



February 24, 2012

א' אדר תשע"ב

פרשת תרומה

Candle Lighting 6:00 PM

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



Issue 12

Dvar Torah - Utilize Every Resource by *Rabbi Baumann*

In this Issue:

- Dvar Torah 1
- Dvar Halacha 1
- Learnathon 2
- Interview with Errol 2



The beams used in the construction of the walls of the Mishkan were required to be of Atzei Shittim (26:15). The Medrash Rabbah (Shemos 35:2) asks why they must be Atzei Shittim as opposed to

another type of tree. The Medrash answers that Hakadosh Boruch Hu is teaching a lesson in Derech Eretz for future generations - namely, do not use wood from a fruit tree to build your own house, just as "the King of Kings" limited the building materials of His house to wood from trees that do not bear fruit.

First, let's answer the obvious question: what is wrong with building a house using wood from a fruit-bearing tree? Perhaps the answer comes from the Eitz Yosef's commentary on this Medrash, where he asks why the Mishkan was not built using the best wood, like a hardwood. He answers that the Shittim tree had the advantage of not producing any fruit, even non-edible fruit. If there would be any toeles, any kind of benefit from a tree - that would disqualify it from being used in construction. Therefore the Shittim, which bears no fruit of any kind, was chosen.

Dvar Halacha - שנים מקרא ואחד תרגום by *Yissochor Dov Mandel, 10th Grade*

Every week a person is obligated to read the text of the weekly פרשה twice and the תרגום once. The שנים מקרא ואחד תרגום says that one may read the commentary of רש"י instead of the תרגום. The משנה ברורה even notes that in some ways, it is better to fulfill the requirement of reading the

What is this lesson in Derech Eretz that was so important that Hashem allowed His house to be built from inferior materials? It seems from the Eitz Yosef that taking a tree for building, when it can also bear fruit, deprives the world of the extra benefit of that fruit; the tree's potential contribution to mankind, therefore, won't be appreciated.

It's astonishing to realize that Hashem Himself minimized the glory and grandeur of His house in order to teach us not to squander a small amount of benefit that could potentially be realized from a plant! When it comes to benefiting from and utilizing His creations, we must try to squeeze out every possible ounce of purpose, benefit and utilization.

If this need to derive the maximum possible benefit is true of Hashem's inanimate objects, how much more so is it true of us, the ultimate handiwork of Hashem? We must go through life in such a way that we can maximize our G-d-given talents, abilities and skills. This means we have to appreciate every talent we have, whether big or small, and work to develop it and increase it. Never underestimate the value of your talents, and never overlook the opportunity to use those special gifts from Hashem to help others.

רש"י by reading שנים מקרא ואחד תרגום. The שנים מקרא ואחד תרגום concludes that שנים מקרא ואחד תרגום should read both. Preferably, one should read the פרשה on the same week as the ציבור, and it is best to finish before eating on שבת day. The גמרא says that one who completes the פרשה on the right week will be אריכת ימים to זוכה.

Quiz

Q: *What is the result of עשר תעשר? Hint: In terms of גמטריא.*

Answers or ideas for future questions may be submitted in writing to the Spotlight office or emailed to Quiz@ytcteam.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 issue's question:

Q. Who wrote the Sefer HaShataros?

A. רבי יהודה בר' ברזילי האי גאון or הברצלוני

Yasher Koach to Liel Levi and Menachem Tzvi Kaganoff for submitting the correct answer.

YTC Learnathon by Akiva Nemetsky, 11th Grade

This Monday, Yeshiva Toras Chaim held its 16th Annual Learnathon. For the past couple of months, students have been soliciting sponsorships for the event. Sponsors had the option to offer a flat rate, or to pay by the hour. Talmidim in the Yeshiva learned for five hours straight beginning at 2:30 PM and ending at 7:30 PM. During this time, an array of speakers addressed the talmidim about important topics such as “Achieving

Greatness Step by Step” and “Midvar Sheker Tirchak (Distancing One’s Self from Falsehood).” The Learnathon finished off with a bang, when Rabbi Luban gave a vaad to the entire High School. Even some Bais Medrash students could not stay away! When asked about the Learnathon, one High School student remarked, “I enjoyed every minute. When it ended, I couldn’t believe five hours had flown by so quickly.” Like the past 15 events, this year’s Learnathon was a huge success.



Money collected from the Learnathon is put into a special fund, and used for a variety of functions. Approximately half the money

goes to the end-of-year class trips, which include the twelfth grade’s trip to Eretz Yisroel, as well as other grades’ overnight trips. If a talmid needs help with his studies, money collected from the Learnathon may be used to hire a tutor to facilitate his needs.

Additionally, throughout the year, many shiurim will have a Siyum upon the completion of a Perek of Gemorah. Money from the Learnathon helps to provide for this program as well. All in all, this year’s Learnathon created great excitement and fun among students and Rabbeim. We can’t wait for the next one!

Errol Livingston Paul ~ Interview by Netanel Raden, 10th Grade

Errol Livingston Paul, a short-order cook, and the newest addition to our kitchen staff here at YTC, has quickly become a favorite among the High School students. He immediately felt right at home, and describes how he loves working at YTC in an interview with 10th grader Netanel Raden.

Where were you born?
Jamaica, West Indies

At what age did you come to America?
I came with my family to

America at age 13.

What was your previous job?

Working in the Saxony Hotel for 21 years with Mr. Furst.

How do you like working at YTC?

It’s good because I get to deal with kids and have a good time doing what I do.

What’s the best place you have worked so far?

For sure here at YTC.

What do you think of the students here?

Wonderful group of amazing guys. They are great to be around.

What do you think about the YTC food, and what is your favorite YTC meal?

The food is pretty good, but my favorite YTC meal of all has to be the grilled chicken.

Errol continues to work hard, and says that he loves working at YTC. With his warm personality and determination to do what he does best, we are sure that Errol will continue to excel at his job at the Yeshiva. Needless to say, we are very fortunate to have such a

dedicated member among the Yeshiva’s staff.



YTC’s Junior Varsity team played Mechina on Motzaei Shabbos, February 11 at the JCC. The final score was 44 to 33, YTC.