

Dr. Abe Chames High School SPOTLIGHT

Rabbi Binyomin Luban
Rabbi Yisroel Y. Niman
Rabbi Mordechai Palgon
ראשי הישיבה



Candle Lighting 6:38

Issue # 1

Dvar Torah – FOCUS! - by Rabbi Mordechai Palgon



"וישמע אברם כי נשבה אחיו וירק את חניכיו"
"And Avram heard regarding the capture of his brother (Lot), and he armed his trainees..."

Many of us feel secure after an uplifting Rosh Hashana, Aseres Yimei Teshuva, and Yom Kippur, which ends with a spiritual high with the Simchas HaChag of Succos, Shemini Atzeres, and the dancing on Simchas Torah. We have had a month-long connection with Hashem, revitalizing our relationship with Him and renewing our commitment to Torah and Mitzvos. We are certain that we can move successfully for quite a while without any need to protect ourselves from faltering. Yet, we see, remarkably, in this week's Parsha, the vulnerability of human nature.

Avraham Avinu, upon hearing of Lot's capture, prepares an army of 318 men against the four mighty kings. The *Pasuk* states that he equipped the militia with ammunition. The Gemara in Nedarim (32a) cites the opinion of Shmuel, who says that he armed them with jewels and precious stones. *Tosfos* in *Meseches Chulin* (47b) explains that this was done in order to ensure that they would stay focused on fighting and saving lives, rather than being distracted by collecting the spoils of war.

A few notes on the caliber and nature of this "army" will illuminate the lesson taught in this *Chazal*.

- 1) By Torah law (Devarim 20:8), any man who commits a sin is excused from army service. These men were pure Tzadikim, devoid of any sins whatsoever.
- 2) Some opinions hold that this "army" was Eliezer, the *eved* of Avraham Avinu, (the *Gematria* of Eliezer = 318, which is the

same number mentioned in the *pasuk*). The Medresh (Bereishis Rabah 59:8) teaches us that Eliezer controlled his Yei'tzer Horah like Avraham Avinu. Additionally, all the Torah that Avraham Avinu knew was taught to Eliezer (Gemara Yoma 28b).

3) This army understood the great mitzvah of Pidyon Shvuyim, ransoming a Jewish captive. This is called a "Mitzvah Rabah", where one may sell a Sefer Torah to perform this great mitzvah. (*Tosfos*, Bava Basra, 8b)

Given all the above, the question arises: Why was it necessary for Avraham to load their pockets with precious stones in order for them to stay focused on saving Lot? We are dealing with the greatest Tzadikim, devoid of any sin, who were commissioned to perform the greatest mitzvah! It seems implausible that they would be enticed to chase after gold and gems, abandoning their mission of Pidyon Shvuyim.

We see from here that Avraham Avinu understood the human susceptibility and vulnerability to *gashmiyus*. Even the greatest Tzadikim are human beings with a *guf* that can easily lose sight of the ultimate purpose. This is not due to any lack of intelligence or understanding; rather, it is merely human nature. Once the urgency of their mission had shifted out of the spotlight, the glitter of gold would attract their attention. By providing them with wealth at the start of this campaign, Avraham protected his men from the allure of the booty so that they could remain focused on their true purpose.

Now that the urgency of the Yimei Hadin has passed, we too are certainly vulnerable when it comes to maintaining our commitments and goals. With the help of Hashem, let us all focus, perhaps devoting a few minutes to Mussar each day, so that the resolutions we made during *Elul* will be met with resounding success!

Dvar Halacha – Selected Halachos of Rainbows - by Yonatan Cohen 10th Grade

The Mishna in Chagigah relates: "Whoever has no respect for the glory of his Creator, it would have been better for him had he never come to the world." R' Abba explained this to be referring to somebody who gazes excessively at a rainbow (Chagigah Daf 16A). Gazing excessively at a rainbow is prohibited based on a *Posuk* in Sefer Yechezkel, "מראה הקשת אשר יהיה בענן ביום הגשם, כן מראה הגנה סביב הוא מראה דמות כבוד ה'." The *Posuk* states that the appearance of a rainbow is

comparable to the appearance of the שכינה. Therefore, staring at a rainbow is disrespectful to the glory of Hashem. The rainbow is also a sign of Hashem's observing his promise not to again destroy the world. When a rainbow appears Hashem is telling us that we deserve for our world to be destroyed due to our sins. Yet, Hashem observes his promise. One should refrain from informing others of the rainbow's presence as this constitutes slander on the entire world.

The Weekly Quiz

Q: After Noach got off the *Teivah*, he drank wine and got drunk. Where did he get the grapes from to make the wine?

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!*

Rosh Chodesh Breakfast - by Yechiel Niman, 11th Grade

In our Yeshiva, a certain exuberance fills the halls at the end of each month in anticipation of Rosh Chodesh. What is the reason for such tremendous excitement? This is the feeling that many talmidim in our Yeshiva have in counting the days to the monthly school-wide Rosh Chodesh Breakfast, and the Ruach and spirit that accompanies each one.

This past Friday, which was Rosh Chodesh Cheshvan, was certainly no different. After Halacha shiur, the 200 members of our High School and Bais Medrash, including many of their Rabbeim, all flocked to the Yeshiva's David and Sally Samuels Dining Hall for the breakfast. All of the Talmidim were treated to delicious bagels, cream cheese, and orange juice, compliments of the one-and-only Neil Vaiselberg and Bagel Time in Miami Beach. The program began with

Rabbi Bergida introducing Grant Rosenbaum and Dovid Lintz, two Talmidim who addressed the Rosh Chodesh breakfast with some inspiring Divrei Torah. Next, the attendees of the breakfast were

Secretary to the school for two decades, Ms. Lynn Handelman. To commemorate this sad tragedy, Mishnayos Seder Nezikin will IY"H be learned in her memory by the High School. In addition, our local singing talent, Tuvia Kessler, lead a heartwarming song in her memory. After Bentching, which was led by the Rosh Yeshiva, Rabbi Luban, Shlita, the intense dancing began. A huge crowd packed the dance floor, as Rabbeim and Talmidim alike danced together



treated to a special recital by one of our talented in-house musicians, Isaiah Zaccariah, who played the classics on the piano.

After the recital, our Rosh Yeshiva, Rabbi Palgon, Shlita, spoke about the sad tragedy of the untimely petirah of our beloved and devoted

with the great Ruach and Achdus that is legendary in our awesome Yeshiva, accompanied by live leibadige music. Another wonderful Breakfast came to an end, that is sure to take us united, Bezras Hashem with Hatzlacha, throughout this entire Zman.

Mishmar Basketball Leagues - by Yehuda Horowitz, 11th Grade

He looks at the hoop with ten seconds remaining. He dribbles past his defender; nine seconds left. He then crosses over his defender. The lane is wide open; five seconds left. He uses his speed to beat the clock. He releases the ball from his fingertips. Three, two, one. The ball rolls around and then into the basket. His team is victorious.

DACHS students have waited for a

basketball league time and time again. Finally the wait is over and a basketball league taking place on Tuesday and Thursdays nights has begun. I personally have attended the games to see the competitiveness and to see if it is as successful as people say. Honestly, this mishmar league is a great addition to the yeshiva and the entire student body.

Everyone has a chance to play in the leagues and each mishmar night a different grade plays. Also, it gives every talmid in the yeshiva a chance to shine and show his game. The Yeshiva didn't just make this league possible for the basketball, the hanhalah created it to bring achdus and pride to the yeshiva talmidim.