



February 5, 2010

כ"א שבט תש"ע

פרשת יתרו

Candle Lighting 5:49 PM

Rabbi Binyomin Luban
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ראשי הישיבה

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Dvar Torah - *Derech Eretz Kadma L'Torah* by Rabbi Mordechai Palgon



The *Mishna* in *Pirkei Avos* states "Derech Eretz Kadma L'Torah," treating others with proper respect comes before Torah. From this week's *Parsha*, we can gain deeper insight into this adage.

The *Pasuk* states (19:21), "Reid, ha'ed b'am...". Hashem told Moshe, "Go down from the mountain and warn the nation that they should not ascend or get near the mountain." Moshe responded (19:23), "No need to warn them. You have already warned them (not to ascend)." Subsequently, Hashem commands Moshe (19:24), "Go off the mountain and bring Aharon back up with you." After this, Hashem delivers the *Aseres Hadibros*.

This entire strange dialogue between Moshe and Hashem is annotated by the *Medrash Rabbah* (28:3). Hashem did not want Moshe on the mountain during the actual transmitting of the *Aseres Hadibros*. Having him there would create room for heretics to question the Divine authenticity of the Ten Commandments. After all, some might say that Moshe delivered them on his own.

At the same time, Hashem did not want to embarrass Moshe by telling him directly that he wasn't wanted on the mountain, so he hinted to him with an unnecessary instruction to descend and warn the people. Moshe did not "get it", and therefore responded, "You already warned the people!" At this point, Hashem contrived another "excuse", telling him, "Go down and bring Aharon back with you." When Moshe went down, the *Aseres Hadibros* were given.

When we analyze this scenario, an amazing lesson emerges. The stage was set for the most auspicious moment in history: Hashem's declaration of the *Aseres Hadibros*. Heralded by an awesome display of thunder, lightning, smoke, *shofar* blasts and fire, Hashem's presence descended upon *Har Sinai*. This was THE moment that fulfilled the purpose of the entire creation of the world.

Yet, the entire moment is put on ice so that Hashem could minimize some hurt feelings of Moshe *Rabbeinu*. Moshe was the *anav mi'kol adam*, the most humble of men. Moshe was the leader of the Jewish People and Hashem's *eved ne'eman* - loyal servant. Certainly, under the circumstances, to prevent heresy and bolster *emunah baShem*, he would have gladly descended off the mountain. At worst, there could only have been a small trace of hurt feeling, so what was the problem?

We see from here the amazing *chashivus* that *Derech Eretz* has in the eyes of Hashem. Even a small, questionable hurt feeling is worth delaying the giving of the *Aseres Hadibros*. We often write off these small "indiscretions" as no big deal; they'll get over it. We especially justify hurting someone's feelings when we have lofty objectives, even for Torah causes!

The lesson this *Parsha* teaches us is *Derech Eretz Kadma L'Torah*. *Derech Eretz* takes precedence, because the Torah itself was delayed in its transmission to display proper *Derech Eretz*! May we all be *zocheh* to bolster our *bain adam l'chaveiro*, and in this merit, be *zocheh* to Torah itself!

Please Join Us!
YTC Learnathon
Monday, February 15
Presidents' Day
A 5-Hour
Intensive Learning
Program
and Yom Iyun
Shiurim Begin at
2:30 P.M.
For more information or
to sponsor this meaningful
event, please call our
office at 305-944-5344

Yeshiva Talmidim Celebrate Siyum Mishnayos



This week the B'nei Yeshiva had the zechus to participate in two *Siyumei Mishnayos*. One was made by members of our Bais Medrash in memory of *Mordechai Pinchas ben Binyomin Helfman A"H*, father of Mrs. Lillian Hahn, on the occasion of his 3rd *Yahrtzeit*. The *bochurim* learned the entire *Seder Nashim* in his merit and the *Siyum* was made by Yosef Stulberger, a *talmid* of the Yeshiva. Dr. and Mrs. Elliot Hahn sponsored a special breakfast attended by the Hahn Family, our Roshei HaYeshiva, Bais Medrash Rabbeim and *bochurim* in honor of the *Siyum* and the *Yahrtzeit*.



YTC ninth grader Nadav Levine made a *Siyum* on *Seder Moed* in memory of his grandmother, *Shayna bas Yisroel Nachum HaCohen A"H*, whose *Shloshim* was observed last Friday. After the *hadran*, Nadav and his father, our Secular Studies Principal Rabbi David A. Levine, spoke about the *nifteres*, and related some of the *mishnayos* learned to her life. The Levine family sponsored a special breakfast for the ninth grade in honor of the *Siyum* and the *Shloshim*.

YTC Spotlight

Project Chazon Comes to YTC



This past week, Rabbi Doniel Mechanic, Founder and Director of Project Chazon, addressed YTC students regarding *Emunah*. Rabbi Mechanic is a world-renowned lecturer on topics related to *Kiruv Rechokim*. After spending 15 years as the Director of Aish HaTorah/Discovery, where he presented hundreds of seminars and inspired thousands of *ba'alei teshuva*, he decided to assist Yeshiva high schools in reinforcing and strengthening the *Yiddishkeit* of their students. Through his Project Chazon, he began presenting comprehensive seminars on the *Yesodei HaEmunah* to Yeshiva and Bais Yaakov high school students and teachers throughout the United States, Canada and England. His inspirational *Hashkafah Shiurim* have been presented in over 330 schools, with the endorsement of leading *Gedolim*, Roshei Yeshivos and Principals worldwide. His fascinating and unique programs have been a source of *chizuk* and *hisorerus* for over 165,000 Yeshiva students.

Rabbi Mechanic's inimitable style, peppering his compelling *hashkafa* dialogue with humor and unabashed "straight talk," effected an instant connection with his



audience. The *bochurim* listened intently and actively participated for more than two hours. Students left with their "Emunah tank" on full, and with a renewed appreciation for Hashem and His Torah.

YTC Hosts Open House Wednesday, February 17

YTC is hosting an Open House for parents of prospective 9th graders on Wednesday evening, February 17 from 8:00-9:30 PM. Roshei HaYeshiva Rabbi Binyomin Luban and Rabbi Mordechai Palgon will address the gathering and share the Yeshiva's philosophies and goals. In addition, parents will have the opportunity to meet Assistant Principal Rabbi Yehuda Bergida and High School Mashgiach and 9th grade Rebbe, Rabbi Hillel Dudovitz. Rabbi David A. Levine, Secular Studies Principal, will discuss the Yeshiva's most recent innovations in curriculum. The campus is currently completing extensive renovations to accommodate an ever-increasing enrollment, and parents will be led on a guided tour of the well-planned, spacious facilities which will greet their sons when

the construction is complete.

Due to the expansion of the High School dormitory program, Yeshiva Toras Chaim is offering a limited number of slots to out-of-town students. A Shabbaton was held on Shabbos Parshas Veyeitzei to better acquaint prospective 9th graders with its program. Out-of-town parents are invited to visit the Yeshiva as well, and/or to participate in the Open House.

For further information regarding the Yeshiva or any of its programs, or if you need assistance with accommodations, please call the High School office at 305-944-5344. Inquiries may also be directed to ytic@yticteam.net.

