

ב"ה
Issue No. 19

עש"ק פרשת משפטים
כח שבט



Happy Birthday

Tzvi Gray
29 Shevat 5768

Mendel Herbstman
1 Adar 5765

Mendel Kudan
3 Adar 5765

Chanoch Pink
3 Adar 5767



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NEWSLETTER

Boys division, Grades B2 - B8

Torah - Applied

Tayere Talmidei Hatmimim sheyichyu,

Following the miraculous events in Parshas Yisro, Parshas Mishpotim deals with some very basic halachos, that at first glance seem very simple and the wording of some of them seems quite strange.

For example, the Rebbe points out that when the Torah describes the halachos of damage it speaks about an ox (a shor) that gores. This is strange because an ox is not the only animal that damages, so why would the Torah choose to speak about an ox and not speak more generally and say when "an animal" causes damage?

The Mishna explains that the Torah generally chooses to speak in the "Hoive" meaning describing cases that are most common, and the animal that causes the most damage is an ox.

To understand this concept of speaking about common cases, chassidim tell over the following story:

A simple Yid once came to the great tzadik R' Shmelke of Nikolsburg to ask a shaaleh - a question in halochoh. When he came to the chotzer of R' Shmelke, he found that R' Shmelke had just left for a short time. The talmidim there figured that this Yid was a simple person, so they could probably answer his question and thereby save R' Shmelke's precious time for more complex issues.

They asked the Yid to tell them his shaaleh and they would answer it for him. The man was happy to ask them instead. He explained to them that he was a cohen and he wanted to know if it was ok for him to "take a woman who is a gerusha (divorced)?"

The chassidim answered quickly that it is a basic halacha from the Torah that a cohen is not allowed to marry certain women, and one of them is a gerusha. So they told him that he could not. Soon after, R' Shmelke returned and when he heard about the incident and the psak, he told the talmidim to hurry and bring the simple man back to him. R' Shmelke then asked the man whether "there will be other people with you?" The man responded that of course there would be others present! R' Shmelke then paskend that he "could take the woman."

The tamidim were shocked and they asked him to explain why R' Shmelke had ignored a basic halacho for this man? R' Shmelke then told them that when he heard about the question he was quite surprized because even a simple Yid knows that a cohen cannot marry a gerusha. He figured that the Yid must be a simple wagon driver who wanted to "take" a gerusha on a certain trip and that he must have been concerned about doing so because he was a cohen. R' Shmelke answered that as long as

there were other people there it was allowed, as then would be no "issur yichud" - being alone with this woman in his carriage!

At times the Torah takes cases and applies them to the ways that are most commonly experienced by people, even though there could be other approaches or scenarios. This gives opportunity for a great lesson in Avodas Hashem. Sometimes, people look for the Aibershter's hand in miraculous out-of-the-ordinary events but they ignore how He is involved in the "Hoive", in the regular day-to-day events that take place. The Rebbe explains that it is important to remember and see how everything that takes place in this world is directed and overseen by Hashem's "Hashgocho Protis."

Dear Talmidim, this idea of finding kedusha in every aspect of the world, even in those which are "Hoive", was made possible after Matan Torah, as before that there was an absolute separation between gashmiyus and ruchniyus. This is brought out in the first parsha after Matan Torah - in Parshas Mishpotim where the stress is on the Hoive - on how we could bring kedusha into everything in the world.

Wishing you a wonderful Shabbos,

Rabbi Yaacov Ringo

Principal Boys
Older Division



Shliach Spotlight



**My name is
Binyamin
Weinberg**

**I'm in Grade
B6 and I'm a
Shliach in
Overland Park,
Kansas**

What can you tell us about your place of Shlichus?

Besides being one of the most populous areas in the region, Overland park is also famous for being the Headquarters of 'sprint', the city made international headlines 3 years ago, when a 70 year old neo Nazi entered the JCC and shot at several people who weren't even Jewish in the end. From then on they added a lot of security at Jewish institutes here.

Jews have been living in the state of Kansas (and nearby Missouri) for close to 150 years. Overland park became a city recently in 5720 (1960), and only 10 years later my grandfather Rabbi Shalom Ber Weinberg (also known for translating the 'lessons in Tanya' into English) came here and established a Chabad house, at the time it was only the 8th Chabad house in America.

