



MENUCHA V'SIMCHA

Candle Lighting 7:48PM

Vol. 13 Issue 20

Parshas Emor 5777

THE MEANING OF HISHTADLUS

BY RABBI YISROEL AKERMAN

We find the title “Kohen Gadol” first used in this week’s Parsha. The verse states “And the Kohen who is greater than his brothers, etc.” (Vayikra 21:10) in reference to the Kohen Gadol. The Medrash (Vayikra Rabba 26:9) explains that the Kohel Gadol is aptly named, as he must excel in five areas, intellect, strength, countenance, wealth, and age. The Medrash cites a proof to the attribute of strength from the fact that Aharon Hakohein was required to “wave” 22,000 Leviim in one day. Each Levi had to be both picked up and placed back down, and also waved backwards and forwards and then up and down. If you do the math, that comes out to 1 Levi every 3 seconds without a single break for an entire 24 hour period!! Astounding is an understatement! Impossible more accurately!

The Rabbeinu Bachya explains that Aharon’s duty to wave all of the Leviim was made possible solely through Divine aid—a miracle. The question arises, how can the Medrash prove from this that the Kohen Gadol must be strong, if brawn was apparently a non-factor? The whole process of

waving the Leviim was miraculous from beginning to end regardless.

To explain this difficulty, we must first understand a fundamental principle in hishtadlus, personal effort. There is a common misconception that since a person is required to put in hishtadlus in all his endeavors, if his plans come to fruition it must have been due to his hard work. This is incorrect. R’ Chaim Shmuelevitz, Ztz”l explains that no undertakings are within man’s ability to complete on his own. Any goal,

big or small, requires tremendous Siyata Dishmaya, Divine Assistance, to accomplish. Our job is to try to the best of our abilities to achieve, and Hashem, seeing our efforts, guides our projects to fruition. The harder a person tries, the more Hashem helps. The better the action and effort from man, the greater the reaction and aid from Above.

Using this concept, R’ Chaim Shmuelevitz, Ztz”l explains that the aforementioned Medrash is not referring to the physical prowess of the Kohel Gadol, but rather to his

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DVAR HALACHA



Laws of Lag Ba’Omer

BY RABBI YOCHANAN ESKENAZI

The Tur [OC 493] writes that the days between Pesach and Shavuos are days of judgment and mourning. Therefore, one should not get married, take a haircut, or shave (Shulchan Aruch 493:1-2), because it is not befitting during this sad period time to increase our joy (Mishneh Berurah 493:2). However, on Lag B’Omer we increase our simcha a little bit (Rema 493:2).

Why do we mourn specifically during Sefira and why do we change our mindset on Lag B’Omer? I once heard a very nice explanation from Rabbi Hershel Welcher, shlit”a, of Queens, NY. The Gemara [Yevamos 62b] famously teaches that Rebbe Akiva had 24,000 students who all died in a very short period of time [between Pesach and Shavuos]. The reason given as to why they were punished was because they did not show proper respect to each other. The Gemara continues that after all the students died Eretz Yisroel was desolate. Rashi explains this is because Torah was being forgotten. Therefore, Rebbe Akiva found five new students to teach Torah to and these students transmitted the Torah throughout Eretz Yisroel. It is from these students that a large portion of Torah She’Baal Peh originates.

The implication of Rashi is that the main reason why there was a mourning period was that we are mourning over the loss of Torah. When the students died, there was no one for Rebbe Akiva to teach Torah to. This loss is felt

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KOLLEL News SHIVTI!

EVERY SHABBOS AFTERNOON!

FOR ADVANCED LEARNERS:
GAIN A KINYAN IN KINYANIM!

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- IMMERSE YOURSELF IN A SUGYA!

5:30 PM - 6:15 PM:

CHAVRUSA LEARNING

6:15 PM - 6:30PM:

CHABURA FROM THE ROH KOLLEL, RABBI YECHIEL BIBERFELD, AND RABBI DOV GOLDSHMIDT (IN ROTATION)

6:30 PM: MINCHA

COME WITH A CHAVRUSA OR WE CAN SET YOU UP!

FOR BEGINNERS!

