



By Rabbi Yaakov Deutscher

Building For The Future

“He (Yaakov) sent Yehudah before him to Yosef, to instruct ahead of him in Goshen; and they came to the land of Goshen” (Bereishis 46:28)

Rashi cites the *Medrash Rabbah (95:3)* that explains what prompted Yaakov to dispatch Yehudah ahead of the rest of the family. It was for the sole purpose of establishing a *yeshiva*, a house of study, to help initiate Torah study immediately upon their arrival in Egypt. Yaakov recognized the importance of having a place of Torah study and therefore arranged for Yehuda, his most capable and responsible son, to establish a *Beis Medrash* prior to their arrival. It is apparent from Yaakov’s action that when it comes to building a Torah community, the first, and perhaps the most important priority is to establish a place for Torah study. It is only then that a community can flourish and grow to its fullest potential.

The *Medrash* states yet another reason why Yehudah was sent ahead of the rest of his family. It was in order to prepare for them quarters; not for Torah study, but for the practical purpose of living. One can understand why it would be necessary to send Yehudah to set up a house for Torah study, but dwelling quarters? Couldn’t Yaakov expect to find shelter for his family for a little while until they would complete the houses in Goshen? Additionally, wouldn’t Yosef, the viceroy of Egypt be more capable than Yehudah with the task of preparing living quarters for his newly migrated family? Why did Yaakov need to entrust Yehudah with this task?

Rav Yosef Salant, z”l, in his *sefer*, *Be’er Yosef*, answers the following: Yaakov was concerned about the negative impact that dwelling in Egypt would have on his family. He therefore instructed Yehudah to confirm that the living quarters designated by Yosef was a safe distance away from the rest of the Egyptian population. The *Zohar (Shemos)* explains that Egypt was a spiritual wasteland full of sorcery, idol worship, and immorality. Yaakov

in no way wanted his beloved children to be lured into mingling with the impure Egyptians and risk his family’s spiritual descent, as the *pasuk* in *Devarim* tells us, “For you know how we dwelled in the land of Egypt... and you saw their abominations and detestable idols of wood, and stone...” (29:15-16) With this in mind Yaakov sent Yehudah to go and scout out a suitable location far away from the tainted air of the Egyptian people.

We can now understand why Yaakov specifically designated Yehudah, and not Yosef, for the task of obtaining a suitable place for his family to reside. Yaakov knew that Yosef intended for the city of Goshen to be a safe haven for *k’lal Yisroel* to live. However, he feared that Yosef would not be sensitive to his concerns that his children may ultimately integrate with the Egyptian society. Additionally, Yaakov feared that Yosef may procrastinate in the actual planning and building of the city, and insist that they first move into the palace, under his watchful eye. Yaakov’s fears seem quite sensible. Yosef had already been the viceroy of Egypt for many years; we can assume that he would be desensitized to the impurities surrounding him. Thus, Yaakov instructed Yehudah to scout out Goshen and determine its suitability. If the city possessed what Yaakov was looking for then Yehudah was to make sure that any necessary building be completed by the time of the family’s arrival. Yaakov would not risk being forced to settle in the palace, even temporarily.

Just as our forefather Yaakov recognized upon entering *galus*, exile, the tremendous risks involved when living in close proximity to people of indecent values, so must we do the same. One must never ignore the impact that one’s surroundings can have, both on themselves and on their family. As the *gemarah* in *Sukkah (56a)* teaches, “Fortunate are the righteous, and fortunate are their neighbors; woe to the wicked, and woe to their neighbors.”

Question Corner– By the Kollel Rabbis

“And now, be not distressed, nor reproach yourselves for having sold me here... thus Hashem sent me here... It was not you... but Hashem” (45:4-7)

It is obvious from the *pasukim* that Yosef wanted to somehow console his brothers; that their terrible sin of selling him into slavery was all part of Hashem’s master plan.

How would this make the brothers feel reassured that that they were not to be blamed for their serious transgression? They still had freedom of choice to decide whether or not to sin?

