



November 18, 2011

כ"א חשוון תשע"ב

פרשת חיי שרה

Candle Lighting 5:12 PM

Rabbi Binyomin Luban
Rabbi Yisroel Y. Niman
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ראשי הישיבה

Issue 3

Dvar Torah - Keep It Close - by Rabbi Binyomin Luban, Rosh HaYeshiva

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The תורה tells us in חיי שרה פרק כ"ד פסוק נ' בתואל and לבן were tremendously excited about the prospect of רבקה marrying יצחק. They said, "מה יצא"

"הדבר לא נוכל דבר אליך רע או טוב", "the matter stemmed from Hashem, we are unable to speak to you either bad or good." Five פסוקים later, the תורה tells

us that לבן tried to delay the marriage, and בתואל wanted to stop it completely.

What happened between פסוק נ"ה and פסוק נ' which caused this total change of behavior on the part of לבן and בתואל?

The answer can be found in פסוק נ"ד. There, the תורה tells us that לבן and בתואל went to sleep! Before they went to sleep, לבן and בתואל were inspired by the miraculous events that they heard from אליעזר, and this inspiration affected their behavior. However, once they went to sleep, they completely lost their inspiration and reverted to their previous behavior.

Dvar Halacha - Kiddush - by Shmuel Dovid Goodman, 11th Grade

There is a *mitzvas aseï* to sanctify and single out the day of Shabbos, both with the arrival of Shabbos and its departure. This is learned out from the posuk in Parshas Yisro, "Zachor es yom HaShabbos lekadsho". The Rabanon established that we fulfill this mitzvah by reciting the nighttime Kiddush and Havdalah over a cup of wine. The Rabanon instituted an additional Kiddush to be said between the beginning and the end of Shabbos: the daytime Kiddush.

From here we can learn how easy it is to lose inspiration, and how important it is, after time elapses, to re-strengthen one's inspiration and commitments.

Rabbi Paysach Krohn, in his book The Maggid Speaks, tells a true story which conveys a similar lesson. During World War One, there was a non-religious Jewish soldier in the Russian army. After a particularly frightening day in battle, the soldier cried out to Hashem, "If a bullet hits my hand so that I can no longer shoot, it will be a sign from you, G-d, that You indeed exist." A few minutes later, a bullet hits his finger. The soldier is removed from the front, and is eventually sent home. Once home, he had a tremendous drive to enroll in a Yeshiva and learn Torah. However, he decided to first go back to school for three months, and finish his degree. Three months later he enrolled in a Yeshiva, only to find that he had already lost most of his inspiration, and he was no longer able to overcome the hardships necessary to succeed in Yeshiva.

Many of us were inspired during ראש השנה and יום כיפור, and committed ourselves to improve spiritually. Now that the ימים נוראים are over, have we lost our inspiration and forgotten our commitments? Let us try to re-inspire ourselves, and to re-commit ourselves to a year of spiritual growth!

There are different Minhagim as to how one conducts himself during Kiddush. Some sit for the entire Kiddush, while others stand for the entire Kiddush. There is a third Minhag practiced by many people to stand while saying the psukim of *Vayechulu*, which testify that Hashem created the world, as one would stand when giving testimony in court. Afterwards, one then sits down for the remainder of the Kiddush.

13 Teves, 5772 / Sunday evening, January 8, 2012

YESHIVA TORAS CHAIM / TORAS EMES

27th Annual Dinner

The Weekly Quiz

Q: What is אברהם's Mother's name?

Answers or ideas for future questions may be submitted in writing to the Spotlight office or emailed to Quiz@ytc-team.org.

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 does a לוי never see that a כהן and ישראל would?

A. When a כהן gets the first and second עלייה when a לוי is not present.

Yasher Koach to Alexander Weiss, who was the first to submit the correct answer!

Thank You!

Asia Restaurant of Boca Raton for sponsoring the 9th grade Shabbaton!

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YESHIVA TORAS CHAIM / TORAS EMES

27th Annual Dinner

Next issue:

December 2, 2011

פרשת ויצא

Coping With Tragedy - by Chaim Benson, 12th Grade

One of the basic beliefs of Judaism is that everything that happens is in accordance with the *Ratzon Hashem*. Additionally, we believe that everything Hashem does is for a purpose. This idea is difficult to reconcile with a world that is filled with sickness, poverty, sadness and pain; a world where a van filled with high-school students can flip, killing two of its passengers, Waterbury Yeshiva students Eli Schonbrun, 16, and Daniel King, 15. Nevertheless, we are charged with the obligation to believe that this happened for some ultimate purpose.

Monday, November 7 was a sad day in Yeshiva. Throughout the day, students were talking about the accident. Some knew passengers; others just because they were struck

by the immense tragedy that occurred.

This is *Hashem's* world, and that He alone can understand it. Complaining about *Hashem's* world is synonymous with writing to Coca-Cola to complain that their product is not a suitable detergent. Its purpose is not to act as a detergent; complaining about its shortcomings as one would be foolish. Only *Hashem* truly knows our purpose and even if our destiny is not what we understand to be good, we must accept *Hashem*, as the manufacturer, is always steering us in the right direction.

The *Medrash* tells a story of a man with many problems who came to seek advice from *Shlomo HaMelech*, the wisest of all men. After listening to

his many complaints, *Shlomo HaMelech* gave the man a ring engraved with the words "*Gam Zeh Ya'avov*," meaning, "This [pain] too shall pass." It is impossible to fully feel the pain of the families of Eli Schonbrun and Daniel King. *Hakadosh Baruch Hu* should bless them and all of *Klal Yisroel* that they should have strength to overcome this tragedy.

Rabbi Palgon, Rosh HaYeshiva, gave a *Va'ad* entitled, "Coping with Tragedy: A Torah Perspective." As a response, the Yeshiva is taking on the learning of *Mishnayos* to give the boys' *neshamos* an *aliyah*. If you would like to participate, please contact the Spotlight office at Spotlight@ytc-team.org

Project S.L.I.C. - by Akiva Ungar, 10th Grade

Yeshiva Toras Chaim/Dr. Abe Chaims High School is proud to present the Student Led Initiative Committee. SLIC was formed to involve *talmidim* in making key decisions, proposing new ideas, and helping make the Yeshiva an even more enjoyable place. The President of SLIC is Ari Garfinkel, the Vice President, Mordechai Anton, and the Treasurer is Chaim Sandler.

If a student has an idea he would like to suggest, there are two representatives of his grade to approach. In the 12th grade, the representatives are Matty Nightingale and Coby Laks; in the 11th grade, Shlomo Kalchman and Zev Sugerman; in the 10th grade, Shua Lehrfield and Akiva Ungar; and in the 9th grade, Uri Goldberg and Pesach Bixon.

Grant Rosenbaum, Event Development Coordina-

tor, planned SLIC in conjunction with the Administration of the Yeshiva, a process that took endless hours to become a reality. The entire student body is grateful to him, because without his dedication to this project, there would be no SLIC.

One of SLIC's major projects is the creation of a basketball team. Unfortunately, the team last year did not have an opportunity to play any games. To prevent this problem from reoccurring, Rabbi Winter has been appointed as the coach of the team. Rabbi Winter is a devoted 12th grade Rebbi and a *Talmid Chacham*, and at the same time, is highly capable of coaching a basketball

team. At 6'4", he will crush nearly any student in a one on one. The students are very excited about the new basketball team and all the other upcoming events.

New hoops have been placed on the basketball court for the students and the future team to enjoy. Also, a lighting system is being planned for the basketball court so that intramural games can be held at night.



President of Project S.L.I.C. addresses students