



Dr. Abe Chames High School
SPOTLIGHT

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Candle Lighting 5:12

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Dvar Torah – (פרקי אבות) איזהו גיבור? הכובש את יצרו. *by Rabbi Yehuda Bergida*



The *גמ'* teaches that the test that *יוסף הצדיק* endured with *אשת פוטיפר* was more challenging than the temptation experienced by any *רשע*, proving that even those who experience temptations are not excused from learning Torah.

The *גמ'* continues by describing the attempts of *אשת פוטיפר*. She first attempted to seduce him with words, and would dress up and frequently change her clothing in order to further tempt *Yosef*. Nevertheless, *יוסף* continuously refused her advances. She then threatened to confine him in prison, bend his proud stature, and even blind him. *יוסף* responded that "Hashem releases the imprisoned, straightens the bent and gives sight to the blind"; he tells her that he is governed only by the will of Hashem, and will not be led astray from what he knows to be right. She then bribed him with one thousand silver bars.

יוסף הצדיק still held his ground, refusing to succumb to his temptation.

The *בן יהודע* and *מהרש"א* tell us that Hashem rewarded *יוסף* by removing him from prison, opening his eyes to the interpretation of *פרעה's* dreams, and further building his stature by allowing him to feed the entire world.

In a letter to a fellow who needed support in these areas of temptation (*קריינא דאגרתא יב' יג'*) the *Steipler Gaon זצ"ל* writes that one who is at the height of temptation but overpowers his desires because they are prohibited by the *תורה* draws a tremendous holiness, even though he may have failed many times. Such a person is placed on the same level as *יוסף הצדיק*, who sanctified Hashem's name in private, meriting tremendous reward.

Realizing the astronomical appreciation that Hashem has for those who overcome powerful temptations may give us the boost we need to fight our battles.

Dvar Halacha – הפרשת חלה - *by Shmuel Oropessa, 10th Grade*

It is a mitzvah to separate a portion of dough that was made from one of the five grains. This mitzvah is called separating challah. Since bread is universally recognized as the most basic food of human beings and a food that is eaten daily, Hashem wished to connect this food to a mitzvah so that we may gain merits everyday of our life. One may not partake in any baked goods that require that challah be taken but wasn't. *L'Chatchilah*, the portion should be taken before the dough is baked

but *B'dieved*, one has fulfilled their obligation if they take challah even after the dough has been baked. According to the Torah, this mitzvah only applied in Eretz Yisroel when the majority of Jews lived there. However, Chazal instituted the practice even in our times in the Diaspora, so the mitzvah of taking challah is not forgotten. One separates an olive sized piece of dough and recites the *brocho* of *l'hafrish* challah *min hairs* and the dough is customarily burned or wrapped up and thrown away.

The Weekly Quiz

Q: In this week's Parsha, we find the children of Leah being jealous of a child of Rachel and they try to kill him. Where in Tanach do we find a descendant of Rachel being jealous of a descendant of Leah and he tries to kill him?

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!*

Last Weeks Question:

Q: Which two Issurim in the Torah are labeled as Baal Tashchis?

A: 1) Don't waste 2) Don't bring a razor to your beard

DACHS Open House - by Yosef Zidell, 11th Grade

This past Sunday evening, Yeshiva Toras Chaim hosted its annual Open House. Parents and Students from both local and afar participated in this annual event in order to get a glimpse of what Yeshiva Toras Chaim offers. The evening was both student and parent oriented, making the event even more memorable. The Open House officially began at 7:30, but the guests anxiously started to pour in well before that time. As the parents and students arrived, they were warmly greeted by YTC students and guided towards the Samuel's Dining Room, where the event would begin. Designated students gave the student guests private tours around the campus while the parents began to settle in. At 7:30, Rabbi Bergida and Rabbi Niman began the program by welcoming the parents and talking a little more about the yeshiva. Following that, both parents and sons were treated to delicious refreshments. At 8:15, the parents made their way to the Katz Media Center where

selected students would give a short overview on certain aspects of the yeshiva. The students spoke about many great programs that make the yeshiva



special, including the dormitory, the student-based schedules, the compassionate Rabbeim and teachers, the intense shuirim, and the warm atmosphere. The presentations were then followed by a question/answer session. At

the same time, the student guests and faculty met in roundtable discussions, followed by an enjoyable video presentation created by our own Yaakov Niman, Class of 2015. After alternating positions, the prospective students met in the Katz Media Center for student presentations while the parents further discussed the Secular and Limudei Kodesh with the Rabbeim and faculty. The evening concluded with Maariv which was followed by a heartfelt farewell.

The main goal of an Open House is to give the parents and future students a feel for the school before moving forward with possible enrollment. One parent said it all: "I never imagined the open house to be the way it was. The students and faculty were so warm and welcoming to all the guests and treated us like we were already part of the YTC family. Beyond what I've heard and seen tonight, I can't wait to see what more this yeshiva has to offer."

Yachad At DACHS - by Shlomo Simpser, 12th Grade

Yachad is the National Jewish Council for Disabilities. Every Sunday morning a few Yachad members come to our Yeshiva. They are accompanied by some 12th graders in Rabbi Winter's shiur. The morning starts off with Davening where Yachad participants join with the Yeshiva to get an experience that some have never had the chance to experience before. The 12th graders sit with the Yachad students and help them enjoy Davening. The interaction between the Yachad members and the

Yeshiva students allow for the students to get accustomed to dealing with individuals who are different. Following Davening, the groups of 12th graders and Yachad guests attend breakfast where they further interact with the Yeshiva students. At breakfast they enjoy the appetizing school food, as well as socializing with all of the students of the Yeshiva. After breakfast, they walk to a classroom in the Bais Medresh Wing where they have a class on the Parsha led by Mr. Yoni Schwartz. After the learning

is complete and everyone has learned some aspect of the Parsha, everyone goes outside and they play sports such as basketball and football. Watching the Yachad members playing ball hand - in - hand with the Yeshiva students is really an amazing experience. The most awesome thing about the program is the fact that the 12th graders get to have such a close connection with these individuals with special needs and gain so much from it.