



Candle Lighting: 4:18

Parshas Vayeitzei 5772

Vol. 8 Issue 6

By Rabbi Yaakov Deutscher

Stolen Good(s)

“Lavan had gone to shear his sheep, and Rachel stole the teraphim (idols) that belonged to her father.” (Bereishis 31:19)

Rashi points out that Rachel’s sole intent for pilfering Lavan’s idols was to help prevent her father from any further idol worship.

What convinced Rachel to believe that taking her father’s idols would prevent him from serving idols in the near future? Couldn’t Lavan simply find other idols to worship instead?

The Chasam Sofer (1762-1839), z”l, answers with the following clever insight. The *gemarah* in Avodah Zarah (41b) brings a *machlokes*, dispute, between Rabbi Yochanon and Reish Lakish in regards to an idol that broke on its own. R’ Yochanon is of the opinion that the shattered idol remains prohibited to be used, opining that breakage does not establish a presumption that the idolater nullified the idol. Reish Lakish, however, is of the opinion that the idol is permitted to benefit from, since one can assume that the owner nullified it with the understanding that if the idol can’t save itself it most likely can’t save anyone!

Rachel, like Reish Lakish, figured that if her father was to see that his idols don’t have the capabilities to save themselves then they most likely don’t have the capabilities to save or help anyone else. Thus stealing her father’s idols would help Lavan come to the conclusion that mere idols cannot shield and shelter people, it is Hashem the One and only G-d of the world.

Furthermore, the Ramban stated previously (26:5) that while the *avos*, forefathers, were living outside of Eretz Yisroel there was no requirement to fulfill all of the six hundred and thirteen *mitzvos* of the Torah. There was, however, the obligation to fulfill the seven laws given to Noach. One of the laws is the prohibition of stealing in which one is liable to death for transgressing. Why then did Rachel knowingly steal her father’s idols if it would

ultimately lead to her demise?

The Ramban (*Vayikra 18:22*) attests Rachel’s untimely death to the new set of laws which were enforced upon entering Eretz Yisroel. Although initially Yaakov was allowed to marry two sisters, for marrying sisters does not transgress one of the seven Noahide laws, upon entering Eretz Yisroel Yaakov would accept on himself a new stricter set of laws, the laws of the Torah. This would prevent him from remaining married to both sisters. Since Rachel married Yaakov second she would be the one not to enter Eretz Yisroel and subsequently die. Perhaps with this we can understand why Rachel decided to steal the idols. Rachel understood that her days were numbered and that she would not merit seeing Eretz Yisroel. She therefore attempted to selflessly help save her father one last time from further idol worship by stealing them. The *pasuk* therefore adds that Rachel stole the idols that belonged “to her father” to express that this was a unique act done especially for her father.

Although the *medrash* which is cited by Rashi (31:32) explains that the reason why Rachel died on the road to Eretz Yisroel was due to Yaakov’s curse, “With whom-ever you find your gods, he shall not live,” it seems the Ramban understood differently. From the simple reading of the Torah it seems that Yaakov only cursed the person in which Lavan would ‘find’ his gods. Since Lavan never actually found his gods by Rachel why would she deserve to be punished? Thus, the Ramban was under the impression that Rachel was sentenced to die on the road to Eretz Yisroel for a different reason. It was solely due to the fact that she wouldn’t be permitted to remain married to Yaakov. Also, the fact that the Ramban in this *parsha* makes no mention of Rashi’s *pshat* would seem to bring proof that he doesn’t follow the aforementioned *medrash’s* approach.

We see that Rachel’s act of stealing was in essence a tremendous act of selflessness and nobility towards her father. Even at a time of difficulty she was readily available to attempt to help save him from sin.

