

By Rabbi Yaakov Deutscher

Just Weight!

“Now Yisroel loved Yosef more than all his sons since he was a child of his old age, and he made him a fine woolen tunic.” (Bereishis 37:3)

The *gemarah* in Shabbos (10b) teaches in the name of Rav that a person should never treat one child differently than his other children, for on account of two *selaim*'s weight of fine wool that Yaakov gave to Yosef in excess, his brothers became jealous of him. We know that the fierce jealousy between Yosef and his brothers created such animosity that they ultimately sold him to a group of Arab merchants.

Rav attempted to illustrate the effects of a father showing more love to one child over another. The fact that Yaakov gave the garment particularly to Yosef, and not to any of the other brothers, was what created such strong feelings of jealousy. Citing the weight of the garment is seemingly inconsequential to the overall importance of what took place. What then compelled Rav to ascribe Yosef's woolen tunic to its weight of two *selaim*?

Rav Nachum from Horodna (1812-1879, *the Rebbi of the Chofetz Chaim*) explains that the weight of the tunic plays a major role in understanding Yaakov's rebuke of his dear son Yosef. In reality Yaakov was well aware of what was taking place between Yosef and his brothers, and was by no means pleased about it. The *pasuk* itself seems to reveal Yaakov's sentiments of Yosef's problem with guarding his tongue as it says, “Yosef would bring evil reports about his brothers to his father.” (37:2) Yaakov therefore made it a primary goal to impede Yosef from further speaking any *lashon harah* about his brothers. Additionally, Yaakov was conscious of the *gemarah* in Pesachim (113a) which says that there are three whom Hashem hates, one being a person who sees his friend involved in a serious transgression and testifies against him alone (without a second witness), as the *pasuk* states, “A single witness shall not stand up to testify against any man.” Because when one testifies alone, his testimony is unacceptable. Thus, the only purpose of go-

ing to court is to put forth slander against the man. This only enforces the point that Yosef was wrong for speaking badly about his brothers.

One would think that the righteous Yaakov would be quite unimpressed by Yosef's behavior and lose favor in his eyes. However, because of Yaakov's unwavering love for Yosef he overlooked his shortcomings and concentrated instead on Yosef's good traits, not his bad ones. Therefore, immediately after mentioning Yosef's evil reports about his brothers the *pasuk* says, “Now Yisroel loved Yosef more than all his sons.” Any misdeeds, such as *lashon harah*, that Yosef transgressed was simply overlooked by Yaakov. In order to help Yosef refrain from erring and continuing speaking negatively about his brothers Yaakov attempted to hint some rebuke to him; it would have been difficult to give outright rebuke for he loved him so. This is what the *pasuk* means when it mentions that Yaakov made for Yosef a fine woolen tunic. There was an underlying message of rebuke intended for Yosef by presenting him with the special garment. Since the garment weighed two *selaim* Yaakov was hinting to Yosef that which the *gemarah* in Megillah (18a) tells us: What is the meaning of that which is written, “Silence is Your praise?” (*Psalms 65:2*) It teaches that the best medicine of all is silence. The *Maharsha* points out that although one should definitely praise Hashem, however doing so excessively is wrong. It is far better to remain silent than to attempt to relate all of Hashem's praise. Rav Dimi, the *gemarah* continues, says that in Eretz Yisroel they would say the adage, “If a word is worth one *sela*, silence is worth two.” This means that although speaking is valuable, silence is worth twice as much.

Thus, by giving Yosef the garment which weighed two *selaim* Yaakov was hinting to Yosef to keep quiet and refrain from talking *lashon harah*. Now we can understand why Rav stressed that the garment was worth two *selaim*. It was to teach us an additional point, that Yaakov's sole intent for giving Yosef the tunic was for rebuke; he had hoped that Yosef would finally recognize that “silence is golden.”



Question Corner— By the Kollel Rabbis

Tamar did not want to shame Yehudah publicly by naming him as the father of her twins. She thought that it would be better for her to be burned than to embarrass Yehudah publicly. Thus, the *gemarah* in Sotah (10b) teaches that one should let himself be killed rather than expose a friend to public shame.

Why is Tamar viewed as a heroin for keeping quiet? Does it seem sensible for one risk their own life as to not cause embarrassment to someone else?

