happiness.



Also visiting this week was Rabbi Mordechai Tropper, *Mashgiach* of Yeshivas Chofetz Chaim, Queens, NY. Rabbi Tropper delivered the weekly *mussar shmues* to our High School talmidim.



### The Jetty at John Lloyd Beach, Hollywood, FL

by Yosef Hostyk, Grade 9

*Yosef Hostyk's poem below is one of six Creative Writing pieces by YTC students submitted this year to The Scholastic Writing Awards. Mr. Aaron Gillego, our Language Arts instructor, is again serving as one of the Awards judges for Miami-Dade County.*

*This piece demonstrates Yosef's command of language and his concern for the environment: the poem's lyricism captures the sublime power of nature.*

On rocks in the sheltered harbor  
facing the force of the ocean  
alone, stands the pair of weathered men  
Outsiders on the bay boundaries  
the older seemingly embedded in the rock  
as if bedecked with moss and algae  
his back postured like a humpback whale  
hands firmly holding the pole, his line  
never straying  
into the guarded territory of the other,  
whose drifting  
about no longer makes an impression  
on the water's currents, for here no fish

catch the thin cord and straighten  
its curls and spirals into a tautened  
tripwire of ocean, straight-backed in  
replication  
of the rod and its master unnatural  
in his surroundings, stranded  
in his refusal to become  
ingrained

Away from the deserted jetty, crabs  
scuttle  
over shards of sea glass towards the boy  
placed into a collapsible beach  
chair rather like his legs ex-  
cept they never work  
but he doesn't notice and vacantly looks  
as the sun sets  
Hands helpless in pockets, sunken  
pirate ships of no use to any except  
barnacles finding the hidden  
cargo holds that frustrated all their  
customs  
officers, barnacles clinging tightly to the  
sturdy mast  
until his father leaves to look at the

pulsating  
jellyfish, its rhythm slowing down to  
match his  
son's heart for a second before deflating  
into a useless  
plastic bag, partially filled with blue waste

Into Florida's undesiring shuttered arms  
Wilma spun, disturbing the jetty's founda-  
tion  
With huge rocks lining its sides, the jetty  
stands, now humbled  
by a chain-link fence separating it  
from the beach, the boy, and the fisher-  
men who can only view  
through the gaps the neglected spot  
where they once tackled  
the might of ocean

*The fishermen unmoored on the fish-less  
rocks, the boy adrift in other  
worlds – all forever  
broken, John Lloyd's  
forgotten flotsam*