Kollel News

1. This Shabbos at the Kollel: Parshas Vayeitzei

Thursday, December 1:

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 2:

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 3:

8:15 a.m.: Shacharis

Chaburas Chacham Lev

8:51/ 9:27 a.m.: Latest Krias Shema

3:56 p.m.: Mincha

4:36 p.m.: *Shkiya*/Sunset

5:31 p.m.: *Maariv*

5:48 p.m.: 72 Minutes

6:30 p.m.: Masmid Program

This week's Masmid Program is sponsored by Mr. and Mrs. Amir and Stacey Goldman in honor of Zayde Jim Fruen.

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

2. Hilchos Basar VeChalav Shiur: The Practical Laws of Daily Living Shiur by Rabbi Eskenazi is starting a new topic: the laws of *Basar B'chalav*/ prohibition of eating milk and meat.

Wednesday Nights: 9:05-9:55 p.m.

3. Rabbi Gold's Navi Shiur Begins Divrei Hayamim Beis

Rabbi Gold's Navi Shiur will begin *Divrei Hayamim Beis* this Monday. This shiur provides knowledge as well as skills to help you appreciate Navi more than ever. Mondays and Thursdays 1:30-2:15 p.m.

4. Yom Tov Shiur Series Continues this Monday Come join Rabbi Chaim Zev Kranz who will give a four-part series in preparation for Chanukah. He will explain the background and pertinent laws of the holiday, giving just the right flavor to this beautiful Yom Tov. **Because Chanukah is so much more than dreidels!** When: **Monday's- November 21, 28 December 5, 12** Time: **9:00 PM** Where: **At the Kollel in the R' Leib and Rachel Kohn Shiur Room**

5. Sunday Morning breakfast is sponsored by Reb Abba and Sandie Rosenthol in loving memory of Sandie's father, Yisroel ben Peretz Baumhaft, z"l whose yahrtzeit is 10 Kislev.

6. Siyum this Tuesday Evening On Tuesday evening, December 6th, Gary Cantor will make a *siyum* on SHISHA SIDREI MISHNA after *Maariv*. The *siyum* will be *l'zchus* his mother, Rochama bas Yosef Uziel HaLevi, and father-in-law, Yaakov Abba ben Avraham Leib, z"l.

7. Mishnayos for Mrs. Sally Margulis, a"h There is a sign-up sheet for mishnayos *lilui nishmas* Mrs. Sally Margulis, a"h (mother of Mrs. Leah Yoffe) on www.shloshim.org. Registration is free. To

sign up, create an account, then search for Margulis. The available masechtas will be shown. *Tizku l'mitzvos*.

8. Kollel Chanukah Mesibah! With Dessert Reception from the Famous Kollel Kitchen First night of Chanukah, 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.

9 Philadelphia Community Kollel's Eleventh Annual Dinner Please join us in "Uniting Through Torah" at the Philadelphia Community Kollel's Eleventh Annual Dinner to be held Sunday, January 8th, 2011 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

Chavrusa of the Year Award

Rabbi Yaakov Deutscher
Jonathan & Jed Zaslow

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.

Community News

Bnos of Bala Cynwyd will iy"H meet this Shabbos, Parshas Vayeitzei, December 3rd, from 2:45pm - 3:45pm at LMS. Bnos Girls Pre-Chanukah Carnival this Sunday, Dec. 4, from 2 - 3:30pm, \$3 for current members, \$10 for non-members - spin art, moonbounce, prizes and more!

Torah Youth: 2:45 - 3:45 pm in LMS on the downstairs level. Grades K-8th. 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:

Rabbi Baruch and Mrs. Miriam Lichtenstein on the birth of a granddaughter!

Ms. Esti Ross upon her engagement to Jordan Fersal!

Mr. and Mrs. Sherman and Susan Frager on the birth of a granddaughter!

David and Ariella Braun on the birth of a boy!

Mr. Evan Aidman and Mrs. Ayala Balanoff Aidman on the birth of a baby boy! The Shalom zochor will be this Friday night at 8 pm at their home: 6 Concord Circle in Bala Cynwyd.

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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