

Fascinating INSIGHTS

כ' אייר תשפ"ו
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פרשת בהר-בהקתי
14th year, edition 613

I'm excited to share that my newly released book, "Phenomenal Insights about Bar Mitzvah and Tefillin," is now available. The book can be purchased on Amazon at <https://www.amazon.com/dp/B0GVDBVCTD> (paperback, hardcover and digital editions). It is also available by WhatsApp with the number +972 54 849 5217, phone with (443) 826 8493 (United States) and by email with yalt3285@gmail.com.

This book explores fascinating and thought-provoking questions, including:
What happens to the soul of a boy who turns 13?
What is the first mitzvah a boy has at age 13?
How important is the bar mitzvah boy's speech?
What is the difference between a bar mitzvah and a bas mitzvah?

This compelling book explores these questions and many more, uncovering profound insights drawn from the depths of Torah. Through over fifty meticulously crafted essays, astounding insights into bar mitzvah and tefillin are revealed, offering readers a richer and more meaningful understanding of these essential topics. This book also makes a meaningful gift for parents, siblings, friends, relatives, neighbors, business associates, acquaintances, colleagues, learning partners and DEFINITELY A WONDERFUL BAR MITZVAH PRESENT. It can be purchased directly at <https://amzn.to/4bHjc13>. And please spread the word about it!

To purchase any of the author's books (hardcopy or e-book) and get it delivered to your door, visit <https://amzn.to/4bHjc13>, send an email to yalt3285@gmail.com or send a WhatsApp to +972 54 849 5217. Alternatively, you can call or text (443) 826 8493 (United States). You can also scan the following QR code:



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The weekly Fascinating Insights sheet is also available in FRENCH, HEBREW and YIDDISH. To view or download them in these languages, send an email to yalt3285@gmail.com.

This newsletter can also be viewed in English at <https://tinyurl.com/4cp9hf4k>.

דעם ניוזלעטער קען מען אויך זען אויף אידיש ביי <https://tinyurl.com/vn5mea84>

Please feel free to print some copies of this publication and distribute them in your local shul(s) for the public, thereby having a hand in spreading Torah and changing the lives of others.

Mouth to Manuscript

We know that there is Torah Shebiksav and Torah Sheba'al Peh, the written Torah and the oral Torah. In a similar sense, a person can create his own "Torah Shebiksav" and "Torah Sheba'al Peh."

There are two primary ways of transmitting Torah. When one gives a shiur, he is conveying it orally. When one writes his Torah thoughts and puts it in sefarim, he is expressing Torah in written form. By engaging in both modes, he effectively develops both a "Torah Sheba'al Peh" and a "Torah Shebiksav" within his own avodas Hashem: oral transmission through speech, and written transmission through text.



This applies on both a macro and micro level. On a larger scale, like we mentioned, those who give shiurim or author sefarim are actively utilizing both forms of Torah communication. But even on an individual level, anyone can participate in this framework: one can share a Torah thought at the Shabbos table or with others in shul, and also record or write down insights from his learning. In doing so, he is giving it expression in both spoken and written form, paralleling the two modes of Torah transmission.

An Angelic Warning

R' Nosson Nota Hanover¹ (d. 1683) related about his rebbe, R' Shimshon of Ostropoli, that a malach would come to R' Shimshon daily to learn with him the secrets of Torah. R' Shimshon of Ostropoli also merited many revelations of secrets of Torah in dreams. In one place, he writes how R' Nosson Nota of Krakow, also known as the Megaleh Amukos, appeared to him in a dream and explained to him a difficult piece of liturgy.



¹ Yavein Metzulah, p. 310. He also authored Taamei Sukkah, Shaarei Tzion and Safa Berurah.

Before the decrees of the Chmielnicki massacres in 1648-1649, this malach warned him that a great decree was impending and urged that a massive teshuvah movement be undertaken to avert it. R' Shimshon publicly repeated this message many times, passionately calling upon the people to repent so that the decree might be nullified. The people indeed responded and did teshuvah sincerely. Nevertheless, it did not avail, as the harsh decree had already been sealed. R' Shimshon of Ostropoli was one of the many who were killed in the Chmielnicki massacres.

Striving But Not Arriving

In searching for the goblet which in the end was found in Binyamin's sack, the pasuk says ויחפש בגדול החל ובקטן כלה, he searched; he started with the oldest and finished with the youngest.² The Maharam of Brisk understands these words in a deeper way. He explains that a truly great person (גדול) always feels he is just at the beginning, always searching, constantly striving to grow (ויחפש). By contrast, a lesser person (קטן) feels he has already accomplished and is complete (כלה).

Similarly, the pasuk ולא קם נביא עוד בישראל כמשה, no prophet has rose again like Moshe,³ is explained by the Imrei Chaim: Moshe Rabbeinu's uniqueness lay not only in his greatness, but in his mindset—he always felt there was still more to achieve. He never saw himself as finished, and therefore continually pushed himself further.

Rabbi Alt merited to learn under the tutelage of Rabbi Mordechai Friedlander ztz"l for close to five years and received semichah from Rabbi Zalman Nechemia Goldberg ztz"l. Rabbi Alt has written thousands of Torah articles on numerous topics for various websites and publications and is the author of eleven fascinating and popular books. His writings, many of which have been translated into Yiddish, Hebrew, German, Spanish and French, inspire people across the spectrum of Jewish observance to live with the vibrancy and beauty of Torah. His shiurim can be found on various websites including Kol Halashon's. Rabbi Alt lectures, writes and teaches, and is passionate about inspiring Jews of all levels of observance. He can be reached at yalt3285@gmail.com or on WhatsApp at +972 54 849 5217.

You can now download the weekly Fascinating Insights Torah sheet from the following websites: Dirshu, Torah Lectures, Torah Table, Ladaat, Chidush, Kol Halashon, Gilyonos, Din Online, Alon Olam, Parsha Sheets, Yiddishe Vinkel, and more.

² Breishis 44:12.

³ Devarim 34:10.