



פרשת ויגש

Candle Lighting 5:16 PM

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Issue 6

Dvar Torah – Unlimited Inner Resources by Rabbi Naftali Kalter ~ בזכות רפואה שלמה ליוסף בן רות

In this Issue:	
Dvar Torah	1
Dvar Halacha	1
Chanukah Chagiga	2



When recounting how פרעה told יוסף that his brothers had come and would settle in מצרים, the תורה adds,

“עבדיו ובעיני פרעה בעיני וייטב”

and it was good in פרעה’s eyes and in the eyes of his servants.” The ספורנו explains why פרעה was pleased with this plan. Until now, Yosef was an outsider, a stranger passing through מצרים. He lacked a sense of personal connection to the people and land. However, now that his brothers would be coming to settle in מצרים, Yosef would feel that he was a citizen, a permanent resident of מצרים. With this change, Yosef would pursue his duties and responsibilities as viceroy to פרעה with all his heart, in order to benefit the land and its inhabitants.

Yosef served פרעה for nine years. From the very beginning, פרעה recognized Yosef as the wisest and most capable person in the land. He trusted him completely. In fact, he trusted Yosef so much that he gave over absolute power of the affairs of the country to him. Yosef obviously saved מצרים from the disaster of the famine and in the process turned over all the wealth of מצריים to פרעה. Given פרעה’s appreciation of Yosef’s remarkable talents and a nine-year track record of outstanding service, what improvements could פרעה expect in Yosef’s performance?

There are two points that emerge from this

Dvar Halacha – Eating French Toast by Yitzchok Elephant, 10th Grade

Before eating french toast, one generally says Hamotzi. This is because flour and water halachically become bread when baked, and do not lose this status when fried in large pieces. Pieces of bread smaller than a kezayis are more problematic, howev-

er. First, we see the unlimited potential we have to reach ever higher goals. A little more motivation can tap the inner resources of even those who we would think have extended themselves to their limits.

Second is the difference it makes if one has a personal stake in any endeavor. Working for פרעה was a dangerous job. Incurring פרעה’s displeasure could, at best, lead one to prison; at worst, one could end up with the same fate as the chief baker. This alone is a sufficient motivator to force excellence out of anyone, let alone Yosef. Nevertheless, feeling that one has a personal share in the cause for which one is working can make a significant difference.

These two lessons in motivation have important implications for us. For every extra motivation we can find to learn more, increase our מצוה and perfect our performance of מצוה, we will grow more in those areas. However, we see that the exceptionally powerful motivator of taking ownership can make an especially big difference in our efforts. It is the difference between learning in a Yeshiva and feeling that ‘this is my Yeshiva and my success depends on the success of the Yeshiva community at large’. It is the difference between giving צדקה to a worthy cause and investing in that cause, becoming a stakeholder in it. It is the difference between davening and paying dues to a shul and feeling, ‘this is my shul’. The more we feel part of a community, the more we will contribute for the sake of ד' ולמען ישראל כלל.

er, as it is questionable whether they retain their Hamotzi status or become mezonos. Therefore, foods prepared by frying small pieces of bread (i.e. matzah brie) should preferably be eaten along with a bread meal.

The Weekly Quiz

Q: Who is the first translator mentioned in the Torah?

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 week's question:

Q: Upon what can we recite a bracha even though we cannot see it?

A: Thunder

Yasher Koach to Moshe Vatch of our Bais Medrash for submitting the correct answer.

Save the Date

28th Annual Dinner
January 15, 2013



Journal Campaign Update

Campaign Goal: \$1,000,000
Raised to date: \$305,200.00

Chanukah Chagiga by Ezra Cash, 10th grade



Last week Yeshiva Toras Chaim hosted its annual Chanukah Chagiga. At this year's community-wide event, we had the pleasure of hearing a former IDF



soldier tell us about his experiences in Israel, and the path that led him from being completely secular to a

Torah-observing Jew. The night started with great food and better company. After the *Bracha Achrona*, all went to listen to IDF sniper unit commander Darren Dall's speech. Rabbi Palgon started the speaking with introductions for Dall's presentation. Darren came forward and gave an inspiring speech centered on *achdus*. He spoke of all the



warmth, friendliness and *achdus* he experienced from and around *frum* Jews. He explained that this was a driving force in his journey to *frumkeit*. There was laughter, crying, and an abundance of inspiration. The night came to a close with donuts, ice cream, dancing, and *ruach* all around.

