



April 1, 2011

כ"ז אדר ב' תשע"א

פרשת תזריע - חודש

Candle Lighting 7:19 PM

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**Dvar Torah - Appreciating Chesed** by Rabbi Shlomo Schwartz

היום אתם יצאים בחדש האביב: (שמות יג:ד)



In describing the significance of *Yetzias Mitzrayim*, the Torah tells us that we must remember how Hashem brought us out of *Mitzrayim* with a "Strong Hand". Then the Posuk says, "היום אתם יצאים בחדש האביב" - *Today you are going out in the month of spring.* Rashi comments, "Didn't they know what month it was? Rather, Hashem was pointing out to them the *chesed* he was doing for them. He took them out in a month that was appropriate for travel, not too hot, not too cold, and no rain!"

From this Rashi, we see that if Hashem had not pointed out to *K'lal Yisroel* that they were going out in the spring, it would have gone unnoticed by *K'lal Yisroel*. They would not have appreciated this *chesed* of Hashem. It is for this reason that Hashem had to point it out to them.

What remains puzzling is why Hashem felt the need to point out this *chesed*. Surely this *chesed* was a minor one that paled in comparison to the *Yad Chazakah* and the many of miracles Hashem did for us on that day. *B'nei*

*Yisroel* would have even overlooked it! Also, *B'nei Yisroel* surely would have been happy to leave at any time. Which prisoner of a slave labor camp would tell his redeemer to "come back when the weather is nicer"? In this light, this *chesed* seems trivial at best.

It seems that had Hashem not pointed out this aspect of *Yetzias Mitzrayim* to *K'lal Yisroel*, they would have not had a full appreciation of how great the *chesed* of *Yetzias Mitzrayim* was. There would have not have been a full recognition of what Hashem was doing for them.

We see from here an important lesson in how to appreciate any *chesed* done to us by Hashem or our fellow man. When a *chesed* is done for us, it is not enough to appreciate the *chesed* itself. No matter how significant it is, we will never fully appreciate it if we don't focus on the "trivial" details. It is only when we focus on the little details of a *chesed* that we will have an even greater appreciation of that *chesed*, and be able to have appropriate *Hakoros Hatov*.

**Dvar Halacha - Eating on Rosh Chodesh**

Rosh Chodesh is celebrated like a quasi-Yom Tov. One is not permitted to fast on Rosh Chodesh. The *Beur Halacha* (418:1) rules that one should not even fast for half-day. Normally, a *chosson* and *kallah* fast the day of their wedding, but if they wed on Rosh Chodesh, they should not fast. The *Kitzur Shulchan Aruch* (107:1) brings down that if a couple marries on Rosh Chodesh Nisan, they may indeed fast. This is due to the *minhag* some have to fast on Rosh Chodesh Nisan because of the tragic deaths of Nadav and Avihu on that day.

The *Shulchan Aruch*(419:1) says one should serve additional food in honor of Rosh Chodesh. The *Mishna Brura* rules (419:1) that preferably one should eat a meal that would require him to say *Ya'aleh v'Yavo*; however, it is not required. When Rosh Chodesh falls on a weekday, one should be sure to add a special food in its honor. So too, when Rosh Chodesh falls on a Shabbos, one should add a food one does not usually serve on Shabbos.

# The Weekly Quiz

The Yeshiva of Staten Island opened its doors in 1966. Who was its first Rosh Yeshiva?

Answers or ideas for future questions 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.. Which Kohen Gadol brought the most recent Parah Aduma?

A. Yishmael ben Pe'avi (Parah 3:5)

Yasher Koach to Yehuda Silverman for submitting the correct answer!

## YTC Spotlight

### HaGaon HaRav Reuven Feinstein שליט"א Visits YTC



On Monday, the Yeshiva had the z'chus to be visited by HaGaon HaRav Reuven Feinstein, שליט"א, Rosh HaYeshiva of the Yeshiva of Staten Island, New York and youngest son of Moreinu HaGaon HaRav Moshe Feinstein, זצוק"ל.

The Rosh HaYeshiva inspired the boys in many areas. Firstly, he spoke about the *hester panim* - the fact that in *galus*, Hashem hides His face from us. The Rosh HaYeshiva stated that one reason for this is to inspire us to seek Him out. He also spoke about the importance of saying *pesukei d'zimra* in its entirety. He said that if one doesn't first appreciate everything that HaKadosh Baruch Hu does for him, and is capable of doing for him, it is impossible to properly ask Him for our needs. "When we daven, we are having a private meeting with Hashem. If one has a job interview, he is sure to prepare himself beforehand. It is the



same with *tefillah*; it is an interview with Hashem and we must prepare ourselves with *pesukei d'zimra*."

In the same vein of *hester panim*, the Rosh HaYeshiva urged the *talmidim* to use small inconveniences as motivation for *teshuva*. "If one has to wait a few minutes for the elevator, or misses



his train, he may say 'It's no big deal,' but really, if he were deserving, he wouldn't have to wait. We have to do *teshuva* when we experience these 'little things' or, *chas v'shalom*, Hashem may resort to bigger challenges to wake us up for *teshuva*."

Lastly, he urged the *talmidim* to inculcate the *mitzvos* into themselves. "When one passes a *treife* restaurant, it doesn't matter how good the food smells or how hungry you are; you don't even want it. We must train our bodies to handle other challenges the same way."

The Rosh HaYeshiva then gave the *talmidim* a *bracha* and greeted every *talmid* personally.





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