



Torah U'Tefilah

A Collection of Inspiring Insights

בס"ד

כ"ט אב
29 Av

❧ Besamei HaTorah ... Beneath the Surface

By: R' Shmuel Winzelberg

המוציא אתכם מארץ מצרים ויפדך מבית עבדים (יג:ו)

Who takes you out of the land of Egypt, and Who redeems you from the house of slaves (13:6)
Why is the Exodus from Mitzrayim mentioned here? It is to teach that even if all we have is that Hashem took us out of Mitzrayim, it is enough. And even if all we have is to be redeemed from the house of slaves, it is enough!

(Medrash Ta'anaim Devorim 13:6)

❧ Parshah Thoughts – Ideas and Reflections – Rabbi Aron Moshe Jacobsohn

In this week's *Parshah* we are given a directive (14:1), בנים אתם לה', "You are children to Hashem..." The *Ibn Ezra* expounds on the usage of the word 'children'. We must remember that no matter what happens to us, Hashem is our Father. Sometimes we may not understand His actions, but He always has our best interest in mind, as a father does for his child.

❧ Working on our Middos

The Chofetz Chaim Heritage Foundation shared a story: The *Rosh Yeshivah* was brimming with happiness. He was about to get into a *Sheirut* taxi from Bnei Brak to Yerushalayim with one of the greatest *Talmidei Chachamim* in *Eretz Yisroel*, the *Gaon*, Rav Avrohom Genachovsky, *zt"l*. Rav Avrohom was so great that Rav Chaim Kanievsky would stand up for him when he came to visit. And now, the *Rosh Yeshivah* had Rav Genachovsky to himself for an hour. As they waited for the *Sheirut* to fill up, neighbors of Rav Avrohom, a baker and his wife, got in the taxi. Soon, they were off to Yerushalayim. The *Rosh Yeshivah* asked his first question to Rav Avrohom, but Rav Avrohom asked him to wait, and he turned to the baker. Rav Avrohom said, "You know, I've eaten your donuts, and they are the most delicious donuts I ever had! How do you make your donuts so fluffy?" And with that, Rav Avrohom got into what turned out to be a one-hour conversation with the proud baker about the intricacies of making the perfect donut. Every few minutes, the *Rosh Yeshivah* tried to interrupt and steer the conversation to *Torah*, but Rav Avrohom kept telling him, "Not yet." When they finally got off the *Sheirut* in Yerushalayim, the *Rosh Yeshivah* asked Rav Avrohom, "Teach me, *Rebbi*. What just happened here?" Rav Avrohom said, "Imagine, what would have happened if we had gotten into a deep *Torah* discussion. How would the baker's wife feel? I'm sure she respects her husband, and she knows that she isn't married to a *Talmid Chacham*, but she might feel, 'My husband could never even follow such a conversation.' I didn't want to cause her to feel that way, so I had a conversation that would make her husband look distinguished in her eyes!"

Pearls of Wisdom... A Word for the Ages

The *Divrei Yisroel*, *zt"l*, of Moditz, would say,
"There is nothing better for *Parnasah* than *Emunah*!"

פרשת ראה תשפ"ד

Parshas Re'eih 5785 *Pirkei Avos* 5

שבת מברכים • *Shabbos Mevorchim*

Rosh Chodesh Elul is on Sunday & Monday

Compiled by: Rabbi Yehuda Winzelberg

Staten Island Z'manim

Erev Shabbos:

Plag HaMinchah: 6:20

Candle Lighting: 7:25

Sh'kiah: 7:43 *Tzeis*: 8:27

Shabbos Kodesh:

Sof Z'man Krias Shema:

Mogen Avraham: 9:01 *Gra*: 9:37

Sof Z'man Tefillah (Shacharis): 10:44

Chatzos: 12:58 *Sh'kiah*: 7:42

Havdalah: Tzeis HaKochavim: 8:25

Rabbeinu Tam (72 minutes): 8:55

(some say 9:10)

Next Week: *Shoftim*

Candle Lighting: 7:14

❧ The Siddur Speaks

In an article, Rav Paysach Krohn related some profound insights since he had a stroke, *R"L*. He said: Although these have not been the easiest times in my life, I am so thankful for everything that Hashem has given and continues to give me. How could we ever truly thank Hashem for the life He provides us with each and every day? The truth is, we have countless opportunities in *Tefilah* to express our gratitude, but for me, one moment stands out. In *Pesukei D'Zimrah*, we recite *Mizmor L'Sodah*, a *Perek* of *Tehilim* that is brimming with thanks to Hashem. I am working on memorizing it so that it flows smoothly from my lips, enabling me to constantly express my gratitude to Hashem. I believe it is no coincidence that *Mizmor L'Sodah* is *Kapitel* 100. It reminds us that we must thank Hashem 100 percent of the time. This chapter serves as a powerful reminder to express our gratitude to Hashem continuously, with full acknowledgment of His constant kindness and presence in our lives. We should never, *Chas V'Shalom*, allow difficult periods to be the only time we reflect on the good Hashem has bestowed on us. We must take the opportunity to be truly grateful for everything we have during good times. How often do we pause and take a moment to do that? You can sit down right now and make a list of all the blessings you have in your life. There is so much goodness around us, and we need to focus on that rather than the negatives. Life can be an incredibly meaningful experience, even in difficult times, if we recognize that Hashem, our dear Father, is in charge, and that everything He does is for our ultimate good!

