

# MESIVTA'S MESSAGE

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## THOUGHTS *on the* PARSHA

RABBI PESACH ESKENAZI

In the פטרה for פרשת החודש we read about the process for those coming to the בית המקדש during the מועדים. The פסוק quotes:

"וּבּוֹא ..לְפָנֶי ה' בְּמוֹעֲדֵי הַבַּיִת דְּרָךְ-שַׁעַר צְפוֹן לְהִשְׁתַּחֲוֹת יֵצֵא דְרָךְ-שַׁעַר נֶגֶב וְהָבֵא דְרָךְ-שַׁעַר נֶגֶב יֵצֵא דְרָךְ-שַׁעַר צְפוֹנָה לֹא יָשׁוּב דְרָךְ הַשַּׁעַר אֲשֶׁר-בָּא בוֹ כִּי יֵכָחוּ יֵצֵא" (יחזקאל מו:ט)

"Whoever enters by the northern gate... should leave by the southern gate. And whoever enters by the southern gate should leave by the northern gate. He must not go back through the gate by which he came in, rather go out by the opposite one."

Rabbi Yaakov Bender שליט"א asks: The בּיָא seems to be making a simple point - exit the opposite way you entered. So why is it necessary to elaborate that one who entered by the north side, must leave from the south side, and one who entered by the south side must leave by the north side. Isn't this seemingly self-explanatory?

R' Bender offers a beautiful explanation based on a מַאֲמָר from R' Chaim Shmuelevitz זצ"ל. One of the great challenges facing an עַבְד ה' is הִרְגֵּל-

habit. We become accustomed to davening, learning תורה, and doing מצוות. There's a real danger for a person to fall into a routine doing all the proper actions, but without thought or vigor. הרגל is a dangerous enemy. Perhaps this is what the פסוק is alluding to. If you came in from the north entrance, go out a different way. If you came in from a south entrance, go out the other way. A person needs to be constantly finding new ways, new pathways, and routes to his destination.

One Purim, a talented badchan (jester) entertained the great Satmar Rebbe. He did a spectacular job imitating the Rebbe's שמונה עשרה, including every sigh and shuckle. The Rav looked on and burst into tears.

The badchan felt terrible and went over to the Rebbe to apologize. While trying to make the Rebbe smile he had insulted the great tzadik!

No, the Rebbe assured him. The imitation was perfect, it was very funny and I am not offended. I'm crying because "you imitate me so well, that I wonder if I'm just imitating myself every

## SPARKS *of* MUSSAR

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### Reb Yisroel Salanter

While R' Yisroel was living in Berlin, almost everyone who came there from Russia or Poland would come and visit him, to ask advice or simply to see his radiant countenance. Once R' Ehrman entered his room and found him very depressed. When he asked why, R' Yisroel answered that two Jews from Kovno had just come to visit, and they reported to him on changes that were about to be made in the Kovno beis medrash, where R' Yisroel used to learn. R' Yisroel foresaw undesirable results from these changes. "Are the changes that bad?" asked R' Ehrman, "No," answered R' Yisroel, "but it led me to feel some anger."

"Did you speak to the guests in a way that could have contained an element of insult?"

"G-d forbid!" answered R' Yisroel. "No one but myself knew of it."

"Then what are you so upset about?"

"What a question!" answered R' Yisroel. "Don't you know that when a person gets angry, it is as if he were worshipping idols, and all types of Gehinom rule him?"

## FEATURED TORAH *Message*

JOEY SOSNICK 10<sup>TH</sup> GRADE

on this week's parsha notes that the laws regarding people in this parsha come after the laws of animals in last week's. He quotes ויקרא רבה that says that just like during creation, man was created after all the animals, the halachos regarding man come after those of the animals.

However, the גור אריה asks - the reason for

creating man last doesn't seem to apply to the laws. The gemara in סנהדרין says that man was created after the animals so that if he gets haughty, he will be told, "Even the mosquitoes were created before you." If that's the reason, then that doesn't apply to the order of the halachos of man vs. animals. So why are they in this order?

