

ב"ה
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עש"ק פרשת בשלח
י"ד שבט



Happy Birthday

Levi Federman
15 Shevat 5769

Mazel Tov Bar Mitzva

Mottel Feigelstock
21 Shevat 5764

Contact us

Boysprograms
@shluchim.org
347-654-6951

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NEWSLETTER

Boys division, Grades B2 - B8

The Oneness in Shoes

Tayere Talmidei Hatmimim sheyichyu,

At the end of Parshas Beshalach, the Torah tells of the milchoma that the Bnei Yisroel had with Amolek. Moshe turns to Yehoshua and tells him to head the battle against the arch foe. The Midrash explains that the reason that specifically Yehoshua was chosen, was because he was a descendant of Yosef HaTzadik. The Rebbe wonders, why is it that being a descendant of Yosef particularly, is cited as being advantageous in fighting Amolek?

In order to understand this, I would like to share with you one of the fundamental and "yesodosdikke" stories that chassidim tell:

There was a famous Mashpia in Tomchei Temim named Reb Michoel Bliner, who was generally referred to as Reb Michoel der Alter. Once, when Reb Michoel was in the middle of davening, and he was holding just before Krias Shema, a shoemaker entered the beis hamidrash. Despite the fact that he was holding at a point in davening when all forms of a hefsek (interruption) are assur, Reb Michoel gestured to the shoemaker that he needs to fix the torn shoes of a certain yeshiva bochur.

The bochrin were shocked, and after davening they asked Reb Michoel how it was that he

interrupted his saying of krias shema, which is so holy and needs such great concentration, to deal with a matter so low as a torn pair of shoes?

Reb Michoel answered them that true Achdus Hashem, true oneness of the Aibershter, is when a person does not one ignore the fact that another Yid's needs are not taken care of. When a person sincerely cares about what another



Reb Michol "Der Alter"

Yid's needs, he expresses genuine Achdus Hashem! Therefore, focusing on that bochur's shoes at that point in time was not a hefsek in davening, rather it was an important way of expressing Achdus Hashem.

Now we could answer our question: Amolek were only able to attack the Yidden who were "stragglng" at the back of the Bnei Yisroel, meaning those Yidden who had done so many Aveiros that they were not protected by the Anonei Hakovod.

A person might have thought, why should he leave the safety of the Anonei Hakovod, to go protect and save these Yidden who had done so many Aveiros (r"l)?

The Rebbe explains that Yosef HaTzadik was named Yosef based on "Yosef Hashem li ben acher" that Rochel said Hashem should add another son for her (for Rochel.) However, Chassidus explains that this possuk means that the avoda of Yosef is to take the "Acher", the individual who is behind and low spiritually, and turn him into a "Ben", into a son who is close to the Aibershter. Yosef represents an individual who cares for helping all Yidden and bringing them close to Hashem, even those who are so low that they are no longer protected by the Anonei Hakovod. This was the reason why Moshe made sure to appoint Yehoshua to fight his battle - someone who comes from Yosef was the best person for this mission!

Dear Talmidim, this is the avoda of a shliach! Let us look to help all Yidden and to be involved in Achdus Hashem not only when we are davening, but through actually caring for all Yidden, whether they are in our Chabad Houses, in the Online School, or wherever they may be!

Rabbi Yaacov Ringo

Principal Boys
Older Division

Programs Updates

מבצע ונפלינו

The questions for week 6 (about Hiskashrus) will be up this coming Sunday through Thursday.

The Mivtza continues this coming week - a new booklet is going up Monday Iyh. Also the daily Pigsaw will be taught again.

The pictures earned for week 3,4,5,6 will be sent out over the coming week.

All the details on status, essays etc. will be updated

The winners and the prizes of this past monthly raffle (Shevat) will be announced in the next newsletter IY”H

Get involved

The tests on Bosi Legani

The tests will be marked in the beginning of next week and the boys who earned the automatic Sefer will be notified by email of the prize.

If possible the prize can be picked up during the upcoming Kinus Hashluchos.

The winners will be announced in the next newsletter IY”H.

