



February 11, 2011

ז' אדר א' תשע"א

פרשת תצוה

Candle Lighting 5:53 PM

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

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Dvar Torah - Loving our Fellow Man by Rabbi Naftali Kalter



In פרשת תצוה, the Torah describes the clothing that the Kohanim wore when they were doing the Avoda. One of the garments worn by the Kohen Gadol was the Choshen Mishpat. The Choshen Mishpat was a special plate with twelve stones that contained the names of the twelve tribes, and the אורים ותומים. The Rashbam explains

that through the אורים ותומים, Hashem taught B'nai Yisroel special laws and information that they could only learn through direct communication with Hashem. Rashi explains that Aharon had the merit to carry the Choshen Mishpat over his heart because he rejoiced with Moshe when he heard that Moshe was chosen to lead K'lal Yisroel out of Egypt. "The heart that rejoiced for his brother's good fortune is the heart that deserves to wear this special breastplate – the Choshen Mishpat." (Rashi, Shemos 4:14)

Aharon HaKohen was a very great man. Before Moshe Rabbeinu was chosen to lead B'nai Yisroel, Aharon was the chosen leader and prophet. He obviously had many great qualities that made him a worthy choice for Kohen Gadol. The Torah singles out one attribute – Aharon's

ability to feel happiness for someone else's good fortune. What is significant about this quality above all other attributes?

The Ramban in Parshas Kedoshim explains the mitzvah of ואהבת לרעך כמוך. This mitzvah requires feeling our friend's joys as if they were our own joys, and sadness for our friend's tragedies as if they were our own tragedies. It was Aharon HaKohen's excellence in this mitzvah that made him worthy of the Choshen Mishpat. Aharon had every reason to be jealous of his brother. Moshe Rabbeinu himself thought that Aharon should be chosen to take B'nai Yisroel out of Egypt. Aharon was giving up his own position to his younger brother Moshe. Nevertheless, he not only gave it up without being jealous, but he rejoiced with the same level of happiness that he would have felt had he been chosen.

It can be a challenge to be truly happy for another person's good fortune. Jealousy prevents us from being happy when our friends have what we don't. Jealousy can be overcome by realizing that everything comes from Hashem. Hashem, who understands us better than anyone else, knows exactly what we need. If we internalize this concept, it is impossible to feel jealousy. Hashem gave my friend something that he needed. I don't have it because Hashem knows that I don't need it. It's even possible that Hashem didn't let me have it because for me, it wouldn't be beneficial. A person who instinctively thinks this way will never be envious.

The love for a fellow Jew is something that is naturally built into our נשמות. Freed from the poison of jealousy, it becomes possible to tap the natural love that we all have for our friend. In this way, we grow in our ability to fulfill the mitzvah of ואהבת לרעך כמוך.

Dvar Halacha – Netilas Yadaim by Josh Blavin, Grade 12

Getting up in the morning is something we do every day, so why not do it right? A person must wash "netilas yadaim" first thing in the morning upon waking up. That means washing each hand (with a cup, preferably) three times. One should pick the cup up with one's right hand and transfer it to his left in order to wash the right hand first. The reason we wash the right

hand, which represents mercy, first, is because we desire it to prevail over the left hand, which represents "din," judgment. One should be careful not to touch his eyes, nose, ears and mouth before he washes, to not be damaged by the "ruach rah" that is present on the hands when one wakes up in the morning.

5 Ways Our Talmidim Benefit from the Student Activity Fund

All funds raised from our Annual Learnathon goes to the Student Activity Fund. Just what does this fund do?

1. Annual Overnight Trips

– The time talmidim spend with their Rebbe away from the classroom in a relaxed and positive environment is truly most meaningful and memorable.

2. Student Athletic League and Motzei Shabbos Sports Program

– a fantastic kosher outlet for students to exercise, practice good sportsmanship and have fun on a weekly basis

3. Shabbos Youth Minyan

– The students lead the davening, deliver divrei Torah, participate in the laining and prepare a hot kiddush.

4. Menu Enhancements for Rosh Chodesh and perfect school-wide attendance days make special days special!

5. There are times when a talmid is in need of some **Special Assistance**, and the Student Activity Fund can help make sure that he is poised for success inside and outside the classroom.

YTC Spotlight

Rabbi Zev Leff Visits YTC by Meir Balgley, Grade 12

Last Tuesday, the Yeshiva had the privilege of hearing from Rabbi Zev Leff, Rosh Yeshiva and Morah D'Asra of Moshav Mattiyahu, Israel.

Rabbi Mordechai Palgon began the program by relating to the talmidim how similar Rabbi Leff is to themselves. Rabbi Leff grew up right here in Miami and served for many years as the Rav of the Young Israel of Greater Miami before making Aliyah. "Rabbi Leff's accomplishments serve as a chizuk for us. He shows us that our potential to grow as a Talmid Chacham is limitless, regardless of where you grew up."

Rabbi Leff spoke about the connection between מצות בין אדם למקום and מצות בין אדם לחברו. He said, "Every mitzvah is a part of the same unit, the same entity. The same hashkafa that goes into serving



Hashem, goes into relating to our fellow man. The Jews were not deserving or befitting of the special relationship with Hashem that the Mishkan creates until they had mastered Mishpatim, the laws concerning sensitivities to our neighbors."

Rabbi Leff concluded with a charge to the talmidim, "to be the best Ben Torah you can be. You are learning Torah and to the world, you will represent and transmit Torah in every aspect of your life."

15th Annual Learnathon Approaches

On י"ז אדר א' תשע"א - Monday, February 21, 2011 (Presidents Day) the Yeshiva will host the 15th Annual YTC Learnathon. The Learnathon is a five-hour intensive extra learning program and fund-raiser. The bochrin are encouraged to obtain sponsorships for their learning. All monies raised go to the Yeshiva's Student Activity Fund. The Student Activity Fund benefits the talmidim directly in a number of ways (see sidebar).

The Learnathon itself is comprised of dozens of special Shiurim on a wide range of topics, delivered by various distinguished Rabbonim and mechanchim from all over South Florida. All fathers and friends of the Yeshiva are invited to participate in these unique Shiurim.

The program begins at 2:30 P.M. and concludes at 7:30 P.M. with Ma'ariv. To sponsor the learning, please see any High School talmid call the High School office at (305) 944-5344 or email us at ytcteam.org.

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For further information,
please contact
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Email: mberstein@ytcteam.org