The גור אריה answers that the תורה completes us - it's the final touch in our creation. Therefore, the תורה of אדם is written after that of the animals, beasts, and birds. If man might try to show off, he

**THOUGHTS** *on the*  
**PARSHA** continued

morning!" Of course, it takes a great man to be able to look inward that way. But on our own level, we can ask ourselves, am I merely mimicking what I did yesterday and the day before? We cannot just become imitators reviewing the same motions every day without investing heart. This is the message of פרשת החודש - now at this time of חידוש, we can think not merely about renewing WHAT we do, but also HOW.

**FEATURED TORAH** *Message* continued

could be told that even the laws of bugs came before him. The הלבוש notes that in order for a haughty person to learn the lesson of man's laws being written last, he must agree with two fundamental understandings: First of all, he must know and understand the answer of the גור אריה, that the תורה is the finishing touch of our creation. Also, he must understand that there is some disgrace to man in

being made after all the animals. The question is, why would we assume that a person would understand and agree to these things, especially if he is haughty?

To answer this, the הלבוש quotes a pasuk from Koheles: (ז, כט) אשר עשה האלקים את האדם ישר (ז, כט), meaning that all men were endowed with honesty. This means that people know the truth when they hear it. Even a haughty person, no matter how much he may see the world in a skewed way, knows the truth when he hears it.

Have your pre-Pesach chometz meals with the family

AT  
**Missouri Torah Institute**

1809 Clarkson Rd  
Chesterfield, MO 63017

**Tuesday, April 12th**  
4:00-8:00 PM

Burgers  
Hot Dogs  
French Fries  
Chips  
Soda  
Dessert

**PRICING**

Ages 16+ ..... \$15  
Ages 7-15 ..... \$12  
Ages 3-6 ..... \$8  
Under 3 ..... Free

**Wednesday, April 13th**  
4:00-8:00 PM

Pizza  
Pasta  
French Fries  
Salad Bar  
Soda  
Dessert

Great for the kids! Indoor Full Sized Gym \* Outdoor Playground

RSUP by Sunday, April 10th

To RSVP go to [missouritorah.org/meals](http://missouritorah.org/meals)  
or for more information contact Rabbi Josh Bregman  
@ 314-363-5977 or [rabbibregman@missouritorah.org](mailto:rabbibregman@missouritorah.org)

**MINCHA:**  
7PM BOTH DAYS

*Something* **SPECIAL**  
for **SHABBOS**  
DOVID STROH 10<sup>TH</sup> GRADE

This past Friday afternoon, my friend Aryeh Lichtenfeld and I went to Trader Joe's to get some food for Shabbos. We got a few special foods for Shabbos - including mango juice and lox, which are my favorites. As we looked at the food in our cart, Aryeh mentioned how expensive it would be to get everything we wanted. We discussed it, and I said we should spend extra money and get all of the special food, because it says in the gemara that you will get back all the money you spend for Shabbos. We agreed to buy it all, but we were still a bit uneasy about how much we would be spending.

As we made our way through the aisles of the store, a woman we did not know walked over to us. We didn't know what to expect, as she reached for something in her bag. You'll never guess... She reached out and handed us a \$10 bill! She smiled at us and said we should spend the money on something special for Shabbos!

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SHABBOS
<b>חג כשר ושמח!</b>						ROSH CHODESH
Women's Pesach Mussar Message 3	Men's Basketball @ MTI Gym 4	Women's Pesach Mussar Message 5	6	7	7:06PM 1	2
10	11	PRE-PESACH MEALS @ MTI 4:00-8:00 PM 12	PRE-PESACH MEALS @ MTI 4:00-8:00 PM 13	14	7:13PM 8	9
PESACH 17	PESACH 18	PESACH 19	PESACH 20	PESACH 21	PESACH 22	PESACH 23
24	Men's Basketball @ MTI Gym 25	Women's Orchos Tzaddikim Chesterfield 26	27	28	7:20PM 15	16
					7:33PM 29	30

**MAZEL TOV**

Rabbi & Mrs. Josh Bregman on the birth of a boy!  
Mr. & Dr. Ephraim Abrams on the birth of a girl!



5 min  
*Ahavas Chessed*  
with Rabbi Shmuel Wasser

To receive recordings after each shiur, scan QR code

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Cell: 314.387.0888  
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