

Fascinating INSIGHTS

יז' אב תשפ"ו
July 31, 2026

פרשת עקב
14th year, edition 625

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A Teiku to Take With You

The gemara contains many questions where the response is *teiku*, questions that remain unresolved until Moshiach comes. In the present, these questions are left unanswered. However, in the future when these are solved, we will have clarity.



understanding.

The same is true in life. We encounter our own *teikus*: painful experiences we cannot explain, questions that seem to have no answer and contradictions we cannot reconcile. At times, Hashem's ways remain beyond our

Just as the *teikus* of the gemara will one day be answered, so too the *teikus* of our lives will ultimately become clear. In the future, we will understand the purpose behind every hardship and see how each event fit perfectly into Hashem's plan.

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[Surprising Ramchal Facts](#)

Many know R' Moshe Chaim Luzatto, known as the Ramchal, from his sefer Mesillas Yesharim. However, here are some facts that many may not know.

1. The Ramchal wrote a sefer on Koheles which is just on a small portion of Koheles. Yet, the sefer spans a thousand pages. He also authored a work on Chumash written in the style and language of the Zohar. This work was known as *Zohar Tinyana* ("The Second Zohar"). Unfortunately, it has not survived and is no longer extant.

2. It is known that our teacher the Ramchal had an angel, who would reveal supernal secrets to him. Even his own Rabbeim treated him with great honor, and they would send him questions. The kabbalist R' Binyomin Hakohen (1651-1730), known as the Raba"ch, was a student of R' Moshe Zacuto and the father-in-law of R' Yeshaya Bassan, who was the Rebbe of the Ramchal. Despite being an elderly sage while the Ramchal was still in his twenties, the Raba"ch held the young Ramchal in extraordinary esteem. In a letter that he sent to him (printed in Igros Ramchal), the Raba"ch even requested that the Ramchal reveal the root of his soul (*shoresh haneshamah*), a striking indication of the regard in which he held him.

3. Among those who corresponded with him was his Rebbe R' Yeshaya Bassan (1673-1739), author of the work Shu"t Lachmei Todah, who



wrote to him asking that he reveal to him the root of his soul and what he needed to rectify regarding it. The Ramchal responded to him with a detailed letter dated Sunday, the 18th of the month of Shevat, in the year 1730 when the Ramchal was just

23 years old (and still single as he didn't get married until a later point) and R' Yeshaya Bassan was 57: "I have already informed *l'kavod toraso* (referring to his Rebbe, R' Yeshaya Bassan) regarding your root soul is from Rabbi Akiva ben Yosef...and the main rectification is to engage with halachic rulings based on rigorous analysis (*pilpul*). Therefore it is good for you to specifically author writings of laws filled with

much *pilpul*. And I will say more about all this with you bez"H.¹

4. The Ramchal founded a special yeshiva in Padua called Mevakshei Hashem. Membership entailed exceptionally demanding standards. The group sought to maintain continuous Torah study, with one member taking over whenever another needed to eat or sleep so that the learning would never cease. The members also strove to learn purely *l'shem shamayim*, solely for the sake of Heaven, without any expectation of personal reward. They would dedicate the merit of their Torah study to the benefit of Klal Yisrael to hasten the coming of Mashiach.

5. R' Yekusiel Gordon of Vilna arrived in Padua to attend the University of Padua and study medicine with the goal of becoming a physician. However, after developing a close relationship with the Ramchal (1707-1746), he asked to be accepted as one of his disciples. He became so attached to his teacher that he no longer wished to pursue his university studies.² The Ramchal, however, instructed him to continue, explaining that this was the will of Heaven as conveyed by the Ramchal's malach who taught him.³



I'm excited to share that my newly released book, "Powerful Torah Insights about Languages," is now available. The book can be purchased on Amazon at <https://www.amazon.com/dp/B0H85JL8YQ> (paperback, hardcover and digital editions).