Kollel News

1. This Shabbos at the Kollel : Parshas Vayeshev

Thursday, December 15:

8:15 p.m.: Rabbi Biberfeld's Gemarah Yoma Shiur

9:00 - 10:00 p.m.: Rabbi Frand's Weekly Parsha Shiur

9:00-10:00 p.m.: Kollel Erev

10:00 p.m.: Maariv

Friday, December 16:

8:25-8:50 a.m.: Rabbi Prupas's Chumash Shiur

4:18 p.m.: Candle Lighting

4:36 p.m.: Shkiya/Sunset

Shabbos, December 17:

8:15 a.m.: Shacharis

Chaburas Chacham Lev

9:00/ 9:36 a.m.: Latest Krias Shema

3:57 p.m.: Mincha

4:37 p.m.: Shkiya/Sunset

5:32 p.m.: Maariv

5:49 p.m.: 72 Minutes

6:30 p.m.: Masmid Program SPECIAL GRAND PRIZE THIS WEEK!!! DIGITAL VIDEO CAMERA

This week's Masmid Program is sponsored by Rabbi and Mrs. Sruli and Rivka Schwartz in honor of the siyum made by Kollel Erev on ר' מרדכי בן ר' ברוך בנדיט ז"ל למשפחת ברעסלער; in memory of and in honor of the birth of ר' מרדכי בן ברוך יצחק נ"י.

7:30p.m.: Rabbi Reisman's Navi Shiur

8:15 p.m.: CCHF video for women: RISE and SHINE

2. This Tuesday! Kollel Chanukah Mesibah! With Dessert Reception from the Famous Kollel Kitchen

First night of Chanukah, this Tuesday, December 20, Kislev 25, at 8:15 P.M. at the Kollel. Speaker Renowned Lecturer: Rabbi Yosef Leib Yoffe *Dessert Reception from the Famous Kollel Kitchen* For Men and Women. For more information please call 610-668-9557.

The Chanukah Mesibah is sponsored by Seth and Leah Yoffe in memory of Leah's mother, Tzivia bas Morris, Mrs. Sally Margulis, a"h. A Siyum will be made in honor of the shloshim.

3. Only Two Weeks Left to Kollel Ad Deadline! - Take Advantage of End-of-Year Giving and Submit Dinner RSVPs and Ads. Consider your contribution to the Annual Dinner for your end-of-calendar year tax-deductible giving.

Please join us in "Uniting Through Torah" at the Philadelphia Community Kollel's Eleventh Annual Dinner to be held Sunday, January 8th, 2012 at the Lower Merion Synagogue. We feel privileged to honor a diverse array of community members who share the Kollel's ideal of real commitment to learning and teaching Torah.

Guests of Honor

Dr. Leon and Tova
& Wertheimer

Please join us in paying tribute to our worthy honorees and to the Kollel's impact on our community by attending the upcoming dinner and by placing an ad in the dinner journal. Contact the Kollel at 610-668-9557 for an Ad and RSVP blank. May your support of Torah learning give you the blessings of Torah.

Chavrusa of the Year Award

Rabbi Yaakov Deutscher
Jonathan & Jed Zaslow

4. THIS MOTZAEI SHABBOS: The CCHF presents: Rise and Shine *Wisdom, Inspiration, and Tips for rising above the challenges of your family, home, and life.* **December 17, 2011** 8:15pm At the Kollel FOR WOMEN ONLY

5. Mazel Tov to the Kollel Erev on their Siyum on Mesechta Sota! Kollel Erev completed Mesechta Sotah last week. Mazel tov! We are beginning Mesechta Beitza this week. If you want to join a serious chabura and want to give/hear shiurim with lumdus, come and be part of this special group who meets each Thursday evening. Contact Dr. David Weiss or Dr. Ari Weintraub.

6. Women's Rosh Chodesh Teves Shiur: You are invited to join us in honor of Rosh Chodesh Tevesto hear Rabbi Yechiel Biberfeld speak on the topic: **"Keep the Candles Burning"** *How to maintain the miracles of Chanukah with us into the winter months.* Tuesday evening, December 27, 2011 at 8:15 p.m. At the home of Dr. Kineret Shakow: 409 Sycamore Avenue Merion Station, PA 19066

Community News

Bnos of Bala Cynwyd will iy"H meet this Shabbos, Parshas Vayeshev, December 17th, from 2:45pm - 3:45pm at LMS. Remember to pay your yearly membership - \$36/girl! Contact Meira Friedman for info, 610-617-9529.

Torah Youth: 2:45 - 3:45 pm in the LMS Social Hall. Grades K-8th. Torah Youth this week is sponsored by Rabbi and Mrs. Zeffren in honor of the local Pirchei and those that help run and support it. The Torah Youth Annual Chanukah Mesiba will be on Sunday the 18th, from 2 - 3:30 pm at LMS. If you would like to help sponsor a Shabbos or want more information contact Rabbi Ari Silver at 610-6686-6833 or SilverDollar@verizon.net

Mazel Tov To:

Dr. and Dr. Ronald and Marguerite Werrin on the birth of a granddaughter born to Jason and Dorothy Greene!

Mrs. Cheryl Epstein on the birth of a granddaughter born to Dov and Chavi Goldschmidt!

If you would like to receive Menucha Vesimcha by weekly email or to sponsor an issue of Menucha Vesimcha in someone's honor / memory, please contact the editor at: menuchavesimcha@verizon.net

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