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ט אייר תשע"ג

פרשת אחרי מות-קדשים

Candle Lighting 7:28 PM

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ראשי הישיבה

Dvar Torah – Acquiring Holiness by Rabbi Chaim Glazer

Issue 14

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This week's *Parsha* exhorts us to be holy, קדושים. How does one achieve holiness? Does he have to deprive himself of all worldly pleasures to do so? Must he cut himself off from friends

and relatives? *Rashi* tells us that wherever one finds barriers against immorality, one will find holiness. It seems that guarding oneself against immorality is a significant step towards bringing *kedusha* into one's life.

We find an illustration of this concept in *Parshas Vayeira*. After *Avimelech* returned *Sara* to *Avrohom Avinu*, *Avimelech* asked *Avrohom* why he obfuscated by misinforming his guards that *Sara* was his sister. *Avrohom* responded that he saw no fear of G-d in *Avimelech's* kingdom, and therefore was concerned he might be killed so that *Sara* could be taken by another man. *Rashi* explains that *Avrohom's* perception regarding

Avimelech's subjects came from the question he was asked as he entered the city. *Avrohom* was asked what relationship he had with *Sara*. As a traveler, the appropriate questions to ask would have been whether he is hungry, or whether he needs assistance with lodging. The fact that the guards asked about *Sara* showed *Avrohom* that their fear of G-d was lacking.

We see from here an important concept. *Avrohom* was able to ascertain a nation's relationship to G-d based upon their sensitivity to immorality. A nation close to G-d would have had protections against immorality, and the culture would have been one that eschewed inquiring about a traveler's female companion. The fact that they asked about *Sara* not only spoke to their lack of vigilance in regards to immorality, but also to their relationship to G-d in general.

Let us bring holiness into our lives by shoring up our barriers against immorality. By doing so, not only can we protect our virtue; we can enhance our relationship with *Hashem* himself, קדושים תהיו כי קודש אני.

Dvar Halacha – Bracha on Mixtures by Yitchok Elephant, 10th Grade, Based on Rabbi Luban's Daily Dvar Halacha

What *bracha* does one make on fruit salads containing sliced fruits which require different *brachos*, such as bananas and apples? It depends on the size of the pieces of fruit inside the salad. If the pieces are big enough that one spoonful will hold only one piece, then this isn't *halachically* viewed as a mixture, and two separate *brachos* (*Ha'etz*

and *Ha'adama*) are required. If, however, the pieces are cut up small enough that there are multiple pieces in each spoonful, then it is *halachically* defined as a mixture. In this case, one would only make the *bracha* of the main ingredient, which will be defined IY"ח in a future *Dvar Halacha*.

Answer to the last question:

Q: In Tanach, the Jews have had many enemies. Which one of them was Jewish?

A: Haman, he was the Eved K'naani of Mordechai

Reminder

As communicated earlier, Parent-Teacher Conferences have been postponed due to the accreditation visit that day.



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Mr. Richard Bernstein Visits YTC by Moshe Berkowitz, 12th Grade

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This past Friday the school had the privilege of hearing from Mr. Richard Bernstein. Mr. Bernstein is a seventeen-time marathon runner, a three-time iron man, and a lawyer - all accomplished despite being blind from birth. He began with a question that is ubiquitous with respect to the handicapped. Why would G-d, who created the world with such compassion and mercy, create a person with such challenges and disabilities? Hearing this from a person who had to experience his whole life with disability, holding him back from reaching the potential of any other ordinary individual, was truly inspiring. But what was really touching was his answer. He did not respond with

complaints or argument against G-d; rather, he acknowledged and accepted his condition and thanked G-d for giving him the ability to reach a higher spiritual state than any other ordinary Jew



by allowing him to realize what full bitachon really is. For when he had to swim in the Hudson for the iron man with thousands of other people and boats surrounding him with only the rope of his guide, he learned to let go of his life, put it into the hands of another, and realize how he

really had no control over the situation. Yet even with all of the challenges in his life, he was still able to function in a normal public school and ultimately graduate from law school. Even though he could not read and write because of his blindness, he would work five times as hard and have a reader dictate the text to him over and over again so he could memorize the material. He still never lets his challenges hold him back and he succeeds in all of his endeavors. The entire student body walked out very inspired. As Chaim Sandler of the 12th grade said, "His challenges inspired me to fully appreciate the gifts that were given to me and get back up on my feet after my injury."

Rosh Chodesh Breakfast by Sholom Rottman, 10th Grade

Bentching was over and everyone sat in a circle and then the lights went out and three candles were burning in the middle. A projector was set up to watch a couple of Reb' Shlomo Carlebach's nigunim. As the first video ended, we started our kumtitz, singing with passion and harmony. After finishing a song, our first speaker stood up to speak; it was Mordechai Anton of our Bais Medrash. He spoke about tragedies, how one day you can be healthy, but when you wake up the next day you can be rushed to the hospital, and that you should be thankful that you are healthy and not "tied down in a hospital bed attached

to eighteen different machines". As he finished his Dvar Torah, everyone started singing Tov L'Hodos. After singing a few more songs and



watching Reb' Shlomo sing another one of his nigunim, our second speaker stood up to speak. It was another member of our Bais Medresh, Josh Blavin. As he said his last words, everyone once again started to sing with harmony

and unity. As you would look around the room, though it was dark, you were still able to see a few feet around you and you were able to see that everyone was singing together. The leibadig singing had me staring with awe. As the singing came to a stop, our final speaker came up to speak. It was Yehuda Horowitz, a student of our high school. As he finished, everyone started to sing once again. Then we watched the last video and sang the last few songs. It felt as if the students realized what they could accomplish as one, acting with unity, and what an impression they could make on others.