Rambam

Daily Sefer Hamitzvos continues this coming Monday, from now on each day is worth 2 points in rewards store.

Bosi Legani by heart

The forms are being looked over, and the points earned will be added shortly. IY”H in the next newsletter we will see how many points everyone learned.



STORY

The Melamed and the Branches

Once upon a time there lived a poor *melamed*, in a small village in Poland. He had his daily troubles with the hardheaded farmer boys who were his students. For they would rather roam the countryside than learn the *alef-beis*.

All through the summer, the *melamed* had plenty of time for himself. The Jewish farmers needed their children to help in the fields, and his pupils would anyway prefer mowing corn or loading hay to learning how to read and write Hebrew. That was summer. But now it was winter, and a heavy layer of snow covered every inch of the ground upon which the poor *melamed* walked. Yet this was his day off. For it was Tu B'Shevat, the fifteenth day of the month of Shevat.

Our *melamed* thought of the meaning of Tu B'Shevat as he left the village and walked towards a nearby forest. He knew very little about trees and nature in general, for he had hardly ever left his study and his beloved books. Thus, you will not be surprised to hear that the learned man was wondering in what manner the trees celebrated their Rosh Hashanah. Were they budding and putting on their coat of green, or was there any other form of celebrating the New Year?

When he reached the forest, he was deeply disappointed to find the trees and bushes covered with thick coats of crystal-white snow. "Who knows," he pondered, "perhaps they were *talliesim* and *kittels*, like pious Jews on Yom Kippur!" Just then a strong wind blew through the treetops, and the sounds of the swaying branches sounded like the whispering of Davening. Our *melamed* stood quietly amidst the noise of the windy forest, as fervent melodies passed through his head.

Again he asked himself: What kind of New Year do the trees celebrate? Don't they look as if they were dead?

Suddenly, the entire scene became transformed. The *melamed* was able to see through the glittering, sparkling snow, as if the bark was made of pure, transparent glass. From each little branch, tender sprouts pushed closer to the surface; yet they were careful not to go too far. It was still too cold for them to face the harshness of the world beyond the casing of the branches.



"Our melamed stood quietly amidst the noise of the windy forest..."

The *melamed* eagerly drank in the full beauty of this tender spectacle. His strained eyes had never looked beyond the bark of the oaks and birches and poplars that lined the streets of his village. He had never dreamt of life and sprouting twigs deep within the trunks of those impersonal trees. Now he saw and understood that they, too, were individuals, each one in his own right and own way of life, each one with his proper soul and living spirit. The New Year of Trees was no longer meaningless to him.

The man who returned home to the village was no longer the same poor *melamed*. Poor were only the clothes that covered his thin body. Poor was only the little hut that served him as a shelter. Yet deep within him budded spirited life, the blossoms of a hopeful future.