My father grew up on Shlichus here. As a child he attended the Hebrew academy that started around that time (I learned there as well till 5th grade when I joined the online school).

My father and brother in law opened a new Shul only 2 years ago. It's really growing and a lot of younger people are coming.

What are some of the Peulos (programs) your parents do in Overland Park?

There's a Minyan almost every Shabbos. On Sunday's we have a Minyan at my grandfather's Chabad house. On Sukkos we have 'soup in the sukkah' and for the men we have an annual 'sip and stake'. On Chanukah we light the menorah on the ice skating rink, there is a Jewish player on the Kansas football team that lights it. I"YH this year on Purim we are going to be having "Purim in OZ", a theme

connected with Kansas. On Pesach we make a pubic Seder.

We have a preschool, it was started by my grandmother in the original chabad house, now my mother does it, it's for toddlers till 5 years old. Its every day (except Sunday and Shabbos) there are 35 kids in the preschool. We also have a Hebrew school every Sunday, with about 15 kids. My father does JLI classes

We often have something like a 'Taste of Shabbat' basically every Monday we teach recipes to women for Shabbos.

Another thing is 'TGI' (thank god it's



Our 'Matza Bakery'

shabbos) it's geared for younger couples and especially their kids. We invite them over to Shul to Daven (otherwise we usually don't have a Minyan on Friday night) and we have a Shabbat meal at the Shul, the most recent TGI was this 15 Shevat and about 80 people came!

How do you help out on Shlichus?

I go on Mivtzoim with my father, I help my father and brother in law set up for things I love cooking and I try to help out with all the programs.

What do you like about the online school?

I like the online school because I get to learn a lot more Yiddehsket etc. At my old school there was very little time spent on that.

Speaking of the Online school, you must have seen the parrot on my shoulder when you subbing my online class (during break)... basically, someone in our area went to a wedding, so we are watching it for them.

I love animals, I have only a fish (my siblings don't really like pets) so I'm really excited about this bird. I'm trying to teach the bird words but it's not learning, the bird is about 20 years old so I respect it. I had a hard time listening to my teacher since it was chewing off my earphones...

Can you share with us a story that happened on your Shlichus?

Many years ago (before I was born), there was a lady in the chabad house that had a problem with her kidneys, they had to remove them, she would have to go once a week to the hospital for very painful treatments.

My father told her to write a pan and send it to the Ohel, she made a Hachlota to keep Shabbos. (The day she was supposed to get treated every week was Shabbos) it was hard because she had to go at a time that wasn't easy). She was no. 200 on the list for a kidney after a few weeks of keeping the Hachlota the doctors found her a suitable kidney! That same week was a wedding in Eretz Yisroel but it fell out on Shabbos, if she would have gone she would have lost the chance to get the Kidney!



In the time of the Alter Rebbe, there was a village in which lived a group of Chassidim. Unfortunately the misnagdim there gave them no rest and harassed them with no mercy. Eventually, the slanders and lies of the misnagdim got some of the Chassidim thrown into prison. When, with Hashem's mercy the case was dropped and the Chassidim were let free, the Chassidim of the town sat down to write a letter to their Rebbe, the Alter Rebbe to tell him the good news of the deliverance and salvation.

In that town there was a chassid by the name of Reb Shimon Der Blecher. He was of average intelligence but a mekushar to the Alter Rebbe with "chains of love" and a powerful devotion. He would constantly say: "Ai der Rebbe, Ai der Rebbe". Reb Shimon was a "Blecher" a plate-maker by profession and from time to time he would travel through the nearby villages selling his ware, but he wasn't very successful and lived a hard life.

When they prepared the letter to be sent to the Alter Rebbe, Reb Shimon brought money to pay for special express delivery of the letter to the Rebbe. In every village in those days, there was a special Vaad – a committee – that decided all that happened among the Chassidim. One of the elders was the Mashpia and educator of that city and he would report to the Alter Rebbe everything that happened.

When Reb Shimon came with the money to pay for the mailman to take the letter to the Alter Rebbe, the members of the Vaad refused. Knowing his financial situation as a poor man who barely made a living, and who's wife and children were sick, they refused to take the money from him. However he would not let up, declaring that the one extra hour of nachas the Alter Rebbe would receive by getting the letter by express courier was worth more to him than all the riches in the world.