Kollel News

1. This Shabbos at the Kollel: Parshas Vayigash Thursday, December 29:

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

10:00p.m.: Maariv

Friday, December 30:

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

4:26 p.m.: Candle Lighting

4:44 p.m.: *Shkiya*/Sunset

Shabbos, December 31:

8:15 a.m.: Shacharis

Chaburas Chacham Lev

9:07/ 9:43 a.m.: Latest Krias Shema

Hot Kiddush Sponsored by the Zaslow family in honor of Jed's birthday

4:05 p.m.: Mincha

4:45 p.m.: *Shkiya*/Sunset

5:40 p.m.: Maariv

5:57 p.m.: 72 Minutes

6:30 p.m.: Masmid Program

This week's Masmid Program is sponsored by

Mr. and Mrs. Jeff and Sarah Rosner in honor of Mr. Steve Rosner **צבי משה בן ניסן יעקב**

7:30 p.m.:

Rabbi Reisman's Navi Shiur

2. Masmid Program: This week's Masmid Program is sponsored by Mr. and Mrs. Jeff and Sarah Rosner in honor of Mr. Steve Rosner **צבי משה בן ניסן יעקב**

A. Grand Prize Raffle this week~ Digital Camera! Grand Prize Winner for the First Session of the Masmid Program will be Drawn this week: *FujiFilm FinePix AX330 14MP Digital Camera Bundle (Camera Case, 4GB SD Card w/ 5x Optical Zoom, 3" LCD)*

B. Parents/Mentors Please Review to see if your son qualifies for Frequent Masmid Attendance Prize. In order to qualify for Frequent Masmid attendance prize, all boys must attend at least 7 out of the 8 sessions. To see a list of boys who are close to reaching this goal, please [see here](#). YOU MAY USE THIS WEEK'S PROGRAM TO QUALIFY FOR this session's Frequent attendance prize!! If you feel that there is some error with our records, please contact Rabbi Zeffren at yoelz@verizon.net.

3. Sunday Morning Breakfast Sunday Morning breakfast is sponsored by Reb Abba and Sandie Rosenthol in loving memory of Haddasa bas Yekusiel Yehuda z"l whose yahrtzeit is 7 Teves.

4. Rally for Tamar Epstein on Sunday, January 1st, in Brooklyn There will be a protest rally against Aharon Friedman and his supporters in Brooklyn on Sunday, January 1st, at 2:00 p.m. The rally will begin at the home of Aharon's uncle, Jay Horowitz, 1488 East 19th

Street (between Avenue N and Avenue O). Tamar and Aharon Friedman separated in March of 2008 and were subsequently granted a civil divorce. All issues were settled in civil court. Nonetheless, Aharon has refused to give Tamar a get. Hundreds of hours have been spent trying to reach an amicable resolution to this case and numerous Rebbeim, community leaders, relatives and friends, have done everything possible to encourage Aharon to give Tamar a get. Get-refusal is an intolerable form of abuse. Your participation in the January 1st rally will send a strong message to Aharon. Please make every effort to attend. If you need transportation to the rally from the Bala Cynwyd area, please email brooklynrally-bus@gmail.com as soon as possible.

5. IAST CALL 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

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 Vayigash, December 31st, from 2:45pm - 3:45pm at LMS.

Young Israel of the Main Line Shalom Bayit Shiur: Becoming A Better Half: Using Female Wisdom To Make A Good Marriage Better!!! AN AMAZING SHIUR FOR WOMEN GIVEN BY REBBETZIN RIVI BRUSSEL! Wednesday, January 11th at 8:15pm Couvert: \$5 Young Israel of the Main Line 273 Montgomery Ave., Bala Cynwyd, PA For Information: Janis.Fine@comcast.net 610-888-0477

Mazel Tov To:

Mr. and Mrs. David and Sima Sherman on the engagement of their daughter, Lauren to Daniel Krull!

Dr. Marty and Sheri Friedman on the birth of a grandson born to Chaim Yitzchok and Nechama Friedman of Eretz Yisrael. Mazel Tov to the great-grandparents, **Rabbi and Mrs. Aaron and Esther Gold!**

Mr. and Mrs. Danile and Ilana Baltuch on the birth of a boy! Shalom Zachar will be at 230 Bala Ave third floor. Starting at 8:00pm

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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