5:30 PM - 6:30 PM:

STUDY THE PROPHETS TOGETHER WITH RABBI MOSHE YOSEF SPIEGEL

FOR THE BOYS!

5:30 PM - 6:30 PM:

STORIES, SINGING, AND NOSH, LED BY RABBI YEDIDYA KAGANOFF ON THE LOWER LEVEL

-Torah Time for Toddlers

A 3-Part Program for Mothers and Toddlers with Mrs. Sima Greer

Prepare for Shavuos with songs and learning about Hashem's Special Present with your little one!

Wednesday Mornings,
May 10, 17, and 24
9:15 a.m.

at the home of Dana Kupfer
468 N. Highland Ave, Merion Station, PA

For mothers and toddlers (children 3 and under, infants welcome!) The Kollel's

To receive
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PLEASE CONTACT THE EDITOR AT:
menuchavesimcha@phillykollel.org

DAVENING TIMES:

Friday, May 12:

7:48PM	Candle Lighting
8:06PM	Shkiya/sunset

Shabbos, May 13:

8:15AM	Shacharis
8:34AM/9:10AM	Latest Krias Shema <i>Kiddush this week is sponsored by Dr. Moshe Chaim and Jasmin Shinohara in honor of Moshe Chaim becoming a US citizen.</i>
6:30PM	Mincha
8:07PM	Shkiya/Sunset
9:02 PM	Ma'ariv
9:19PM	72 Minutes

Eighteenth Annual Lecture The Dr. David E. Epstein, z"l Memorial Lecture with Rabbi Yonasan Sacks

entitled
**BEYOND 613:
Understanding the Divine Will**

will take place on

Wednesday Evening May 24, 2017
at the Levering Mill Tribute House
(Formerly Woman's Club of Bala Cynwyd)
382 Bala Avenue Bala Cynwyd, Pennsylvania

For Men & Women

All participants are invited to a dairy and parve dessert reception before and after the lecture,

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by every Jew, even today, because with the death of so many Torah scholars there are many original Torah thoughts that could have been learned which ultimately never came to fruition. The poskim offer different explanations as to why we increase simcha on Lag B'Omer. The Gr'a explains that on Lag B'Omer the students stopped dying (Mishneh Berurah 493:2), and according to the Chida [Sefer Tov Eyan 18] Rebbe Akiva's new Yeshiva started on Lag B'Omer. The Arizal teaches that Rebbe Shimon Bar Yochai died on Lag B'Omer, and on the last day of his life he taught the Zohar Hakadosh, which contains many hidden secrets of Torah, to his students.

Consequently, one can understand why Lag B'Omer is a day of simcha. True, there was a loss of thousands of Torah scholars that will never be replaced. However, through Rebbe Akiva, and his new students [which included Rebbe Shimon Bar Yochai], there was somewhat of a tikkun, a rectification, for now there was a restoration of transmitting Torah from generation to generation. Therefore, we mourn during sefira for the lack of Torah that was forever lost and did not bear fruit. However, when that horrible trend started to turn around, with Rebbe Akiva starting his new yeshiva with students that would transmit the Torah to the entire world, we can understand why it is a day of celebration. We see that Rabbi Akiva begins the revival of Torah on Lag B'Omer, and Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai, who represents the toiling of Torah even in the most difficult of times, completes his life on Lag B'Omer with the revelation of Torah. Perhaps the celebration of Lag B'Omer is that even in exile, Lag B'Omer remains the day which is the future of Jewish people. It is not merely that Rebbe Akiva's students stopped dying, rather that the transmission of Torah will continue as we see has happened throughout our long galus.

CREATING WORLDS
BY RABBI YISROEL AKERMAN

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determination and motivation to get the job done no matter what. His "strength" lies in his ability to completely divest himself from any iota of laziness and to push himself to the limits of his capabilities in his service of Hashem. That Aharon was a flying whirlwind was only the result of a miracle from Hashem. That Aharon was worthy of that miracle was due to his determination to execute the will of Hashem with every fiber of his being. May we merit to act with alacrity in our own service to Hashem and

through that may we merit to Divine aid in all our endeavors.

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