



December 31, 2010

כ"ד טבת תשע"א

**פרשת וארא**

Candle Lighting 5:22 PM

**Rabbi Binyomin Luban**  
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ראשי הישיבה

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**Dvar Torah - The First Day of the Rest of Your Life**

*Based on Thoughts Expressed by Rabbi Dovid Sharfman*



Sometimes we think our lives are on "auto-pilot." Since we are faithful to Hashem and his Torah today, we can rest assured that our level of observance will not falter. We see from the Torah that this is not the case.

seems that even when Paroh was acting with extreme nobility, the potential for great evil lay dormant within him. All it took was Paroh's acquiescence to enslave the Jews, an act he knew was morally reprehensible, to put him upon a dark path that would dominate his destiny.

Paroh is known as one of the most infamous villains in Jewish history. The cruelty and brutality of the Egyptian exile is unparalleled. We are told of widespread infanticide, the grueling enslavement of an entire people, and unspeakable acts of horror, all under the direction of Paroh.

We see from here the fundamental dichotomy that exists within an individual. A person must never let down his guard against his *yetzer hara*, for once a person stumbles in an *aveirah*, it has the ability to lead him down a slippery slope to iniquity.

However, the *Da'as Zekeinim* learns in last week's Parsha that when the suggestion was first made to subjugate the Jewish people, Paroh demurred. Paroh refused to abuse the nation of Yosef, who had saved the lives of the Egyptian people. Paroh was so adamant in his refusal to mistreat the Jews, that he was deposed. It was only after a three-month suspension from the monarchy that Paroh agreed to enslave the Jews.

On the other hand, one can also glean a most uplifting lesson from this *Chazal*. We may surmise that just like everyone has within himself the potential for great wickedness, everyone must also have within himself the potential for great righteousness. When a person puts himself upon the path of Torah and *mitzvos*, it could potentially guide him to greater spirituality than he ever dreamed possible. We have within ourselves tremendous potential, and all it takes to unlock it is a step in the right direction. Let's all take that step today, and make it the first day of the rest of our lives.

The very same man who was willing to step down as king rather than act in a way that was ungrateful, was committing unspeakable crimes shortly thereafter. It

**Dvar Halacha – Saying Amen**

*Chazal* decreed that anyone hearing a *bracha* must respond Amen. It is a transgression to hear a *bracha* and not respond Amen. The *Ben Ish Chai* rules that if one knows that those around him will not answer Amen to his *bracha*, it is preferable that he make the *bracha* quietly.

they are answering, should answer Amen along with them even if he cannot or did not hear the *mevarech* make the *bracha*. The Gemorah in Succah relates that there was a shul in Alexandria that held many thousands of people, and the *shamash* would have flags waived in order to signal the crowd to answer Amen. Since the people in the crowd knew which *bracha* the *Chazan* was making, they could answer. *Tosfos* points out that when the *Chazan* is being *motzei* someone with a *bracha*, the listener must actually hear the *bracha* himself in order to be *yetzei*, just hearing others answer Amen isn't sufficient in that case.

However, in order to answer Amen, one must be aware as to what *bracha* he is answering. If one enters a shul and hears the congregation answering Amen, but he has no idea as to what *bracha* they are answering, he may not answer Amen with them. Conversely, one who hears others answering Amen, and is aware as to which *bracha*

## YTC Spotlight

### The Weekly Quiz

What two other names is Miriam, Moshe Rabbeinu's sister, also known by in Tanach?

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. Where can you find 5 two-letter words in a row in the Chumash?

A. There are actually 3, Bereishis 6:32 & 35:17, and Shemos 17:16. Mazel Tov to Arie Salamon for being the first of many to submit the correct answer.

### YTC Holds Open House

This week, the Dr. Abe Chames High School of Yeshiva Toras Chaim / Toras Emes held its annual Open House for prospective ninth grade *talmidim* and their parents. The Open House was a spectacular opportunity to meet our Roshei HaYeshiva, Principals, administrators, teachers, *Rabbeim* and current students, as well as a chance to tour the facility and learn about the Yeshiva's Judaic and secular programs.

The evening began with over 100 people assembled in the Samuels Dining Hall. The crowd was treated to a scrumptious hot buffet (complete with fresh sushi) and student-narrated multimedia presentation. Rosh HaYeshiva Rabbi Binyomin Luban spoke about the importance of a close personal relationship with one's *Rabbeim* and teachers.

Prospective students and their parents heard from YTC *Rabbeim*



and teachers regarding curricular and cocurricular goals. They also met with current YTC students who, in their own words, were able to convey what it's really like to be a *talmid* at YTC. The *talmidim* spoke from the heart and fielded questions from the group as well. Attendees also toured our newly-renovated Katz Family Media Center.

All participants left with a greater insight into what makes Yeshiva Toras Chaim the unique *mosad* that it is, and the Yeshiva looks



forward to seeing these young men join our family in Elul.

Yeshiva Toras Chaim Toras Emes

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

# 26<sup>th</sup> 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)