



פרשת תרומה

Candle Lighting 5:56 PM

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Dvar Torah – More Precious than Diamonds! - by *Rabbi Dovid Sharfman*

Issue 10

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We have all heard many times, “You gave it your best try, and that’s what counts.”

Sometimes, this is hard to believe. We

live in a world that rewards results more than effort. A player on a winning team is given a championship ring even if he didn’t spend a minute on the field, while the losing quarterback, even if he scored many touchdowns, walks away with nothing. Should our accomplishments be the yardstick of our success in life? The Torah tells us otherwise.

In Parshas Terumah, the Torah enumerates all the materials that were collected for the Mishkan. The order in which they are listed is gold, silver, copper, blue dyed wool, purple dyed wool, red dye, linen, goat hair, ram’s skin dyed red, Tachash skins, Acacia wood, oil for lighting, spices for the oil for anointing, ketores spices, and finally, the precious stones for Ephod and Choshen. The Ohr HaChaim HaKadosh asks “Why were the precious stones for Ephod and Choshen mentioned last? Pound for pound, precious stones are the most valuable item on the list and should have been written first. The remainder of the list seems to be in an evaluative order, with gold and silver on the top and oil and

spices on the bottom. Why were exceptionally valuable precious stones mentioned last?”

To answer this question, the Ohr HaChaim HaKadosh quotes a Medrash which recounts that every morning, the Clouds of Glory that surrounded the encampment of the Jews delivered precious stones to Bnei Yisroel along with the mohn. Due to the fact that these stones came to the Jews with no effort on their behalf, parting with them was not considered as great of an act as parting with the other items necessary for the Mishkan.

We see from here what the Torah’s accounting system truly is. By virtue of the fact that one had to expend resources and effort to acquire the oil for donation to the Mishkan, that oil became more valuable in the Torah’s eyes than diamonds and rubies that had been acquired without effort. Effort is not merely one factor taken into account when evaluating one’s deeds; it is the central, defining currency by which all things are judged.

Let us take this lesson to heart, and not become discouraged when despite our best efforts, a mitzvah or chesed in which we are involved does not yield the drastic results we were hoping for. We must realize that in Shomayim, our actions are judged based on the struggles we went through to accomplish them. Not only is our toil considered in evaluating our deeds, but to the extent that we exert and give of ourselves, are our actions defined.

Dvar Halacha – When to say Brachos on Thunder and Lightning by *Yitzchok Elefant, 10th Grade*

The Mechaber says that if a person is in the bathroom, or if his hands are unclean, and he hears lightning; if he's able to leave or clean his hands within a few seconds, ie; toch kiday dibbur he may make a bracha. If it took him longer, then that he

lost out on his ability to say the bracha. The Mishna Brurah learns out from this that the amount of time one has in saying the brachos after thunder or lightning is a toch kiday dibbur .

The Weekly Quiz

Q: A mother said to her son, "Your father is my father, your grandfather is my husband, I am your sister, and you are my son." Who is the mother and who is the son?

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: In which word in Tehillim is a letter written three times consecutively? (Answer must include where the word can be found)

A: "תהנני" tehillim 9:14

Let There be Light! by Uri Goldberg, 10th Grade

It was 1:45 on Friday afternoon, and enrichment classes had just ended, concluding our school day and week simultaneously. I was just returning from a trip to the park with my enrichment class, when we pulled up in the parking lot behind the building, just east of the basketball court. As I stepped out of the car, an incredible sight met my eyes: a towering structure, some twenty five feet tall, standing monstrosly over the ball court. Emblazed in yellow across its jade-colored body read the words "SUNBELT RENTALS". I recognized the giant at once as being what so many Toras Chaim students had desperately wished for yet could only eagerly await for so long. Four proud floodlights sat atop the lofty pole, patiently waiting for their nighttime debut. The possibilities raced through my head, as I at once recognized the whole new world of bright promise these lights brought to the table in terms of basketball. Their first opportunity to shine came the

following Tuesday, when the tenth and eleventh grades were informed that they would be the first to bask under the floodlights' glory.

That night at Mishmar, after racing to collect their hot dogs



YTC 9th grade plays RMS Lions Thursday night with newly enhanced lights.

and baked beans from Mr. Stahl, all gathered 'round to see the debut of this remarkable courtside addition. Rabbi Winter inserted the key, and what seemed like the entire Western Hemisphere burst into a dazzling, brilliant radiance. The floodlights lived up to the excitement, as the game that night was

competitively played under the newborn bright lights in the Miami skies.

The students and faculty, including Rabbi Winter, were so impressed, that a game for the following Mishmar was scheduled immediately, this time a showdown between the ninth and tenth grade clans. Yet again, on what seemed to be a normal dark Thursday night on Snake Creek, the Yeshiva managed to effortlessly light up the evening sky. Incredibly, there have been reports from as far as Tijuana, Mexico regarding sightings of a brilliant glow coming from somewhere in North Miami Beach. Students have been ecstatic about the new option for playing basketball after nightfall. Shiurim are keenly signing up for Mishmar games against each other, adding a whole new dimension to both Mishmar nights and basketball at YTC. I personally can't wait until the next time I can walk out onto the court under that spotlight.



Rabbi Eliyahu Levine from Lakewood visits YTC

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ח' אדר, תשע"ג
(Presidents Day)

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