When the matter reached the elder Chassid, the one who was appointed by the Alter Rebbe to be the educator and mentor for this village and the collector for the Tzedaka of Rabbi Meir Baal Hanes and Ma'amod (Tzedaka to support the Rebbe), he decided in Reb Shimon's favor, so they sent the letter by express delivery.

The story of Reb Shimon Der Blecher reached the ears of the Maharil - brother of the Alter Rebbe- who was the Memuna (in charge of the Alter Rebbe's funds) at that time.

Some time passed, and Reb Yaakov Semilyan, the shliach of the Alter Rebbe, traveled through the region collecting the monies of Tzedaka and Ma'amod . When he arrived at this village, the Chassidim were stunned, when at the meeting in the presence of all the townspeople, he presented a hand-written letter from the Alter Rebbe to Reb Shimon Der Blecher. In the letter, the Alter Rebbe thanked Reb Shimon for sending a special messenger to bring him the good news, and gave him a Bracha that on account of this, Hashem will bless him to be a bearer of good news.

Not much time elapsed, and Reb Shimon's situation improved. His wife and children recovered, and Hashem sent him increased parnassa with hatzlacha in all that he did, and the Bracha of the Rebbe came to be. Reb Shimon would regularly send good news to the Rebbe about himself in particular, and about the Chassidim of his town in general.

Lesson:

In the Rebbe's letters we see how he always demanded of Chassidim to send him Besuros Tovos - good news. We must always remember how much the Rebbe loves hearing of our Simchos, our Hachlotos Tovos and our Shlichus.



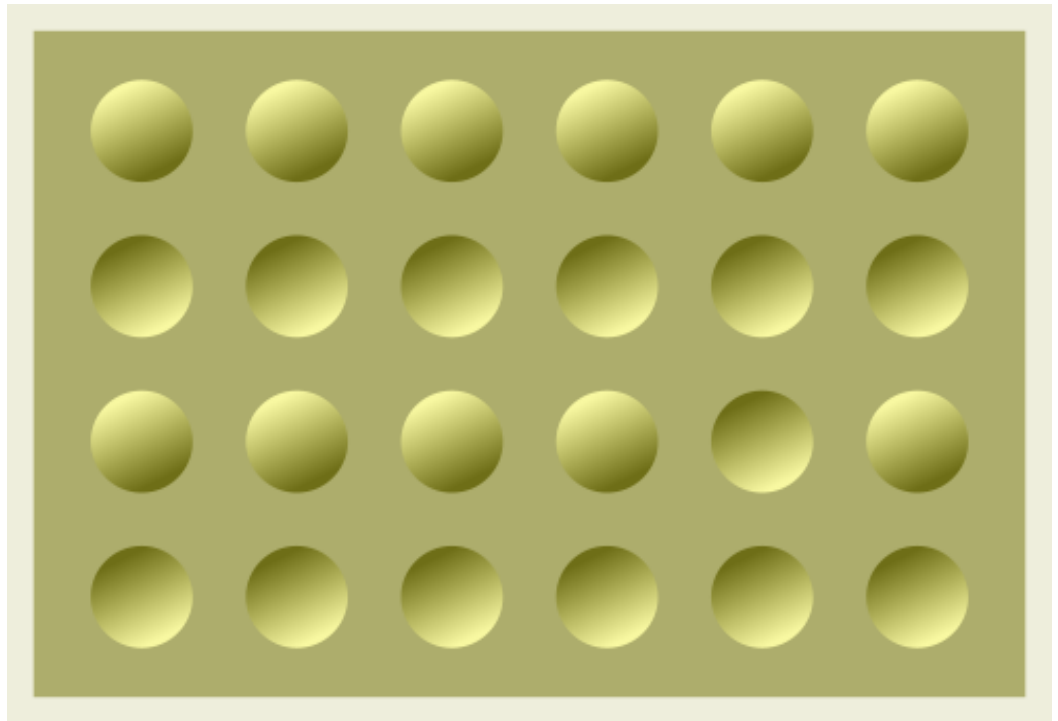
Reb Shimon would not let up, declaring that the one extra hour of Nachas the Alter Rebbe would receive by getting the letter by express delivery was worth more to him than all the riches in the world...

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

Hills or Pits

Here we have
 another
 'optical illusion'.

Based on the
 lighting in each
 circles it makes
 some appear as a hill
 or as a pit.



א קלאץ קשיא

What
 disappears if
 you say it's
 name?



Answer: Silence