



June 3, 2011

ב' סיון תשע"א

פרשת נשא

Candle Lighting 7:51 PM

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

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Dvar Torah - Torah - Our Source of Life - by Rabbi Naftali Kalter



As we approach *Shavuos*, *zman matan Toraseinu*, and the end of the period of mourning for Rebbe Akiva's students, it is always worthwhile to look to *Chazal* for insights that can help us connect these two converging events on the Jewish calendar. The *Maharsha* explains that when the *Gemorah* tells us that the *talmidim* of

Rebbe Akiva did not conduct themselves with proper *kavod* for each other - meaning with *kavod haTorah*. The *Maharsha* also questions why this imperfection of Rebbe Akiva's students is punishable by death, a rather severe punishment for an imperfection in conduct. The *Maharsha* uses his explanation, that the lack of *kavod* the *talmidim* showed was a lack of *kavod HaTorah*, to explain why the *talmidim* were deserving of death.

The *Maharsha* says that since Torah is the source of life for the Jew, כי הם היינו ואורך ימינו, and their lack of *kavod* was a function of insufficient *kavod haTorah* for each other, they were cut off from their source of life.

There are two things that need to be understood in this *Maharsha*. Firstly, what is the difference between imperfect *kavod* for one's friend, and imperfect *kavod HaTorah* for one's friend? Secondly, if, according to the *Maharsha*, an imperfection in proper *kavod* to one's friend is not punishable by death, how does the fact that we are redefining it as a lack of *kavod haTorah* to one's friend justify such a severe punishment?

The *Maharsha* is actually giving us an entirely different picture of what was taking place in Rebbe Akiva's Yeshiva than the popular conception. We can be sure that Rebbe Akiva's students treated each other with utmost respect, care and concern for each other. However, there was one important component missing. They did not fully appreciate the Torah each one of them represented. They did not fully value the contribution

they made to each other's growth and accomplishment in Torah. This deficiency reflected, on the level commensurate with their greatness, a lack of appreciation for Torah itself.

We all know that the world was created in such a way that there are things we can't do without naturally endangering our lives. If we put ourselves in an extremely risky situation and are harmed by our own actions, we are not being punished for our actions, the resulting damage was merely the natural and logical 'cause and effect' of Hashem's creation.

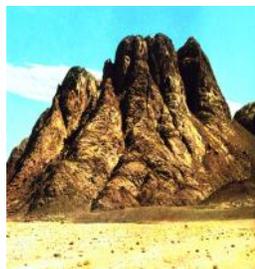
The *Maharsha* is teaching that in the spiritual realm, the same thing can be true. Rebbe Akiva's students were not punished; rather they were subject to the natural cause and effect of a spiritual reality in creation. When they removed themselves, even slightly, from Torah, their deaths followed as a natural result. Separation from Torah is a separation from the source of life.

This *Shavuos*, let us all connect with the Torah in a real and meaningful way. In doing so, we will be strengthening our bond to Hashem, our fellow Jews, and life itself.

Dvar Halacha - Praying for the Sick

A very important aspect of the *mitzvah* of *Bikur Cholim* is to *daven* for the *choleh*. According to the *Ram" a* (Y.D. 335:4), one who visits and does not *daven* has not fulfilled his obligation. The *tefillah* could be a short *refuah shelayma* or a longer supplication. The recitation of *Tehillim* is also appropriate. When *davening* for a *choleh*, it is proper to add the words "בתוך שאר חולי ישראל". When *davening* in the presence of a *choleh*, one need not mention his or her name in the *tefillah*.

זמן מתן תורתנו



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## The Weekly Quiz

What was the name of Shimshon's mother?

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). This week's question was submitted by Yehuda Silverman, of our 9th grade.

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 most common biblical name found in Talmud Bavli?

A. Ploni (Rus 4). Yasher Ko'ach to Moshe Talmi of the 9th grade for being the first to submit the correct answer.

## YTC Spotlight

### Mr. Gary Yarus Addresses YTC Annual Memorial Day Awards Ceremony



It has become a YTC tradition. On Memorial Day, all the *talmidim* gather for a special assembly to mark the day, and acknowledge students who have excelled with special recognition awards. This year, the Yeshiva had the privilege to be inspired by Mr. Gary Yarus as well.

Mr. Yarus has more than 30 years experience in real estate, brokerage, financing, ownership and management. He inspired the *talmidim* to excel at whatever they choose to do. He encouraged them to find a mentor, and develop their G-d-given talents. He said, "I know each one of you here today has a specific set of talents. You need to 'play your strengths.' Find your special talent and pursue it with passion. By doing this, you will help the Jewish People and the world."

At the assembly, 13 students were inducted to the Yeshiva Toras Chaim chapter of the National Honor Society. They were recognized for having demonstrated excellence in scholarship, leadership, service, and character.

Numerous other academic and non-academic awards were also presented to scores of *talmidim*. In closing, Rosh HaYeshiva Rabbi Mordechai Palgon remarked, "Really, each and every student who is able to persevere despite our



*National Honor Society—YTC Chapter*

*demanding shiurim and secular classes and challenging schedule, is deserving of recognition. Yasher Koach to you all!"*



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Mazel Tov to the Graduating  
Class of 5771—2011