



December 17, 2010

י' טבת תשע"א

פרשת ויחי

Candle Lighting 5:14 PM

**Rabbi Binyomin Luban**  
**Rabbi Yisroel Y. Niman**  
**Rabbi Mordechai Palgon**  
ראשי הישיבה

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## Dvar Torah - Absolute Honesty by Rabbi Yehuda Bergida



Rav Yisroel Salanter taught that without the trait of *emes*, truthfulness, even if a person sees the fires of purgatory before his eyes, it will not keep him from sin. We may think our good intentions combined with our fear of Heaven will ensure that we fulfill the will of Hashem, but Rav Yisroel tells us there is another important ingredient, honesty.

In this week's Haftorah, Shlomo HaMelech receives a final charge from his father, Dovid HaMelech. This episode is followed by the incident of two women who come before Shlomo, both claiming maternal rights to the same child. Shlomo devises a clever test to determine to whom the child truly belonged. The *Maharsha* implies that this investigation was so clever that it prompted all of Israel to realize Shlomo's great wisdom.

At the conclusion of the test, Sholomo referenced one of the litigants and proclaimed, "Give the child to her. She is the mother." The Gemorah in *Makos* questions how Shlomo could have proclaimed that one of the litigants was the child's mother. Isn't it possible that the woman had seen through Shlomo's test and had cunningly deceived him? The Gemorah answers that indeed Shlomo had only said, "Give the child to her."

According to the Gemorah, the words, "She is the mother," were pronounced by a *bas kol*, a heavenly echo, affirming the veracity of Shlomo's verdict.

The Gemorah's conclusion is truly astonishing. Shlomo's test was brilliant. So brilliant, in fact, that it helped earn him the adulation as the smartest man of all time. It stands to reason that his test must have been extremely accurate. The prospect of the litigant defeating the test must have been remote in the utmost. Being that the test was extremely precise, what would have the problem with Shlomo proclaiming one litigant the mother?

Even though Shlomo's test was conclusive enough to decide the case, and brilliant enough to impress the world, if there was any chance at all that he was wrong, no matter how extremely remote a possibility it was, he could not proclaim, "She is the mother." The fact that there was an infinitesimal chance that his statement could be false prevented him from making that proclamation.

We see from here the extreme extent of the caution one must employ to ensure his words are true. Being "pretty sure" or "almost positive" isn't enough. One must be exceedingly careful to ensure that all his words are completely true.

## Dvar Halacha – Opening Another's Mail

One of the earliest *Rishonim* was Rabbeinu Gershon Meor HaGolah. His commentary on Gemorah is printed on the page of the *Talmud Bavli* and authored many *Piyutim*, such as *Zechor Bris Avraham*. Perhaps, Rabbeinu Gershon is most well-known for his *takkanos*, four of which are widely respected today: the bans against marrying two women, divorcing a woman against her will, opening another's mail, and scorning an apostate who returns to Torah. They are known as the *cheirem d'Rabbeinu Gershon*.

The *Aruch HaShulchan* (*Yoreh Dayah* 334:21) debates whether the injunction against opening another's mail applies to reading a postcard addressed to another. He argues that since in a postcard there is no expectation of privacy and one is not concealing his words, there would be no prohibition regarding reading one addressed to another. Rav Pinchas Sheinberg, שליט"א, is quoted to have applied that logic to the question regarding opening another's email. Since when one sends an email there is an expectation of privacy, one who opens another's email would be subject to the *cheirem*.

*Thank You!*  
*The Rabbeim,*  
*Teachers and Staff*  
*of the Yeshiva*  
*would like to offer*  
*heartfelt thanks to*  
*all those who*  
*participated in the*  
*Chanukah Gift*  
*Program.*

## YTC Spotlight

### The Weekly Quiz

Which Rishon, who was a great Torah scholar as well as a noted astronomer and mathematician, has a crater on the moon named after him?

Answers may be submitted in writing to the Spotlight office or emailed to [Quiz@ytcteam.net](mailto: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 question: Q. What is the only day of the week on which all six fast days can fall?

A. Thursday

Yasher Koach Sruly & Aharon Pikes, who were the first to submit the right answer!

### Kesser Shem Tov Awardees: Mr. & Mrs. Aaron Groffman

We are pleased to announce that **MR. AND MRS. AARON AND RANDY GROFFMAN** will be receiving the **KESSER SHEM TOV AWARD**. Members of the YTC/TEAM family since 1998, Randy pinpoints the beginning of their involvement with the Yeshiva when she helped paint the scenery for their son's Chumash play. She found the experience very rewarding, and they started asking for ways to get involved - which were eagerly accepted. Their 4 children *ka"n* all have attended YTC/TEAM. Aaron's past leadership as

President of the Young Israel of Greater Miami has strengthened the entire North Miami Beach *kehilla*, and Randy has co-chaired the *shul's* annual dinner many times. The Groffmans say "...it's easy to show *Hakoros Hatov* to a school that has demonstrated tremendous flexibility, and openness to our suggestions." **WE** say that it's easy to show *HaKoras Hatov* to this remarkable couple who in their modest and unassuming way, continue to give so much of themselves for our *talmidim*.



Mr. and Mrs. Aaron Groffman

Missed last week's Spotlight featuring this year's **Guests of Honor, Mr. & Mrs. Marcos Lapciuc?** Check it out online @ [www.ytcteam.org](http://www.ytcteam.org)

# Mazel Tov!

Yeshiva Toras Chaim ♡ Toras Emes

BAIS MEDRASH ZICHRON EZRA  
DR. ABE CHAMES HIGH SCHOOL  
ROHR MIDDLE SCHOOL  
KLURMAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

## 26th Annual Dinner

4 SHEVAT, 5771 ♡ SUNDAY, JANUARY 9, 2011

Jungle Island Treetop Ballroom  
1111 Parrot Jungle Trail • Miami, Florida

Cocktails 6:00 pm • Dinner 7:00 pm

Visit us online at [ytcteam.org/dinner](http://ytcteam.org/dinner)