



פרשת במדבר

Candle Lighting 7:46 PM

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ראשי הישיבה

Issue 19

Dvar Torah - Now... Or Never by *Rabbi Mordechai Palgon, Rosh HaYeshiva*

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We often leave personal character development and refinement for “later” when we have more time to

focus. We justify this procrastination by thinking that if something was really crucial, we can rise to the occasion - certainly if our careers or lives depended on it.

Yet, from this week’s Parsha, we see that this is not so. The פסוק states:

”ואת כל העדה הקהילו באחד לחדש השני” - (במדבר א':י"ה)

Moshe gathered all of Klal Yisroel on the first of the second month. Why was it necessary to tell us when Moshe gathered Klal Yisroel? Rabbeinu Yona derives from here that Moshe possessed great alacrity and diligence in his performance of Mitzvos. Hashem instructed Moshe to perform the census on the first of the second month, and indeed he immediately gathered Klal Yisroel on the very same day.

The question arises: wouldn’t any of us, even people who do not possess shleimus in the middah of zrizus, comply with the direct command

Dvar Halacha - Which direction should one face while davening Shmoneh Esrai? by *Akiva Nemetsky, 11th Grade*

This is a question we rarely ask ourselves, as we are programmed to naturally face east. The Shulchan Aruch tells us that when one davens in chutz laaretz, he should face towards Eretz Yisroel and think about Yerushalayim, specifically the Bais HaMikdash. The ReMA comments that nowadays, in order to daven toward Eretz Yisroel, a person would have to face east. However, if for instance one were to daven in a country north of Eretz Yisroel, he would daven facing south.

If while in the middle of the Shmoneh

of Hashem to conduct a census? Why is this act such a great illustration and demonstration of Moshe’s alacrity?

We see from here that had Moshe not been a total and complete master in zrizus, he would never have gathered Klal Yisroel on the very same day he was commanded to begin the census. His laziness would have caused him to rationalize some reason why he could, or even should, delay.

Rabbeinu Yona cites additional illustrations of Moshe’s great alacrity: running away from פרעה, checking for onlookers before killing the מצרי etc...

Without Moshe’s great shleimus in the middah of zrizus, he would not have been able to muster the necessary diligence even though his very life depended on it.

How many times do we see criminals who are “sloppy”, students who make “careless” errors, or people who are too “lazy” to follow medical advice to keep them healthy?

Hashem gives us time in this world to perfect our character. We must all use this precious time now - and not delay until tomorrow!

Good Shabbos.

Esrai, a person realizes that he is davening in the wrong direction, then he should turn his head to face east without moving his feet. However, if he is davening with a minyan and he is facing a direction different than everybody else, he should turn and face the same direction as the rest of the congregation. It is interesting to note that Chazal tell us that if one turns his head to the north while davening Shmoneh Esrai, he will be zoche to become wealthy. Similarly, if one turns his head south he will be zoche to become knowledgeable.

The Weekly Quiz

Q: Which Parsha in the Torah contains the highest number of named births, and how many named births are recorded in that Parsha?

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. What Rosh Chodesh is also a fast day?

A. ראש חדש אב

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A Rare Occasion by Moishe Berkowitz, 11th Grade

This past Wednesday night, a select group of the בני הישיבה gathered for an end-of-the-year Pirchei dinner at Rare Steak House. Pirchei is an organization run by Agudas Yisroel, which provides groups for elementary school students every Shabbos for one hour. Based out of Yeshiva Toras Chaim, Pirchei is held in North Miami Beach, Boca Raton, Hollywood, and Miami Beach.

All division leaders met at the dinner this past Wednesday.

The leaders were addressed by Rabbi Yaacov Gross, Rosh Kollel of the Miami Beach Kollel. He spoke about the responsibilities of being a true leader; it was really a lifelong message. In addition, Rabbi Moshe Matz of Agudas Yisroel informed the leaders about the origin of the organization that they have

been volunteering for all year. It was started and run by the Gedolei Yisroel for one hundred years (ninety in America).

It is truly amazing that, regardless of their full week of school, בני הישיבה are willing to give up over an hour of their free time to help implant the Derech HaTorah into the next generation of כלל ישראל.