



YESHIVA TORAS CHAIM
DR. ABE CHAMES HIGH SCHOOL

Spotlight



June 18, 2010

ו' תמוז תש"ע

פרשת הקת

Candle Lighting 7:56 PM

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ראשי הישיבה

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Dvar Torah - A Tribute to the Graduates

by Rabbi Mordechai Palgon



When the Torah discusses the *mitzvah* of bringing *masser sheni* to Yerushalayim to consume, its purpose is stated as, "למען תלמד ליראה, את ד' אלוך כל הימים - in order that you should learn to fear Hashem all of your days." Tosfos in Baba Basra

inquires as to what facet of one's coming to Yerushalayim to consume his *massar sheni* will impact his *Yiras Shomayim*. Tosfos explains that there is no one thing that will cause this spiritual growth; rather, in being in the place where the Kohanim are *duchening*, the *Leviim* singing, and the *Sanhedrin* judging, an environment where כולם עוסקים במלאכת שמים, everyone he sees is involved in serving Hashem. Observing this alone will be sufficient to influence an individual and indoctrinate him with *Yiras Shomayim*.

It is interesting to note that Tosfos makes no mention of any special *shiur* that this individual needs to attend, nor any other specific requirement other than what he will happen to chance upon once he is there! Rather, we see one's environment can have a tremendous effect on his spirituality.

My dear graduates - You have all been *zocheh* to have been brought up attending the finest Yeshivos.

Dvar Halacha - The Three Weeks

The three-week period between the fasts of the 17th of Tammuz and Tishah b'Av, known as *Bein ha-Metzarim*, was established as a time of mourning over the destruction of the two *Batei Mikdash*. There are four forbidden activities which are specific to the Three Weeks: taking a haircut or a shave; getting married or participating in a wedding; listening to music and dancing; and reciting *shehecheyanu*.

Even though cutting hair is prohibited, it is permitted

Merely seeing everyone involved with *Melech Shomayim* was enough to indoctrinate you with *Yiras Shomayim*. Merely seeing a Yeshiva from which a Kol Torah emanated 24/7/365 has had a huge impact on you - which it has! Merely seeing the dedication of your *Rabbeim*, seeing the love and care your teachers have for you, would have been enough to overwhelm you with a commitment to continue on the *derech* that has been set forth for you by your parents.

V'koi Sh'kain, when, in addition to all you have witnessed or "chanced upon," you have indulged and strived to achieve higher levels of Torah learning, how much more so have you indoctrinated yourselves with *Yiras Shomayim*. Indeed, it is truly mind boggling to see and understand what you have accomplished!

My message to you all is to always surround yourself with good people who are *Osek B'Meleches Shomayim*. In this way, you will always continue to absorb more *Yiras Shomayim*.

May Hashem continue to illuminate the path before you, and may all your family and friends merit to enjoy the enormous pride we feel in you עד מאה ועשרים שנה.

to trim a mustache that interferes with eating, comb one's hair, even though some hair will get torn out while combing, and cut ones nails. The prohibition of hair-cutting applies even to small children under the age of *chinuch*. Thus if an *upsheren* falls during the Three Weeks, it should either be moved up or postponed. The *Biyur Halacha* brings the opinion of Rabbi Akiva Eiger, who holds that one who shaves regularly may shave on Friday during the Three Weeks *l'kavod Shabbos*.



Hurry!

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The Weekly Quiz

Exactly how long is it from the molad of one month until the molad of the next?

Answers may be submitted in writing to the Spotlight office or emailed to Quiz@ytcteam.net. The first correct answer submitted will be announced in the next Spotlight. You need not be a student to participate. Hatzlochah!

Answer to last week's quiz:

Other than his father and grandfather, which of his ancestors could Yaakov Avinu have seen?

A: Shem, Shelah, and Aver. Congratulations to Avraham Mitgang of our Bais Medrash for being the first of many to submit the correct answer.

YTC Spotlight

Mazel Tov to our Graduates!

This past week the Yeshiva Toras Chaim / Dr. Abe Chames High School bade a fond farewell to the graduating class of 5770 / 2010. Many of the students who matriculated this past week have been in the YTC/TEAM family for nearly 15 years, literally longer than they can remember.

The Yeshiva celebrated this monumental achievement with a special Shabbos dedicated to the Senior class. The Seniors and their families spent Shabbos learning, schmoozing, and enjoying the lavish Shabbos sudos with YTC Roshei HaYeshiva, administrators, Rabbeim, and staff. Parents took this opportunity to reminisce with Yeshiva faculty, and celebrate the growth of their sons. At *Shalos Seudos*, graduates Moshe Nightingale and Yosef Tacher shared a *shtikle Torah* בענייני זיקה וחזקה.

On Sunday, which was Rosh Chodesh Tamuz, the Seniors danced with their *Rabbeim* and *chaveirim* from the High School and Bais Medrash divisions at our monthly *Rosh Chodesh* breakfast.

Sunday night, however, was the pinnacle of the weekend as the



Yeshiva held its Commencement Exercises. One grandparent in attendance remarked, "I don't know much about the school, but the warmth the students feel for the Yeshiva and its staff is clearly evident." Rosh HaYeshiva Rabbi Mordechai Palgon addressed each graduate individually, accentuating their *ma'alos*, and gave them a *bracha*. Rosh HaYeshiva Rabbi Yisroel Y. Niman and YTC President Ari Lampert presented each student with his diploma and any awards they had received.

Not only were the graduates honored for their past accomplishments,

but their enormous potential for the future was celebrated as well. All in attendance came to appreciate the challenges, difficulties, achievements and growth of the Class of 5770 / 2010. These young men graduated as princes of *Torah*, *Middos* and *Yiras Shomayim*. They leave us with much promise and pride in carrying the flame of *Torah* to the next generation.



Yeshiva Toras Chaim Dr. Abe Chames High School Class of 5770 | 2010



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