



Dr. Abe Chames High School SPOTLIGHT

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Candle Lighting 6:04 PM
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Dvar Torah – “A Study in Opposites,” by Rabbi Noam Grossman



In the beginning of *Parshas Pekudei*, the *Torah* discusses how the different materials given for the *Mishkan* were used. The *Medrash Rabbah* (פ' נ"א) (סימן ר') relates that *Moshe* volunteered to undertake an exact accounting of what everything was used for in order to remove any suspicion from himself.

The *Medrash* asks why he felt it necessary to prove himself. After all, *Hashem* Himself testified regarding *Moshe's* integrity when He said “בכל ביתי נאמן הוא”

The *Medrash* answers that *Moshe* overheard a conversation take place behind his back when he was on his way to his tent. There are two versions of this conversation, but according to one of them, it took place between two “*chot'im b'yisrael*”- sinners among the Jews. One person said to the other, “Look how fat *Moshe's* neck is,” to which the other responded, “Of course. Someone who is responsible for so much money is sure to pocket some of it.” When *Moshe* heard this, he decided to go through an exact accounting to remove any suspicion from himself. The *Etz Yosef* comments that the main reason these people were watching *Moshe* go back to his tent was for the purpose of seeing the *Amud He'anan* - the cloud of

Hashem's glory - descending upon his tent and bowing down to it (this descent took place whenever *Moshe* would enter his tent).

The commentary of the *Etz Yosef* is difficult to understand. It seems that at the very moment in time when these people were watching *Moshe* go back to his tent, intent on witnessing a miracle - at that moment they were belittling the person who was the at the very root of their inspiration! How could this be?

Apparently, the complexity of the human being is such that one can not only have conflicting feelings, but have them at the very same moment. We tend to think that if we feel a certain way about someone or something, other feelings can't exist. At times we assume, based on certain actions and behaviors of others, that they must feel a certain way about us. We see from the *Etz Yosef* that things don't necessarily work this way; just as one can have great admiration for someone but mock that person at the same time, there may be other opposite feelings that coexist within us. Let us take this lesson to help judge ourselves and others more favorably and not jump to conclusions about ourselves or others simply based on specific feelings that we may observe. Let us remind ourselves to be on guard and not allow our *yetzer hara*, our evil inclination, to spoil moments of potential inspiration.

Dvar Halacha – Listening To The Megillah - by Moshe Baruch Ackerman, 11th Grade

The Mechaber in siman TRZ”B sif alef says that one should read the megillah on purim night and make 3 brachos; al mikra, sheasa nisim, and shehechianu. When reading during the day, though, only the first 2 are recited. The Rm”a explains that some opinions hold one should say shehechianu during the day, also. This is the minhag in ashkenaz kehillos.

The Mishna Berura in sif katan alef says that, l'maase, the chazzan should have in mind all the day-

time Mitzvos when saying shehechianu at night and the kehilla should have in mind to be yotzai. This is similar to Kiddush, where the Mevarech should have in mind to be motzei others and the people listening should have in mind to be yotzai with him; so too by Megillah the kehilla should have in mind to be yotzai with the sheliach tzibur and the sheliach tzibur should have in mind to be motzei them.

The Weekly Quiz

Q: What are the five things that were unfortunately missing from the second *Beis Hamikdash* that were in the first *Bais Hamikdash*?

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: How many times during their forty-year journey in the *Midbar* did *Bnei Yisroel* have to light the *Menora*?

A: Once (When *Bnei Yisroel* traveled, they put a pan over the fire. A miracle occurred that even though the oxygen was cut off from the fire by the pan, it nevertheless stayed lit.).

18th Annual Learnathon - by Yechiel Niman, 11th Grade

This Monday was a day of inspiration at our yeshiva. It was the day of the 18th annual YTCTE Learnathon. For nearly two decades, the *talmidim* in our yeshiva have made Presidents' Day, which would normally be a half a day for them, into a day of true growth in Torah. The Learnathon is an annual five hour intensive learning program, above and beyond the regular daily

fund, a special fund which enhances the learning of the Bnei Yeshiva by generously covering the costs of many special programs throughout the year, such as class trips and the *Lag Baomer* outing and barbeque.

After the regular morning *shiurim* concluded at 2:00 PM, we davened Mincha, and the learnathon began in all its glory. The program commenced

with an inspiring and insightful *Shiur* given to the whole high school by Rabbi Dovid Lehrfield, the Rav of Young Israel of Greater Miami, about Torah, *Avodah*, and *Gemilus Chasadim*, the three principles upon which the world stands. After Rabbi Lehrfield spoke, each *shiur* in the high school had the unique opportunity to hear inspiring words from prominent Rabbonim within our community, including Rabbi Kalman Baumann of our elementary school, Rabbi Yaakov Tzvi Blejer of the NMB Community Kollel, Rabbi Saj Frieberg of



learning. Each year's event is a magnificent *Kiddush Hashem*, as the boys feel the great accomplishment of completing an entire day of learning *B'Hasmoda*.

In the weeks before the Learnathon, the *talmidim* spent much of their free time making phone calls to get sponsors for their learning, either per hour or in a donation. This grand fundraising effort was designed to raise money for the Yeshiva's Student Activity

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JCLE/Maimonides, Rabbi Dovid Sharfman of YTCTE Bais Medrash Zichron Ezra, and Rabbi Yaakov Gross of the Miami Beach Community Kollel. Then, everyone received a special treat: a presentation from Rabbi Elias Obadia on exciting Torah Codes.

Afterwards, the *Talmidim* enjoyed delectable refreshments, including some very delicious potato kugel. Everyone then proceeded to the Bais



bringing *Simcha* to others through *Chesed*.

This year's Learnathon was without doubt an amazing success. It was a great source of *Chizuk* and inspiration for our *talmidim* which will hopefully last a lifetime.