

# MESIVTA'S MESSAGE

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## THOUGHTS *on the* PARSHA

RABBI MENDY ROSNER

After עשו sells the בכורה to יעקב in exchange for a bowl of lentils and his hunger is satisfied, the פסוק says "ויבז עשו את הבכורה", that עשו degraded the בכורה. The חזקוני explains that the reason for the additional mockery from עשו was because עשו knew that people would view him like a fool for selling the priceless בכורה for some measly lentils, so he needed to mock and say that the בכורה was actually worth very little.

Rav Leib Chasman זצ"ל (one of the great משגיחים of the Chevron Yeshiva) points out from עשו's behavior a dangerous tendency in human nature. After תאוה was satiated, rather than say "I was a fool!" he came out with a stance that selling the בכורה was correct since it was worthless anyway. So too with us - when we are faced with a poor decision we made or an עבירה that we have committed, rather than honestly admit to our mistake and chart a path forward toward תשובה, we dig in and stubbornly refuse to acknowledge

that we were in the wrong. Not only do we refuse to acknowledge the mistake, but we even go so far as to make a life שיטה out of it! For example, a person may get into a מחלוקת with a family member or neighbor, and instead of admitting that he was wrong for the way he handled the discussion, he will come up with a logic to say that not only was he right in not giving in, but he is even being a defender of אמת and ישרות by refusing to back down. Such a הרגשה compounds the initial wrongdoing and can lead a person to further עבירות as he continues to be מחזק his new "philosophy."

Rav Chasman describes this tendency as one that occurs naturally based on the person's own desire to rationalize his actions, but the לשון of the חזקוני indicates that he is learning that it was the way others would view him which really drove his decision to mock the בכורה. This would bring out an additional layer of challenge – even when we are strong

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## SPARKS *of* MUSSAR

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**R' Itzele Peterburger**  
 Rav Yitzchok Blazer (1837-1907)

R' Chaim Volozhin once said, "The yetzer hora steals in and says, 'Speak about me in the study of Mussar all you wish, as long as you don't learn Torah the while.'" R' Itzele added, "That was in those days. In our time the yetzer hora says, 'Learn Torah all you wish, as you long as you don't speak about me.'"

It was suggested to R' Itzele that perhaps yeshiva students should be lodged in the beis medrash, because in other lodgings they would be open to outside influence and might come to read books of negative influence. "That's a good idea, replied R' Itzele. "But the main thing is to make sure that the students learn Mussar. Without Mussar, even if you lock them up in the aron kodesh they will light a candle and read whatever they please."

## FEATURED TORAH *Message*

NAFTALI STAUM 11<sup>TH</sup> GRADE

The well-known pasuk in this week's parsha relates that when יעקב, dressed as עשו, approached his father יצחק for the brachos, יצחק remarked that (Bereshis 27:22) "הקול קול יעקב והידיים די עשו". Rashi explains that יעקב always spoke to his father in a respectful way, saying קום נא - please get up, while עשו always used a coarser lashon of יקום - get up, my father. Because of this, יצחק

was observing that the person speaking to him sounded like יעקב, speaking with utmost respect. This is puzzling because we know (Bereishis Raba 16:16) that עשו honored his father greatly; in fact, his kibud av was one hundred times more than R' Shimon Ben Gamliel. When עשו would serve his father he would don royal garments. If עשו honored his father so much, why would he talk to

him disrespectfully?

The Chidushei Halev answers that when עשו would go to the marketplace he would talk in a crude way, and it wasn't possible for him to just switch modes of speech when talking to his father. This is because our words are an expression of our very essence. The way that someone talks becomes who they are, and changing who you are is one of the hardest things in the world.

cont. from front

enough ourselves to be ready to face the reality of our actions, peer pressure and the specter of being lowered in the eyes of others can also cause a person to save

face and make a שיטה out of what he did. We need to do whatever we can to ensure that we do not fall into this trap. Making mistakes and stumbling are a part of the

human condition in this world, and as בני עלייה we need to accept that and embrace the changes necessary to grow לחיל.

## RECENT *Happenings* YOSEF ELISHA FRIEDMAN 9<sup>TH</sup> GRADE

Recently, MTI was fortunate enough to host Rabbi Ben Tzion Shafier for Shabbos. Rabbi Shafier is a well-known speaker and founder of TheShmuz.com. He spoke three times over Shabbos. On Friday night, Rabbi Shafier spoke about how you are your neshama and that when you die your neshama is still alive. He also spoke about everyone having their own potential and that we have to reach ours. After the speech, we had an open floor for questions followed by an oneg when everyone spoke to him and sang. On Shabbos day after kiddush, we were treated to another speech about tayvos and how we shouldn't

be influenced by the the outside world. After Shalosh Seudos, Rabbi Shafier gave a shmuz about the importance of setting up goals in life and the Torah hashkafa on having heroes and role models. Overall it was a great Shabbos! Besides spending Shabbos in yeshiva, there was also a community event with Rabbi Shafier discussing the topic of shalom bayis. A delicious melave malka reception followed. Each attendee received a copy of Rabbi Shafier's new book on marriage. The Bnei Hayeshiva received another one his books called, "Two Worlds One Chance."

## Upcoming & Ongoing MTI *Community Events*

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SHABBOS
Women's Shaar Bitachon 27		Women's Orchos Tzaddikim 29	RAFFLE DEADLINE! 30		4:22PM 2	פרשת ויצא 3
Women's Shaar Bitachon 4	Men's Basketball @ MTI Gym 5				4:21PM 9	פרשת וישלח 10
Women's Shaar Bitachon 11	7th & 8th Grade Learning & Gym Men's Basketball @ MTI Gym 12				4:23PM 16	פרשת וישב 17
	Men's Basketball @ MTI Gym 18				4:26PM 23	ROSH CHODESH TEVES פרשת מקץ 24
ROSH CHODESH TEVES 25	Men's Basketball @ MTI Gym 26				4:31PM 30	פרשת ויגש 31



5 min  
*Ahavas Chessed*  
with Rabbi Shmuel Wasser

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# MAZEL TOV

Rabbi & Mrs. Gershon Rockove on the birth of a boy!  
Mr. & Mrs. Sammy Reiss on the birth of a baby boy and to our board chairman and his wife, Drs. Craig & Jackie Reiss!

## This Week!

# FOUR ROUND TRIP TICKETS to Eretz Yisroel

INCLUDES FIVE NIGHTS Hotel Accommodations!

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