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לע"נ: גיטשע בת החבר ר' שלום הכהן ז"ל

☞ Working on our Middos

Rabbi Joey Haber shared a story: A relative of mine, who studies in a *Kollel* in Lakewood, personally told me the following. Like many of his friends, he is married with a family, as is the case for those learning in *Kollel*. However, one of the other *Kollel* members had been married for five years and hadn't been blessed with children. With the many other young men and women taking note of this, endeavoring in every which way to be supportive, encouraging and helpful to this young couple became a collective undertaking. Special efforts in *Davening* and other forms of emotional support were extended in the hopes of easing the couple through their moments of challenge and eliciting *Hashem's Brachah*. Significant resources were similarly poured into being there for them, and this couple didn't take it for granted by any measure. They knew how much everyone else around them was at their side and behind them. In fact, the husband was so appreciative and good natured that after a member of the *Kollel* had their fourth child, he opened his home to the *Kollel* member's family and hosted the *Shalom Zachor* on the Friday night before the bris. The members of the *Kollel* absolutely loved this man, so much so that they decided to arrange for someone to make a visit to Rav Chaim Kanievsky, *zt"l*, and ask for a *Brachah*. Entering Rav Chaim's personal study, the circumstances were explained. Rav Chaim advised as such: "Let all the friends gather for the purpose of helping one irreligious Jewish child obtain a *Torah* education. Since you are aiming to help this man and his wife bring a *Neshamah* into this world, do something *Middah K'Neced Middah*, measure for measure. Help a child who is not religious receive a Jewish education, through which he will become religious. By doing so, you are enabling a *Neshamah* to return to *Hashem*, and through that, may *Hashem* grant this man and his wife the *Brachah* of meriting to bring a *Neshamah* down to this earth. Do this, and watch what *Hashem* does." On January 7, 2020, the boy who was chosen to enter a Jewish school to receive a *Torah* education began his studies at a *Yeshivah*. And just under a year later, on January 6, 2021, this man and his wife had a baby boy. My relative, at the time he related this story to me, said, "I'm now on my way to the *Bris*, and Joey, I just needed to tell you this story." *Hashem* runs the world. That's all there is to say. Every aspect and facet of it, calculated down to the smallest minutiae and precise detail!

☞ L'Maaseh

Rav Ephraim Eliyahu Shapiro said a story. A number of years ago, Beinish traveled to Los Angeles to receive a bone marrow transplant at the City of Hope hospital. He was told that he would need to remain nearby the hospital for several months in case he needed to be called back for a check-up. In the meantime, two of his friends from back home in the East Coast flew out to visit and support him as he underwent a long period of recovery and recuperation. While Beinish, along with his friends, spent some quality time together, they discovered that there was a Jew from Yerushalayim who was also at the hospital and scheduled to have a bone marrow transplant. They decided that they would visit him together. But when they arrived, it was too late. "He had the transplant a half-hour ago," said the head nurse. "At this time, he's not able to see any visitors." They had missed the window of catching him before he went in for the procedure. About to turn around and head the other way, the nurse called out. "Wait," he said, giving pause to the three men. "Can I ask for a favor?" The three of them glanced at each other. What favor could they offer the nurse? But they would listen. "I always tell the patient before the transplant begins what to expect. For about forty-eight hours afterwards, they won't have much strength. They will feel very weak and lack nearly all their energy. Mostly, they will lie down without moving much. But I tell them not to worry, because this type of post-op recovery is normal. "The thing is," went on the nurse, "I wasn't able to tell this to the man who came in today from Jerusalem, because he speaks Hebrew, and I speak English. I didn't know how to communicate this to him, and there was no one around who could interpret for me. But you three speak Hebrew. His wife is over there, and it would be important for her to know this information, so both she and her husband can be prepared." As the nurse stood talking to the three of them, from behind a glass wall in the distance, the men began observing an unreal scene. It was the man from Yerushalayim who had just had the transplant a half-hour ago. He wiggled his feet off the bed, though slowly, stood up and grabbed hold of the IV pole. He made his way to where his clothing was, put on his black hat, and walked to the sink. He washed *Netilas Yadayim*, and then got back into bed. Stunned, the nurse began mouthing aloud, audibly, "It's not possible... It's not possible!" One of the three men, witness to the incredulous scene, approached the nurse. "Excuse me, but I'd say there's one of two explanations. Either we just witnessed a one-in-a-million medical miracle, or, by your own admission and because of the language barrier, it was the first time you couldn't convey to the patient what they wouldn't be able to do. Maybe when you don't tell somebody what they can't do, they are able to do it." The nurse took those words to heart, and from that point on, never again so forcefully told a patient what they can't do. There would be recommendations and precautions given, but nothing ever set in stone. Rav Shapiro said that when you tell somebody their limitations and what they can't do, it often becomes a self-fulfilling prophecy. They become unable to do it. But if you don't tell someone what they can't do, they might surprise you and accomplish the unexpected and the extraordinary. The man from Yerushalayim wasn't told to expect staying bedridden for two days, and when he didn't know what he couldn't do, there were no limitations, and he did the so-called impossible. Who knows what we can accomplish if we take the words "I can't" out of our vocabulary?!

In Loving Memory of: *Shira Yaffa Craindel bas Hinda Liba and Asher Anshel and Zvi Pesach Ben Chaya and Yehuda*
With love, *The Hershkowitz, Rose, and Weinstein Families*

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