



פרשת ויהי

Candle Lighting 5:16 PM

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Dvar Torah – Admitting We are Wrong *by Rabbi Rafi Strassfeld*

Issue 7

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In this week's פרשה, we have the famous story that we all learned in nursery about the ברכות that יעקב gave to אפרים and מנשה, and how יעקב crossed his hands, placing his right hand on the head of the younger child, אפרים. The מדרש describes these events in

detail, telling us what was going on behind the scenes. It is revealed to us that there was actually a great difference of opinion and conflict going on between יעקב and יוסף. Prior to crossing his hands, יעקב already reveals his intent to place אפרים, the younger son, in front of מנשה, the בכור, when he says "מנשה and אפרים", "אפרים ומנשה כראובן ושמעון יהיו לי". יוסף notices this, yet he proceeds to place מנשה on יעקב's right side, so that יעקב will place his right hand on the בכור. יעקב, realizing that יוסף was of this opinion, crosses his hands so as to place his right hand on אפרים, clearly expressing that אפרים is to be placed first. Yet יוסף still persists, and tries to switch יעקב's hands back, as he feels that his father must be mistaken. יעקב then verbalizes to יוסף, "ידעתי בני ידעתי", "I know my son, I know", which יוסף explain as telling him,

"I know my son" - Everything you know, "I know" – much more than you. יעקב is telling יוסף, "I am greater and wiser than you, and Hashem has revealed more to me than to you. Although you think you know what is right, I know better."

The question begs to be asked. Did יוסף not know that his father was wiser than him? Didn't he know that his father knew more than him, and it was by no accident that יעקב crossed his hands? Clearly יעקב knew something that יוסף did not. Why did יוסף persist on trying to overrule his father's decision? Apparently, יוסף is displaying a fundamental character trait in all human beings, even the greatest of us. When we think we are right, and come in with a preconceived notion of what is correct, very often this will blur our vision, and close our ears and eyes from hearing and seeing the other side of the argument. We are overly secure in our outlook, and it is exceedingly difficult to think objectively. We see from יוסף הצדיק how hard it is to recognize our mistakes and to change our views, even in the face of the most incredibly overwhelming evidence that our long-held convictions are faulty. With this thought in mind, we should all strive to reevaluate our opinions, and to recognize that although often we are 100% sure we are right, that fact itself may be blinding us from realizing the obvious truth that stares us in the face.

Dvar Halacha – סחיטה ~ Squeezing *by Avraham Moshe Braunshweiger, 11th Grade*

On Shabbos, one may not squeeze or crush snow, ice, or hail in order to get the water out. You are able to place ice into a cup of water. There are two reasons why you cannot squeeze the ice. The first is that it might look like you are doing a מלאכה, and the second is that you might think that because you are able to squeeze ice, then you might come to squeeze fruit also, which is אסור, so the רבנו said you can't squeeze ice either.

The רמ"א says that one may not take out ice

and leave it in a bowl in order for it to melt so that you can get the water, because this will result in the creation of a new entity. The רמ"א also says that one can get around this by having a little water in the bowl so the water that comes out of the ice isn't noticeable and you can use it.

Therefore, when drinking soda with ice on Shabbos, one should first pour some soda into the cup, and then place in the ice.

The Weekly Quiz

Q: When does one say a Borei Nefoshos after eating bread?

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: Who was the first interpreter in the Torah?

A: Menashe, Son of Yosef

Yasher Koach to Liel Levi of the 10th grade for submitting the correct answer.

Save the Date

28th Annual
Dinner and Journal
Campaign
January 15th

Campaign Goal: \$1,000,000
Raised to date: \$438,766

level of great consistency, stability, and egalitarianism (ask Dr. Brown). Students find the Yeshiva's pool table to be relaxing, competitive, conversation-starting, and always fun. Beginning in a dark, dusty corner in the dorm common room, the pool table has taken many adventures, leading to its ultimate resting place, the "Etc. Room", "Sometimes-Dining Room",

Holocaust Survivor Speaks at YTC By Eli Hersher, 11th Grade

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Last Sunday, Asara B'Teves, our students and members of the community had the unique privilege of experiencing a three-tiered program in order to enhance the fast's significance. The program featured Reb Moshe Weinberger, born in 1943, who, as an infant, survived horrific brutality at the hands of the Nazis. Since arriving in the United States, he has spent time talking about his experiences and helping younger people get a better grasp of the historical truth concerning the events of the Holocaust.

The program started with an emotional and personal introduction by Rabbi Bergida,



who shed some light on the emotional background of the Holocaust, as well as the duties of subsequent generations. Next, Reb Weinberger delivered a very powerful speech addressing the cruelty of the Nazis as well as their ultimate failure. He described his birth, the horrors his family went through, and the escape through which they managed to survive Hitler's regime. Upon seeing the whole school congregated before him, he exclaimed: "It's a tremendous Chizuk HaTorah to look back at the Holocaust and to do all the Mitzvos that the Nazis deprived us of. In Yeshivas and Batei Midrashim, we continue to learn Torah to show Hitler that we continue to thrive despite his best efforts to stop us." Complementary to Reb Weinberger's inspirational message was a documentary on the rescue of thousands of Slovakian Jews by Rav Michael Ber Weissmandl. Sponsored by Torah Umesorah, the 40-minute



video documented the efforts of this very prominent Rabbi did to save thousands of Jews from being deported to the camps, as well as his unheeded plea to world Jewry and the nations of the world to save the remaining Jews in Europe.

The program was well attended not just by Toras Chaim students but also by many members of the community who made time to attend despite their busy schedules. With the conclusion of the program, many attendees left uplifted and inspired. Indeed, Reb Weinberger's address to the Yeshiva helped us have a more meaningful Asara B'Teves and inspired us to be more dedicated in our Torah study.

What's Cool about Pool in School by Uri Goldberg, 10th Grade

A familiar and friendly sight will greet anybody who leaves the dining room towards the lockers, rounds the corner of the Ezras Nashim, or exits on the south side of the Bais Medrash. The pool table, often surrounded by its admirers, rests in middle of the Coke Room in stillness, inhabiting its esteemed space with great responsibility. The service it provides to the students of the Yeshiva requires a

"Multipurpose Room", "Miscellaneous Room", or more commonly referred to as the all-encompassing "Coke Room". With the coordination of the student G.O., the pool equipment can be rented out for a mere collateral fee of \$10 during breaks. When a matchup between two players forms, a large crowd can soon be found gathered around the table, rooting for a good game, offering advice on certain shot selection, or merely observing with vigilant eyes. A school-wide pool tournament is currently on course, offering players the opportunity to demonstrate their hard-hitting, angle-lining, cue-controlling

skills. Key factors that make a great player in Yeshiva are style, steadiness, and a graceful touch. The Yeshiva hopes to keep the table intact for as long as possible and avoid any mistreatment of this valuable, positive, and functional pastime for the students in Toras Chaim.



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