It is also available by:

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This book explores fascinating and thought-provoking questions, including:

- 1. What does the writing of a language tell us about its people?**
- 2. Where do traces of Lashon Hakodesh appear in other languages?**

Ramchal knew all gilgulim and rectifications of each person, and the wisdom of the hand and face (*chochmas hayad* and *partzuf*). "Nothing is hidden from him. He told me about my *neschama* and what I need to fix up."

³ The Malach Matat would also learn Torah with the Ramchal.

¹ Printed in Igros Ramchal U'bnei Doro, 86. Also in Otzros Ramchal, p. 322 and Yarim Moshe, p. 137.

² In a letter written by R' Yekusiel to R' Mordechai Yaffe of Vienna (printed in Yarim Moshe, p. 91), he writes that when the Ramchal was 14, he knew all the writings of the Arizal by heart and that the soul of the Ramchal was a spark of the soul of R' Akiva ben Yosef (i.e., R' Akiva). He also writes in the letter that the

3. How important is it to master a language?

4. What is the mysticism that lies within Hebrew grammar?

In this fascinating and thought-provoking work, these questions and many others are explored through the timeless wisdom of Torah. Through more than eighty meticulously researched and engaging essays, readers are taken on a journey through language, spirituality and Jewish thought, uncovering profound connections often hidden beneath the surface. Rich with insight and originality, this book reveals a tapestry of ideas that will enlighten, inspire and deepen one's appreciation of Lashon Hakodesh and the Torah's infinite wisdom. This book also makes a meaningful gift for parents, siblings, friends, relatives, neighbors, business associates, acquaintances, colleagues and learning partners. It can be purchased directly at <https://amzn.to/4bHjc13> And please spread the word about it!

The Snake War

Shimshon Hagibor was a spark of Esav's neshamah. Therefore, Shimshon struck the Pelishtim specifically where he did as it says וַיִּךְ אֹתָם שׁוֹק עַל יָרֵךְ, he struck them from calf upon thigh.⁴ This was in order to rectify the ירך of Esav, who is called נַחֲשִׁירֵכָן.⁵ And of course we know that Yaakov was hit in the thigh by Esav's malach.⁶

Now, there are two types of *nachash*. Just as there is a *nachash* of *tumah*, impurity (the snake that caused the sin of Adam), correspondingly there is a *nachash* of *kedusha*.⁷ The Zohar teaches that Esav is from the side of the snake, from the side of *tumah* (in the word נַחֲשִׁירֵכָן, we see the word נחש).⁸ In fact, Esav had a symbolic snake on his thigh.⁹ Don, who is referred to as a snake,¹⁰ is the one who counteracts Esav, as is evident from the fact that his son, Chushim, killed Esav.

Moving on, Shimshon is called a נחש,¹¹ from the side of *kedushah*. A hint to this is found in חמת למו כדמות חמת נחש כמנן פתח חרש יאטם אזנו חן, they have venom like the venom of a snake, like a deaf viper that closes its ears,¹² where the end letters שמשון.

One last allusion is found in what is written about Shimshon: וַיִּוְרִידוּ אוֹתוֹ עֲזָתָה וַיֹּאסְרוּהוּ בַנְּחָשִׁים, they brought him down to Gaza and bound him with copper fetters.¹³ The word נחשתיים can be seen as a contraction of נחש שתיים, alluding to the two snakes: the snake of *kedushah*, represented by Shimshon, and the snake of *tumah*, represented by Esav, of whom Shimshon was a spark meant to rectify.

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L'Ilu Nishmas Sarah Malka bas Betzalel Hirsch and L'Refua Shleima
Danielle bat Lucie, Rafael ben Danielle

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.

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⁴ Shoftim 15:8.

⁵ Targum Unkolos and Targum Yonasan Ben Uziel to Breishis 25:27.

⁶ Breishis 32:26.

⁷ As in Bamidbar 21:9.

⁸ Also see Maharsha to Sota 13a s.v. *Chushim*.

⁹ Peirush Yonasan on Targum Yonasan Ben Uziel to Breishis 25:27.

¹⁰ Breishis 49:17.

¹¹ See Rashi to Breishis 49:17.

¹² Tehillim 58:5.

¹³ Shoftim 16:21.