



# Menucha v'Simcha



A PARSHA WEEKLY BY THE PHILADELPHIA COMMUNITY KOLLEL

Candle Lighting: 4:59p.m.

**Parshas Beshalach 5775**

Vol. 11 Issue. 12

## DVAR TORAH

### Song: How To Do It Right

By Rabbi Yakir Schechter

In this week's *parsha* we read about the exodus of *B'nei Yisrael* from Egypt. Upon crossing the *Yam Suf* and witnessing, arguably, the greatest miracle in all of history, Moshe and *B'nei Yisrael* sing out a song, a *shira*, which we know as *Az Yashir*. The *midrash* highlights the uniqueness of this *shira*. When Adam was created he did not sing *shira*. When Avraham was saved from the burning furnace he did not sing *shira*. When Yitzchak was saved from the knife he did not sing *shira*. When Yaakov was saved from the angel he did not sing *shira*. However, when *B'nei Yisrael* crossed the sea they immediately sang *shira*. The same *midrash* also comments, "Although You [G-d] have always existed, Your throne was not established, and You were not known in Your world until Your children sang this song."

What was so special about this song at the sea?

On the phrase "*Az yashir Moshe*," "Then Moshe sang," *Rashi* explains that "Then" when Moshe saw the miracle, it occurred to him in his heart to sing *shira*. The *Maharal* explains the comment of *Rashi* and says that when *tzadikim*, righteous individuals, experience happiness, song swells up in their hearts. There was no need for Moshe to put any effort into singing. It was a natural reaction. There was such an overabundance of happiness and joy that song just came forth from Moshe's heart.

Rav Asher Weiss points out that *shira* is not just saying thank you. Nor is it merely recognizing the miracle and singing praise. Rather, it is an outburst of the soul where the soul is elevated due to happiness. He explains that the precursor to singing *shira* is witnessing a completion or getting a clear glimpse of a complete picture. When a per-

son witnesses a miracle and sees how every detail was divinely orchestrated by G-d he then fully appreciates the miracle. This is precisely what happened to *B'nei Yisrael*. Only when they turned around after crossing the *Yam Suf* and saw the Egyptians dead in the sea did they clearly see the big picture, that they were finally and completely redeemed. It was only then that they sang *shira*.

We find a similar idea in *Parshas Vayishlach* when Yaakov is fighting with the angel of Esav. When Yaakov is about to defeat the angel, the angel says "Let me go, for dawn has broken." *Rashi* comments that the angel wanted to go because he needed to say the *shira* of the day. Rav Weiss quotes the *Maggid of Koshnitz* who explained that precisely at that moment when Yaakov defeated the angel of Esav, which symbolized that *B'nei Yisrael* will always overcome the nation of Esav in future encounters, did he want to sing *shira*. It was the moment of completion and seeing a picture in its entirety.

May Hashem open our eyes to see the miracles that affect our lives, and then we can sing to Hashem with meaning, joy, and fervor.

## DVAR HALACHA

### Halachos of Tznius (Modesty)

By Rabbi Yochanan Eskenazi

The *Posuk* in Michah (6:8) says "*Ve'hatznaiya leches im Alokecha*" (And walk modestly with your G-d). Therefore, a person must conduct himself modestly in all his ways. A person should not say, "I'm alone in the privacy of my own home and I can do what I want because who will see me," for *Hashem* fills the whole



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world and sees everything (Shulchan Aruch 2:2). We see one should be modest even in the privacy of their own home.

It is important to note that *tznius* applies to men as well. According to Harav Moshe Feinstein, *zt"l*, *tznius* for men is not an obligation, rather a *middas chasidus* (an act of piety) (Igros Moshe YD 3:47:3 & 3:68:4).

One should dress in a way he would dress in front of other people in his home. One is not required to dress in front of *Hashem* (i.e. in the privacy of his home) as he would dress when he goes out in public, or in front of important people (Igros Moshe YD 3:68:4). It is also important to note, that what one would wear in his home in front of people, could differ in different places or at different times, or even in different seasons. For example, if when one is hot he would take off his shirt even in front of company, then he can walk around like this in the privacy of his own home.

This seems to present a problem if one wants to try to be *tznius*, how could one change his clothes [e.g. into pajamas], if he will inadvertently, even for a few seconds, not be dressed the way he would in front of guests? Rav Moshe Feinstein, *zt"l*, recommends to

change in a bathroom that has a shower or bathtub, since it is normal to be undressed there. He recommends for one to change from his pajamas into clothes in the bathroom, and vice versa (Igros Moshe YD 3:47:3). One could also change underneath his covers (Shulchan Aruch 2:1).

There once was a group of people who came to Harav Shlomo Zalman Auerbach, *zt"l*, asking him for a suggestion to improve their *avodas Hashem* (service of G-d), by taking on a new stringency. Rav Shlomo Zalman, *zt"l*, responded they should keep all the laws in *Shulchan Aruch* properly. After they persisted that they wanted to take on something extra, he told them, "if you want to take on a *chumra*, it is worthwhile to take on a stringency in *inyanei tznus*, because when one works on *inyanei tznus* one works on becoming closer to *Hashem*. Anyone whose soul desires *ruchniyus* (spirituality) the main thing he should work on is *tznus* and *kedushah* (holiness)." (Sefer Cheeku Mamtakim Vol. 2 pg. 121). Similarly, the Kitzur Shulchan Aruch [3:1] writes, acting with modesty and bashfulness, brings a person to feel submission before Hashem.

## Kollel News

### Friday, January 30:

4:59 p.m.: Candle Lighting

5:17 p.m.: Shkiya/sunset

### Shabbos, January 31:

8:15 a.m.: *Shacharis*

9:06/ 9:42 a.m.: Latest Krias Shema

4:38 p.m.: Mincha

5:18 p.m.: Shkiya/ Sunset

6:13 p.m.: Ma'ariv.

6:30 p.m.: 72 minutes

7:00 p.m.: MASMID

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

Shiur

Station, PA 19066 Lecture Starts at 8:15pm

**2. NEW DATE-REJUVENATE! An Inspirational and Educational Refresher on the Laws of Taharas Hamishpacha:** Given by the Popular **Rochel Goldbaum** The two part lecture will take place on **Tuesday Evening, February 10th, 2015** at the home of Shani Daniel 300 Highland Ave Merion Station, Pa. Program begins 8:00pm sharp

### Community News

**Bnos of Bala Cynwyd** will *iy"H* meet this shabbos, Parshas B'shalach, January 31st from 3:00pm - 4:00pm at LMS.

### Mazel Tov To:

**Boruch and Elana Avis** on the birth of a baby boy!

**Dani and Tori Selig** on the birth of a baby boy!

**David and Ellen Weiss** on the engagement of their daughter, Rivka!

### Condolences To:

Mrs. Janis Fine on the loss of her brother, Mr. Michael Margolis z"l.

**KESHER 2015 Mother and Daughter program.** Week #4 This Sunday Morning! February 1, 2015.

### Coming Up! Two Exciting Shiurim For Women

1. Come and Hear the Internationally Renown Author and Lecturer **Miriam Kosman** on **"Its a Man's World (But Maybe it Should Be a Woman's?)," Exploring Gender in Judaism, Tuesday, February 17th, 2015** at the home of Stacey Goldman, 325 Sycamore Avenue Merion

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