



Thoughts on the Omer

Rabbi Gershon Rockove
A THIRST FOR TORAH

The **מדרש אגדה** tells us that when the **בני ישראל** left **מצרים**, they were informed that they would receive the **תורה** in 50 days. 50 days seemed like an impossibly long time to wait, so **בני ישראל** began to count the days that passed. With each passing day, they were a bit closer to the much anticipated **התורה**.
קבלת התורה.
 In the words of the **מדרש**:

”ו**ישראל** מרוב **חיבה** היו מונין בכל יום ויום...שהיה נראה בעיניהם כזמן ערוך מתוך **חיבתן הגדולה**.”

The **מדרש** concludes that this became the basis of **ספירת העומר** for future generations.

ספירת העומר is a time for us to reinforce our appreciation of the **תורה**. By acting as if we cannot wait to receive the **תורה**, we begin to feel that urgency. We can build on those feelings by reflecting upon the beauty of a life of **תורה** and **מצות**.

The **קרבתנות** that surround **ספירת העומר** also hint to this. **ספירה** begins with the bringing of the **קרבן עומר**, which is made from barley, animal food. **ספירת העומר** concludes with us bring-

MTI Recent Happenings

Akiva Cohen
 12th Grade

MTI HOSTS SHABBATON FOR PROSPECTIVE BAIS MEDRASH TALMIDIM

Last Shabbos, **תזריע- מצורע**, MTI held its first ever **bais medrash shabbaton** for prospective **bais medrash talmidim**. Eighteen 12th grade **bochurim** from around the country, in search of a **yeshiva** for **bais medrash** next year, came to MTI to get a taste of what the **beis medrash** program here is like. The visitors spent their time participating in learning **sedarim** along with a **vaad**, **shmuess** and **mussar seder**. They also enjoyed a delicious **barbeque**, **baseball games** and **Motzei Shabbos golf**.

The guests enjoyed the strong sense of **achdus** and the energy running through the **beis medrash** which is displayed on a daily basis. Most importantly, they were able to spend a few days experiencing the **sedarim** and **shurim** that make up the MTI **Bais Medrash** program. One thing is for sure: MTI made a good impression and is a top option for the visiting **bachurim**.

Featured Torah Message

Mendel Landsman
 9th Grade

If we knew the full extent of what we were capable of, we would be able to accomplish a lot more. Only **ה'** truly knows what our capabilities are and He uses the **Torah** to show us how great we can really be.

In this week's parsha it says **”לֹא תִקָּח וְלֹא תִטּוֹר אֶת דְּבַר עַמֶּיךָ וְאַהֲבַת לְרֵעֶךָ כְּמוֹךָ”**

“You should neither take revenge nor bear a grudge against the children of your people, but you should love your neighbor as yourself.” An example of this is given by **רש"י**: if you ask your friend for a shovel and he says no, and then the next day he asks you, you have to say yes. He adds that when you give him your shovel you are not even allowed to think “I am being the bigger man by giving him my shovel.” In that case you would be holding a grudge.

The **ירושלמי** asks a question: How are we supposed to just not feel upset? The answer is it's just a matter of perspective. Just think about it like your own body. If you cut one of your hands would you take revenge and cut the other

Sparks of Mussar

Reprinted with permission from “Sparks of Mussar” by Rabbi Chaim Ephraim Zaitchik, Feldheim Publishers

Rav Yitzchok Blazer - “Family and Friends”

Late in life, Rav Yitzchok Blazer (R' Itzele) married a young widow with four children of her own, and she subsequently bore him children.

R' Itzele made every effort to please her. At night when the baby cried, he would not allow her to get out of bed. Despite his age, he himself rose to take care of the baby. On **erev Shabbos** he would help her prepare for **Shabbos**, and he considered that a big **mitzvah**.

In Jerusalem, where the residents drew their water from a cistern near the house, a neighbor once spotted R' Itzele drawing the water himself to spare his wife the trouble. The neighbor hurried to help.

“What made you come to help me?” asked R' Itzele.

“I want to do a **mitzvah**,” replied the neighbor.

R' Itzele responded, “I, too, want to do a **mitzvah**.”

ing the שתי הלחם, which is made from wheat, human food. The ערוך השלחן explains that the תורה is teaching us that without the תורה, we are little more than sophisticated animals. But through קבלת התורה, we rise to the exalted status of human beings - humans that can serve ה', and cling to him - in this world and the world to come.

The בעל עקידה takes this one step further. He explains that understanding the gift of תורה is also a prerequisite for קבלת התורה. In the בעל עקידה's words: כי מי שאינו - בא אל הלימוד בתורת רעב וצמא אין לו שום תועלת - someone only properly gains and understands תורה when he hungers and thirsts for it.

May we be זוכה to cultivate our passion, love and yearning for the תורה and merit a complete קבלת התורה.

one? Of course not! That would be ridiculous! The Torah says ואהבת לרעך כמוך. If you think of Klal Yisrael as one body, taking revenge on another person is the same thing as taking revenge on yourself. How can you take revenge on your friend? That's just crazy!

If you think about what this mitzvah is requesting of us, you will see what we are truly capable of. If ה', Who knows the full extent of our abilities, gives us a commandment, then that means we can do it. That means that we are capable of truly amazing things like overcoming human nature and not feeling anger towards a friend. Once we realize what our true capabilities are, our goals and achievements can become increasingly greater.

save the date
SUNDAY, JUNE 6TH

HACHNASAS SEFER TORAH

in memory of
SHLOMO & MARSHA FREDMAN A'H

*Appropriate COVID protocols will be communicated closer to the event.



MISSOURI TORAH INSTITUTE
ישיבה ומחיצתא ד'מיזורי

fourteenth
annual
dinner

NEWSLETTER SPONSORS



Marc Jacob
Managing Attorney

Clayton, Missouri
Tel: 314.884.6058

www.HomeSweetLegal.com
A Division of The Jacob Law Firm, LLC



ONGOING COMMUNITY LEARNING

ORCHOS TZADDIKIM FOR WOMEN WITH MRS. TOBY GOLDMAN

Tuesdays 8:00 PM
April 27 | May 4, 11, 25
(Chesterfield Group)

Sundays 8:00 PM
April 25 | May 2, 9, 23
(U. City Group)

Zoom ID - 525-786-3657



JORDAN ROSENBLUM
VICE PRESIDENT

314.423.0351

www.stuartsamc.com
jordan@amcmort.com

WHATSAPP GROUP TORAH

To join either WhatsApp group to receive recordings immediately following each shiur, scan the corresponding QR code below!



5 minute
Ahavas Chessed
with Rabbi Shmuel Wasser

short thought on **Tefilla**
with Rabbi Shmuel Wasser

