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כ"ב אדר תשע"ב

פרשת ויקהל-פקודי

פרשת פרה

Candle Lighting 7:11 PM

Rabbi Binyomin Luban  
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ראשי הישיבה

Issue 15



**Dvar Torah - A Study in Opposites** by Rabbi Noam Grossman

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In the beginning of *Parshas Pekudei*, the *Torah* discusses how the different materials given for the *Mishkan* were used. The

*Medrash Rabbah*

(פי נ"א סימן ו') relates that *Moshe* volunteered to undertake an exact accounting of what everything was

used for in order to remove any suspicion from himself. The *Medrash* asks why he felt it necessary to prove himself. After all, *Hashem* Himself testified regarding *Moshe's* integrity when He said *בכל ביתי הוא* "נאמן הוא". The *Medrash* answers that *Moshe* overheard a conversation take place behind his back when he was on his way to his tent. There are two versions of this conversation, but according to one of them, it took place between two "*chot'im b'yisrael*"--sinners among the Jews. One person said to the other, "Look how fat *Moshe's* neck is," to which the other responded, "Of course. Someone who is responsible for so much money is sure to pocket some of it." When *Moshe* heard this, he decided to go through an exact accounting to remove any suspicion from himself. The *Etz Yosef* comments that the main reason these people were watching *Moshe* go back to his tent

was for the purpose of seeing the *Amud He'anan* - the cloud of *Hashem's* glory - descending upon his tent and bowing down to it (this descent took place whenever *Moshe* would enter his tent).

The commentary of the *Etz Yosef* is difficult to understand. It seems that at the very moment in time when these people were watching *Moshe* go back to his tent, intent on witnessing a miracle - at that moment they were belittling the person who was the at the very root of their inspiration! How could this be?

Apparently, the complexity of the human being is such that one can not only have conflicting feelings, but have them at the very same moment. We tend to think that if we feel a certain way about someone or something, other feelings can't exist. At times we assume, based on certain actions and behaviors of others, that they must feel a certain way about us. We see from the *Etz Yosef* that things don't necessarily work this way; just as one can have great admiration for someone but mock that person at the same time, there may be other opposite feelings that coexist within us. Let us take this lesson to help judge ourselves and others more favorably and not jump to conclusions about ourselves or others simply based on specific feelings that we may observe. Let us remind ourselves to be on guard and not allow our *yetzer hara*, our evil inclination, to spoil moments of potential inspiration.

**Dvar Halacha - Studying Hilchos Pesach 30 Days Before** by Yehudah Silverman, 10th Grade

The Shulchan Aruch brings down that one should begin to study the halachos of Pesach thirty days prior, which happens to be Purim. We learn this halacha from the fact that *Moshe* commanded the Jewish people about Pesach Sheni on Pesach Rishon, which is thirty days earlier. The Mishnah Berurah

brings down different opinions amongst the Acharonim regarding whether this thirty-day requirement also applies to the Yomim Tovim of Succos and Shavuos. Because of the many halachos of matzah, burning chametz and kashering kelim, all opinions agree that thirty days of study are required before Pesach.

Q: When is a *mem sofis* (“ם”) found in the middle of a word?

Answers or ideas for future questions may be submitted in writing to the Spotlight office or emailed to Quiz@ycteam.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. What does the word **סס** mean and where does the word appear in Tanach?

A. It is a worm that eats wool. It is mentioned in Yeshaya 56,8: **כִּי כַבֵּד לְאֲכָלָם יֵשׁ וְכַבֵּד לְאֲכָלָם סס וְצִדְקָתִי לְעוֹלָם תִּהְיֶה וְיִשׁוּעָתִי לְדוֹר דּוֹרִים:**

Yasher Koach to Menachem Tzvi Kaganoff, who submitted the correct answer!

On February 26<sup>th</sup>, the twelfth grade immersed themselves into a week-long, full-throttle, spiritual odyssey to *Eretz Yisroel*. Following their success in fundraising a whopping \$31,000, the 12<sup>th</sup> grade was fortunate enough to travel to Israel's finest hotspots and *Makomos Torah* including the Kosel

Tunnel Tours, hiking up the Masada trail, an inspiring day in Tzfas, and an unforgettable experience at *Maaaras Hamachpela*. Also on the itinerary were exclusive meetings with *Gedolim* such as Harav Pinchas Scheinberg *Shlit"a*,

Former Chief Rabbi of Israel Rabbi Ovadia Yosef *Shlit"a* and Torah pioneer Rabbi Avraham Kanerek *Shlit"a*. The excitement continued into Shabbos, with *Kabbolos Shabbos* at the

the rain-soaked walk to Meah Shearim, where we joined in the mesmerizing *tisch* at the Toldos Aharon Yeshiva. As Shabbos departed slowly, Rabbi Chait kept the *geshmak* alive with



inspiring *divrei chizuk* during a *heimeshe Shalosh Seudos*. The day concluded with an emotional

wondrous Belz Bais Medrash. With Hassidic flavor still in their hearts, the group made a

and meaningful jeeping excursion through the desert. As KLM flight 67



glided through the air, the *talmidim* tightly held onto the inspiration imprinted in their *neshamos*.

YTC Purim Chagiga

This past Purim night, Yeshiva Toras Chaim had its 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Purim *chagiga*. This successful program began last year when the seniors took it as their initiative to have a high school Purim *chagiga*. The *chagiga* consists of dancing, amazing food, a video presenta-

tion and lots of “shtick”. This year, the 8<sup>th</sup> grade from RMS had the privilege to join the high school for this occasion. The event really gives students a chance to be creative. Everyone comes in costumes, and this year the originality was through the roof.

Anyone can also show off his dance and break-dancing moves on the dance floor. A highlight of the event was when the Rabbeim brought out flaming juggling torches, flaming nun-chucks and juggling knives. Then came the real talent—the high school guys. There were

devil sticks on fire as well as a flawless juggling of flaming torches. The energy on the dance floor was incomparable, and everyone waited eagerly for the Purim video at the end of the night. The party was amazing and everyone is eagerly waiting to see if next year's *chagiga* can top this year's.