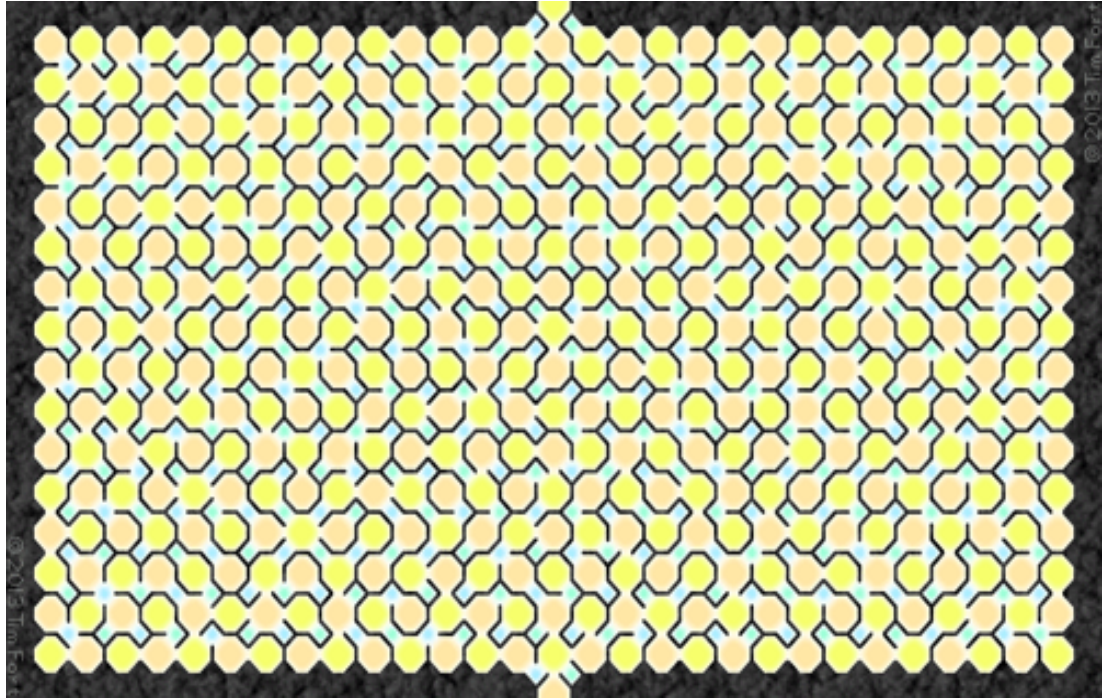
What did it matter that his students were hardheaded farm boys? He realized that deep within them lay seeds of knowledge and much learning. He knew that he had only to supply the warmth of loving understanding to push the sprouts out of their hiding, so that they would blossom and show the fruits of their harvest. They, too, would yet become good Torah students some day!

The Desert Challenge

Can you get through this maze?

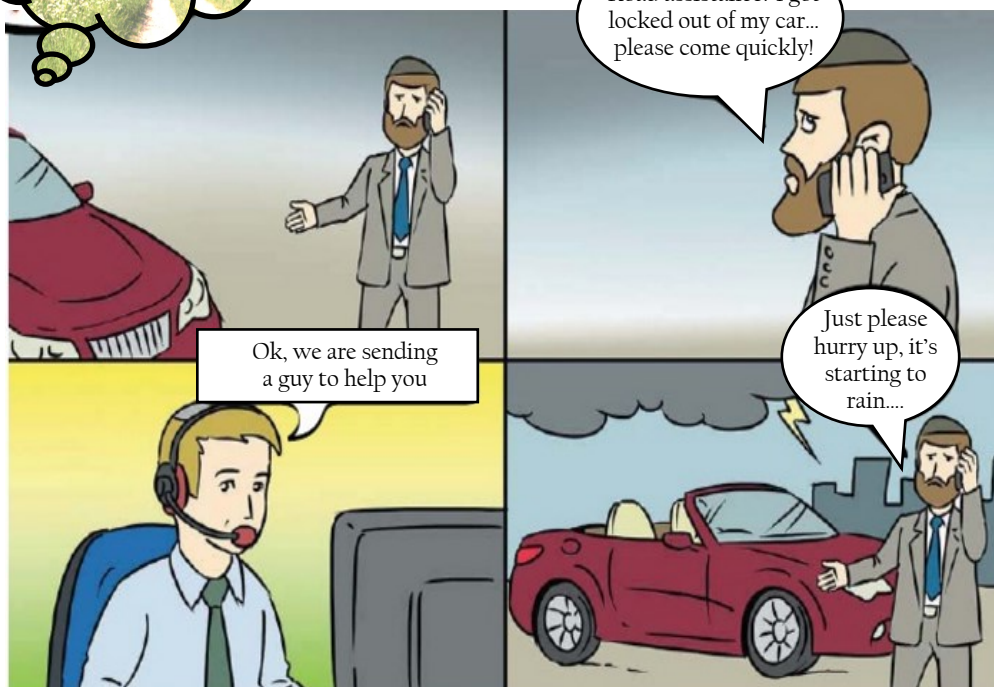
The Yidden journeyed in the Midbar for a very loooooong time....

Start



End

Send in
Your
Drawings,
Games,
Riddles and
Comics to
boysprograms
@shluchim.org



א קלאץ קשיא

What can turn
things around but
never moves
itself?



Answer: A Mirror